

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MOSQUITO SAMPLE TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS **--Mosquito Control Finds Virus Activity Around Neglected Pools**

Elk Grove, Calif.—The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation today that a **mosquito sample has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV)**. This mosquito sample is the first sample to test positive this year and was collected in the **Natomas** area of Sacramento County. The sample was taken from a mosquito trap located in a backyard containing a neglected swimming pool. “Pools are a significant challenge for us this season” said Dave Brown, District Manager. “We are counting on the public cooperation to help us identify these abandoned swimming pools which are a mosquito breeding paradise, so we can treat them promptly,” said Brown. With the current foreclosure rates, many homes have been left with abandoned swimming pools that can produce thousands of mosquitoes and infect an entire neighborhood. Once a neglected swimming pool has been reported, District staff will treat the pool with mosquitofish that feed on mosquito larvae and keep the problem under control.

The District also asks that neighbors not take matters into their own hands by adding chlorine to an abandoned pool in their neighborhood. “Often times, we will have already added mosquitofish to the pool and the chlorine kills the fish. The best thing to do is to call the District and we’ll deal with the problem” said Brown. To report neglected pools please call 1.800.429.1022 or fill out a Service Request online at www.FIGHTtheBITE.net.

In response to the positive mosquito sample, District personnel will focus on setting out additional traps in the area as well as conducting ground spraying that can rapidly suppress the numbers of adult mosquitoes emerging in the Natomas area.

The detection of virus activity in mosquito samples indicates the continued evidence that WNV is present in our area and that the public should take precautions to remain protected. As part of it’s education and outreach efforts, the District will hold a community education forum in North Highlands on Thursday, June 19th from 6:30 to 8:30. The forum will be held at the North Highlands Community Center located at 6040 Watt Ave.

2008 West Nile virus activity update for Sacramento and Yolo counties
Level 2—**3 dead birds**, 0 sentinel chickens, **1 mosquito sample** and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Practice the District D’s of Mosquito Prevention: **DRAIN** standing water that may produce mosquitoes. **DAWN** and **DUSK** are times to avoid being outdoors. **DRESS** appropriately be wearing long sleeves and pants when outside. **DEFEND** yourself by using an effective insect repellent. Make sure to follow label directions! **DOOR** and window screens should be in good working condition. **DISTRICT** personnel are also available to address any mosquito problems. ###

DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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