

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 20, 2007**

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**MOSQUITOES, WEST NILE VIRUS AND A PAIR OF SACRAMENTO KING'S SNEAKERS**  
**-- Mosquito Control To Host Mosquito And West Nile Virus Prevention Day**

**ELK GROVE, Calif.** – On Saturday, June 23, 2007 the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District will host the Third Annual Mosquito and West Nile Virus Prevention Day. The event is designed to educate and inform the public about mosquitoes, West Nile virus and the services the District provides to the community. Guests will enjoy a day full of activities from guest speakers, informational booths and demonstrations to live cockroach racing and hourly raffles. Guest speakers include David Brown, Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District, Dr. Glennah Trochet, Sacramento County Public Health Officer, Judi Anderson, DEET Education Program, Leslie Botos, BloodSource and West Nile virus survivors Max del Hierro and Jayne Alchorn.

Topping the list of prizes are a pair of game sneakers from the Sacramento Kings' Brad Miller and Sacramento Monarchs' Yolanda Griffith. Other prizes include tickets for the San Francisco Giants, Sacramento Rivercats, Sacramento Zoo, Discovery Museum and much more! Attendance is free and lunch will be provided to those who attend the event. In addition, the District will announce the winners of the Fight the Bite Comic Strip contest and Ecological Mosquito Management award. This year the District received over 1,000 Fight the Bite comic strip entries from students in Sacramento and Yolo counties. "Every year this event gets bigger and better," said David Brown, District Manager. "We encourage everyone to stop by and learn more about mosquitoes and West Nile virus. Together we can ensure a safe and healthy environment for all," Brown said.

For **photo opportunity**, please contact Jennifer Benito at 916.405.2082 or by e-mail at jbenito@FIGHTtheBITE.net.

**West Nile virus**

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), West Nile virus (WNV) is the leading cause of arboviral encephalitis in the United States. Originally discovered in Africa in 1937, WNV was first detected in the western hemisphere in 1999 in New York City. Since then it has caused seasonal epidemics of West Nile virus fever and severe neurological disease. West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected with WNV when they feed on infected birds.

**2007 West Nile virus activity update**

**Level 2** - This year, **1 bird**, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 horses, 0 mosquito samples and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

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**2006 West Nile virus activity**

Sacramento County: 16 humans, 1 horse, 89 dead birds, 34 mosquito samples and 13 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus in 2006

Yolo County: 27 humans, 0 horses, 54 dead birds, 64 mosquito samples and 26 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus in 2006

To report a **dead bird or squirrel** call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or visit the California Department of Health Services online at [westnile.ca.gov](http://westnile.ca.gov)

The **Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District** provides mosquito and vector control services for Sacramento and Yolo counties.

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