

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DEAD BIRD TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS

--Mosquito Control's Ongoing Surveillance Program Uncovers Another Warning Sign

ELK GROVE, Calif. – The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation today that an Egret found on County Road 103 in Yolo County has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the first confirmation of West Nile virus activity for Yolo County. "It is critical that residents of Sacramento and Yolo counties heed this warning sign," said District Manager, David Brown. "District employees are aggressively addressing mosquito management issues within our community by inspecting and treating mosquito development sites such as un-maintained swimming pools, rice fields and wetlands. But we can't do this alone. We need the public's help! Be sure to empty items that can collect water such as buckets, flower pots, wheelbarrows and other containers. Proper drainage of these commonplace items at least once a week will prevent mosquitoes from breeding on your property. One water-filled bucket in someone's backyard can literally produce over 1,000 mosquitoes a week. Remember to wear a good repellent when outdoors while mosquitoes are most active, specifically in the early morning and at dusk. Make sure you follow all label directions! We need to continue to work together to reduce the mosquito population in our area," Brown said.

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 – **Yolo County: 1 bird**, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 horses, 0 mosquito sample and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Sacramento County: **3 birds**, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 horses, **1 mosquito sample** and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

2006 West Nile virus activity

Sacramento County: 16 humans, 1 horse, 89 dead birds, 36 mosquito samples and 13 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus in 2006

Yolo County: 27 humans, 0 horses, 54 dead birds, 62 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 Public Health online at 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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