

# MEDIA ALERT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 19, 2007**

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**YOLO COUNTY**

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FIGHTtheBITE.net

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**11 DEAD BIRDS AND 9 MOSQUITO SAMPLES TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS**  
**--Mosquito Control Schedules Adult Mosquito Treatments By Truck-Mounted Foggers**

**ELK GROVE, Calif.** – The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation today that 11 dead birds and 9 mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus. In response to the West Nile virus-positive dead birds and mosquito samples, the District will continue to implement its Mosquito-Borne Disease Management plan to protect public health and welfare. This plan may include ground and/or aerial treatments in and around the area where virus has been detected.

“Significant increases in temperatures this weekend will cause mosquito populations to increase dramatically, and force many people to open doors and windows to let cool nighttime air in. Make sure you have good screens on your doors and windows. If you plan to be outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, specifically at dawn or dusk, make sure you wear an effective insect repellent. People will leave much of their skin exposed to keep comfortable during this hot weather, so they need to be sure to protect themselves,” said District Manager David Brown.

The District will also make every attempt to notify individuals who sign-up for the District's notification list via e-mail. However, the District may not be able to notify the public if immediate applications are needed to protect public health and welfare from serious diseases such as West Nile virus. The District may also cancel a scheduled operation due to weather and/or other reasons without prior notice. For a list of where West Nile virus activity has been detected in Sacramento and Yolo counties or for treatment updates please visit the District online at FIGHTtheBITE.net and click on 2007 West Nile virus Activity.

**West Nile virus**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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: **4 bird**, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 horses, **1 mosquito sample** and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Sacramento County: **13 birds**, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 horses, **19 mosquito samples** and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

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DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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**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](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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