

# MEDIA ALERT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 6, 2007**

**Contact:** Jennifer Benito, Public Information Officer  
**Office:** 916.405.2082 | **Cell:** 916.416.6337  
**E-mail:** jbenito@FIGHTtheBITE.net

**MOSQUITOES INFECTED WITH WEST NILE VIRUS FOUND IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY**  
**--Mosquito Control's Ongoing Surveillance Program Detects 1<sup>st</sup> WNV-positive mosquito sample for the year**

**ELK GROVE, Calif.** – The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation today that one mosquito sample collected from the Gibson Ranch area of Sacramento County has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the first confirmation for the presence of the virus in mosquito populations to date. In response to the West Nile virus-positive mosquito sample, the District will continue to implement its Mosquito-Borne Disease Management plan to protect public health and welfare by employing localized adult mosquito treatments in and around the area where the virus was detected. This response may include ground and/or aerial treatments. The District routinely collects and tests adult mosquitoes throughout Sacramento and Yolo counties. "We've stepped up our efforts across the board from educating the public to surveillance and control," said District Manager, David Brown. "We will continue to collaborate with many city and government agencies, as well as surrounding vector control districts to achieve our goal of protecting public health and welfare by reducing mosquito populations in our area," Brown said.

The public is strongly urged to follow the District's **7Ds** of mosquito prevention: **DRAIN** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes. **DAWN** and **DUSK** are times to avoid being outdoors. These are the times when mosquitoes are most active. **DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outside. **DEFEND** yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow label directions! **DOOR** and window screens should be in good working condition. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home. **DISTRICT** personnel are also available to address any mosquito problem you may be experiencing by calling 1-800-429-1022 or visiting the District online at FIGHTtheBITE.net.

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

---MORE---

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
**SACRAMENTO COUNTY**  
8631 BOND ROAD  
ELK GROVE, CA 95624

**YOLO COUNTY**  
1234 FORTNA AVENUE  
WOODLAND, CA 95695

1.800.429.1022  
FIGHTtheBITE.net

DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

#### 2007 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DAVE TAMAYO, PRESIDENT, SACRAMENTO

CRAIG R. BURNETT, V.P., FOLSOM

ROSEMARIE BUTLER, SECRETARY, ISLETON

ROBERT BIEDERMAN, GALT

RAUL DeANDA, WEST SACRAMENTO

LYNDON HAWKINS, ELK GROVE

MARIE HEILMAN, WINTERS

JOHN L. LEWALLEN, SAC COUNTY

ROBERT McGARVEY, RANCHO CORDOVA

MICHAEL PARRELLA, YOLO COUNTY

NEAL PEART, WOODLAND

ROBERT K. WASHINO, DAVIS

JACK WHITFIELD, CITRUS HEIGHTS

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
**SACRAMENTO COUNTY**  
8631 BOND ROAD  
ELK GROVE, CA 95624

**YOLO COUNTY**  
1234 FORTNA AVENUE  
WOODLAND, CA 95695

1.800.429.1022  
FIGHTtheBITE.net

**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 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.

###