

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2007

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

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DISTRICT REMINDS THE PUBLIC TO FIGHT THE BITE

--Protect Yourself from Mosquitoes While Having Big Fun at the California State Fair

ELK GROVE, Calif. –Fun Never Grows Old at the California State Fair, but don't let the mosquitoes have fun with you! The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District is reminding the public to follow the District D's of Mosquito Prevention while enjoying the California State Fair this weekend. As additional West Nile virus activity is discovered in Sacramento and Yolo counties, the District would like the public to remember to protect themselves and their families. The District currently has 4 humans, 111 mosquito samples, 58 birds, and 3 chickens that have tested positive for West Nile virus in Sacramento County. Yolo County has shown 1 human, 7 mosquito samples, 10 birds, and 2 chickens testing positive for the virus.

"Guests of the California State Fair are encouraged to practice the District D's 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," District Manager David Brown said.

DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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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.

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2007 West Nile virus activity update—Level 5

Sacramento County: 4 humans, 111 mosquito samples, 58 birds, 3 sentinel chickens, and 2 horse cases have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Yolo County: 1 human, 7 mosquito samples, 10 birds, 2 sentinel chickens, and 0 horse cases 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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