

# MEDIA ALERT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 31, 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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**FIGHT THE BITE THIS LABOR DAY WEEKEND**

**-- Use an Effective Repellent to Defend Against Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus**

**ELK GROVE, Calif.** – Family barbeques and cool pools will attract thousands of local residents outside over the Labor day weekend and those thousands of local residents will attract something else—mosquitoes! The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District advises the community to protect itself this Labor Day weekend from mosquitoes and West Nile virus. “Because so many guests will be outdoors during the evening hours when mosquitoes are most active,” stated District Manager David Brown, “it is crucial they protect themselves by wearing an effective insect repellent.”

Repellent will be available, at no charge, at the California State Fair this weekend. In response to Governor Schwarzenegger’s declaration of a West Nile state of emergency in California, Spectrum Brands has donated mosquito repellent product to local agencies, including the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District. The District plans to turn that donation over to the California State Fair in order to help protect the abundance of guests who will be attending this Labor Day weekend. Repellent packets will be offered to guests free of charge at the fair’s Information Booth and Guest Services and will be available through Monday evening or until supplies last.

“Guests of the California State Fair and area residents 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.

**West Nile virus**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 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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DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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**2007 West Nile virus activity update—Level 5**

Sacramento County: 10 humans, 119 mosquito samples, 77 birds, 3 sentinel chickens, and 2 horse cases have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Yolo County: 1 human, 7 mosquito samples, 14 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](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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