

# MEDIA ALERT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 13, 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

**Contact:** Luz Maria Rodriguez, Public Information Officer  
**Office:** 916.405.2082 | **Cell:** 916.416.6337  
**E-mail:** lrodriguez@FIGHTtheBITE.net

**WEST NILE VIRUS INCREASES IN SOUTHERN SACRAMENTO COUNTY**  
**--Disease Activity is Found in Sentinel Chickens**

**ELK GROVE, Calif.** -The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District has discovered additional West Nile virus activity in Southern Sacramento County. The District continues to monitor virus activity in all areas of Sacramento and Yolo counties but the heaviest concentration of positive samples have been in the southern area. Confirmation was recently received of the presence of West Nile virus in sentinel chicken flocks located in Elk Grove, Hood, and Galt. In the Elk Grove and Hood flocks all chickens have tested positive for West Nile virus antibodies indicating they have been bitten by infected mosquitoes. The District is waiting for confirmation from the State Public Health lab regarding these positive tests.

“While the hot summer months when mosquitoes thrive are coming to an end, it is critical that the public continues to take precautions to protect themselves against mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus,” said District Manager David Brown. “Applying mosquito repellent before an evening walk, ensuring that doors are closed and screens are in good condition are a few suggestions to keep you safe.”

The District would like to remind the public that personnel is available to address any mosquito problems you may be experiencing including reports of abandoned pools in your neighborhood. Service requests can be submitted online at FIGHTtheBITE.net or by calling 1.800.429.1022. The District currently has 15 humans, 119 mosquito samples, 97 birds, and 18 chickens that have tested positive for West Nile virus in Sacramento County. Yolo County has shown 1 human, 7 mosquito samples, 19 birds, and 4 chickens testing positive for the virus.

**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.

---MORE---

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

### **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 5**

Sacramento County: 15 humans, 119 mosquito samples, 97 birds, 18 sentinel chickens, and 2 horse cases have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Yolo County: 1 human, 7 mosquito samples, 19 birds, 4 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.

###