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THIRD DEAD BIRD TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS
--SYMVCD's ongoing surveillance program uncovers another warning sign

ELK GROVE, Calif., June 15, 2006 – Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (SYMVCD) received confirmation today that a Western Scrub-Jay found in the Antelope area has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the third confirmation of West Nile virus activity for 2006. "It is critical that residents of Sacramento and Yolo Counties heed this warning sign," David Brown, District Manager said. "District employees are aggressively addressing mosquito and vector management issues within our community by inspecting and treating mosquito development sites such as un-maintained swimming pools, rice fields and wetlands. But we can't do this alone. We need the public's help! Be sure to empty items that can collect water such as buckets, flower pots, wheelbarrows and other containers. Proper drainage of these commonplace items at least once a week will prevent mosquitoes from breeding on your property. One water-filled bucket in someone's backyard can literally produce over 1,000 mosquitoes a week. Running filters on pools and spas will also prevent mosquito populations from multiplying in these water sources. Remember to wear a good repellent when outdoors while mosquitoes are most active, specifically in the early morning and at dusk. Make sure you follow all label directions! We need to continue to work together to reduce mosquito populations in our area," Brown said.

7Ds

The public is strongly urged to practice the District's **7Ds**: **DRAIN** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes. **DAWN** and **DUSK** are times to avoid. These are the times when mosquitoes are most active. **DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors. **DEFEND** yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow all 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. We can be reached at 1-800-429-1022 or visit us online at FIGHTtheBITE.net.

West Nile virus

According to the Centers for Disease Control (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.

West Nile virus activity for Sacramento and Yolo Counties: This year, **3** birds, **0** sentinel chickens, **0** equines, **0** mosquito pools or **0** humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

To report a dead bird call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or visit the California Department of Health Services online at westnile.ca.gov.

Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District provides mosquito and vector control services for Sacramento and Yolo Counties.

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