County of Santa Clara
Department of Agriculture and Environmental Management
Department of Environmental Health
Vector Control District

AEM02 042407

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Department

DATE: April 24, 2007

TO: The Santa Clara County Vector Control District
   Board of Trustees

FROM: [Signature]
   Greg Van Wassenhove
   Director of Agriculture and Environmental Management

SUBJECT: West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week

RECOMMENDED ACTION
Adopt Resolution proclaiming April 23, 2007 through April 29, 2007 as "West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week" in Santa Clara County. (Department of Agriculture and Environmental Management's Vector Control District) (Roll Call Vote)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of this action.
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Supervisors, acting as the Board of Trustees for the Vector Control District, recognizes that West Nile Virus, a potentially deadly form of mosquito-borne encephalitis, poses a threat to the health and safety of County residents. Mosquito activity begins in early spring, and it is anticipated that this virus will be a concern for the foreseeable future.

The Board of Trustees also recognizes that adequately funded mosquito and vector control, monitoring, and public awareness programs are the best approach to prevent outbreaks of mosquito-borne West Nile Virus in Santa Clara County. Therefore, it is important that the public is aware of its continuing role as partners in recognizing and suppressing mosquito development in home and yard sources throughout the County.

To further this awareness, the Vector Control District is requesting the Board of Trustees to adopt a Resolution proclaiming April 23, 2007 through April 29, 2007 as "West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week" in Santa Clara County.

BACKGROUND

When West Nile Virus (WNV) first appeared in the United States in 1999, it became apparent that community awareness and participation were essential to minimize the impact this potentially deadly vector-borne disease would have on the population.

The first detection of WNV in Santa Clara County was in 2004. Because Santa Clara County had a mosquito abatement program in place, suppression of mosquitoes from known breeding and development sources (creeks, marshes and water sources on public property) was successfully accomplished. However, residential backyards still remain a significant source for mosquito development in the community. The District realized that it needed to recruit the aid of residents to help report or eliminate these breeding sources in order to be successful in the fight against WNV and other vector-borne diseases. Residents were also needed to help track WNV, and were asked to report dead birds and tree squirrels that may have died from WNV to the District or the California State WNV Hotline.

In 2006, the California State Department of Health predicted that Santa Clara County would be a major focus for WNV activity. Residents were urged to practice self-protection
measures, such as using insect repellent when outdoors and making sure their window screens and screen doors were in good repair. By using an extensive outreach program which included television, radio and newspaper advertisements, and community meetings, WNV was kept in check with only four human cases reported in 2006 in Santa Clara County.

Early surveillance indicates WNV could be more widespread in Santa Clara County in 2007. Four WNV positive birds were found by early April. These birds were found in the cities of Santa Clara, Cupertino and Palo Alto, indicating the virus has relocated beyond last year's area of concern.

The District recommends proclaiming April 23, 2007 through April 29, 2007 as "West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week", will educate residents that mosquitoes and WNV are still a threat to their health, and encourage their participation in the fight against WNV.

**CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The Board of Trustees will not join with the California State Senate and other mosquito and vector control agencies throughout California in promoting continued awareness about the importance of West Nile Virus suppression within their community.

**STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

Notify Public Resource Specialist/Information Officer, Kriss Costa at 918–3404, when the original signed Resolution is ready to be picked up. Framing the Resolution is not required.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment #1 "West Nile Virus Awareness Week"