



**San Gabriel Valley Mosquito &
Vector Control District**

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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West Covina, CA (September 13, 2005) – On Friday, September 9, 2005, in recognition of the tremendous devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and the reduction of local resources to protect the public from mosquito-borne disease in the Gulf States, the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the District to provide disaster-related assistance to those states impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

Steve West, Manager for the District states: “We’ve been in contact with representatives from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) to assess the situation and see how we and other Districts in the Southern California area might be able to provide assistance if needed.”

This resolution authorizes the District to provide up to \$10,000 in labor and/or materials from the FY 2006 budget if requested, and with approval by the CDC for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement.

West Nile virus (WNV) activity has been significantly reduced in the San Gabriel Valley this year. “Thankfully, this allows us the freedom to allocate some of our resources to the disaster assistance program without compromising public health here in the San Gabriel Valley. Our early and extensive planning for WNV has paid off both here and for those in need after this tremendous disaster,” said

West. "If indicators identified a significant rise in WNV activity in the San Gabriel Valley, any staff and equipment allocated would immediately return."

The District has sent Angela Brisco, a District Vector Ecologist, to Biloxi, Mississippi. As a Louisiana native previously employed with the New Orleans Mosquito Control Board, Ms. Brisco's knowledge of the ecology of the area as well as her expertise in mosquito control and disease surveillance methods both here and in the Gulf region should be a tremendous benefit to the recovery efforts. "Angela is a top-notch ecologist," West states, "the experience she will gain in the Gulf region will also directly improve this District's ability to respond promptly and efficiently should a catastrophic event occur here in California."

The concern for the spread of mosquito-transmitted diseases such as West Nile virus in the Gulf States is very real. Representatives of various agencies are currently meeting in the region to determine the most effective methods of control given the available resources and the tremendous scope of the problem. Steve West adds, "We just hope we can help prevent any more devastation to that region. These folks have been through enough already. We will do everything we can to assist where we are needed consistent with the Board's direction."

Other Districts in the Southern California area have also offered support. A teleconference between local agencies is scheduled for September 14th to coordinate resource allocations from Southern California vector control agencies for potential relief efforts.

For more information, please contact Steve West, District Manager for the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District at (626) 814-9466.

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District is a non-profit public health agency dedicated to the control of mosquito and other vector-borne diseases. The District can be reached at 626-814-9466 or on the web at www.sgvmosquito.org.

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