



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

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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West Covina, CA (May 21, 2009) – As the 2009 mosquito & West Nile virus season gets underway, significant fiscal and regulatory issues will likely hinder and prevent effective mosquito control putting Californians at great risk. To highlight these issues and familiarize lawmakers with the effectiveness of California's nationally recognized integrated vector control programs, some local vector control district's have invited their State Legislators and the public for a **Day in the District Open House** on Friday, May 29, 2009. Other districts are making arrangements to meet with their legislators at the lawmakers' local or Sacramento offices.

For more than 60 years mosquito control programs have been enormously effective at reducing the incidence of mosquito transmitted disease from historic levels. However, several serious issues threaten these programs and may have direct and lasting consequences to both public health and quality of life in California.

Decreased revenues and State 'borrowing' will reduce critical disease surveillance and mosquito control resources for most California agencies. More importantly, recent legal precedence will likely prohibit any adult mosquito control in the State until a new permitting process is developed leaving residents across the state without critical safeguards just as the West Nile season gets underway.

John Rusmisl, President of the Mosquito & Vector Control Association of California, puts it in perspective, "Mosquito control agencies expect to be impacted by the economic downturn along with everyone else, but we worry about the implications. He adds, "Without a legal way to manage epidemic disease transmission by mosquitoes, this year we are facing a situation where the public will be at high risk for West Nile virus."

The reality of new and emerging diseases in our global economy means that our public health programs must remain a priority. Districts across the State need Legislators to fight to ensure mosquito & vector control districts receive the necessary public health exemptions.

Legislators, the media, and the public are invited to contact their local district for details. Visit www.mvcac.org or call (916) 440-0826 for a list of member agencies.