



San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Mosquito Control Services Now Available for Baldwin Park Residents

West Covina, CA (September 9, 2008) – The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District is pleased to announce that mosquito control and West Nile Virus (WNV) preventive services are now available to residents of Baldwin Park.

Under a one-year contract signed this month between the City and the District, residents will receive the same services and protection other San Gabriel Valley cities enjoy until the contract expires on June 30, 2009. During this period, the City will conduct a ballot measure providing property owners with the opportunity to decide if they wish to permanently join the District and continue these services indefinitely. If approved, the District would grow to serve residents of 24 San Gabriel Valley cities leaving only the City of South Pasadena without the protection of a vector control program.

The ongoing threat of West Nile virus (WNV) has prompted Baldwin Park's renewed concern and desire to protect its residents from this disease. Since the first WNV epidemic in 2004, residents of Baldwin Park have received services under contract, the latest of which expired June 30, 2007. Steve West, General Manager said "We are pleased that the City has taken this important step towards joining the District. Our proactive disease prevention programs rely on continuous monitoring and vector control to be successful."

Services now offered to Baldwin Park residents include:

Mosquitoes: Year-round inspections of mosquito breeding sites and population suppression using integrated, environmentally sensitive methodology. Monitoring of mosquitoes, wild birds, and sentinel chickens for evidence of mosquito-transmitted diseases such as WNV.

- Residents can request inspections for mosquito problems and delivery of mosquito-eating fish for ponds or water gardens.

- Reporting standing water or inoperable pools in their neighborhoods will help us identify and eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites.

Honey Bees: The District removes honey bees posing health hazards if they are located in or on vegetation (trees, bushes, etc.) on public or private property.

- Bees are removed as time permits due to the current WNV crisis.
- Bees in/on a structure must be removed by a qualified private pest control company.

Rodents: The District controls urban rodent problems through education, habitat manipulation, food and harborage reduction, and baits as conditions warrant.

- Rodent inspections help residents identify problem areas and provide guidance on necessary habitat modifications and access denial.
- We can place bait stations in problem areas if the troubles persist.

Education and Outreach: Public education is an important component to an integrated vector control program. The District offers:

- Elementary Outreach programs including classroom presentations, assemblies, insect study loan boxes, and student workbooks.
- Community Outreach such as presentations to civic organizations, city councils, senior centers, and businesses as well as attendance at community events/fairs,
- Information through literature, pamphlets, the District's website, local and regional media including print, radio, and cable access channels.

These services are now available free of charge to Baldwin Park residents and the District encourages residents to call and request our assistance. "Because it has been over a year since we provided services to the City of Baldwin Park," notes West, "we will need the public to help us identify additional standing water sources where mosquitoes can reproduce." Please call 626.814.9466 or visit www.sgvmosquito.org.

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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