

Press Release

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Headline: Warming trend brings increased evidence of West Nile Virus activity to the San Gabriel Valley

West Covina, CA (July 14, 2005) – On the heels of the early morning July 14th press release, the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has confirmed a dead crow collected in the City of Walnut as positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the first bird collected from the San Gabriel Valley to show evidence of WNV in 2005.

“West Nile virus is here, and it is here to stay” says Steve West, Manager for the District “Even though we did not see it as early as we did last year, we knew it was going to be back. Things are heating up. With the rainfall earlier this year and now the significant temperature increase, mosquitoes are afforded an ideal breeding enhancement.” The crow was collected on July 13 and underwent testing this morning.

With only days between our first indication of WNV in mosquitoes and now a dead bird, it is clear that residents throughout the San Gabriel Valley must continue their vigilance to take precautions against mosquitoes.

Follow the four “Ds” of mosquito abatement:

Dusk/Dawn: Avoid outdoor activity between the hours of dusk and dawn – this is when mosquitoes are most prevalent.

Drain/Dump: Drain all containers that may hold water. In permanent sources like ponds use mosquitofish, which are available free from the

District. Be sure to call the district immediately to report standing water that cannot be easily removed, such as a stagnant swimming pool.

Deet: When outdoors between dusk and dawn, use an insect repellent containing the active ingredient DEET. Be sure to read the label prior to use.

Defend: Make sure door and window screens are tight fitting and have no holes or tears. This is a physical barrier to keep mosquitoes out of your house.

The District provides mosquito and other vector control services as a public service to residents in the San Gabriel Valley. Funding is secured through an annual benefit assessment; therefore, residents are not charged any additional fee for our assistance.

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