

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEADLINE: District Services Expand due to West Nile Virus

As of Monday, August 2, the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District will provide full mosquito and vector control services to the cities of Baldwin Park and South Pasadena. These services are being provided under contract with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services for a one year period. For services to continue beyond July 1, 2005, the cities will need to initiate a formal process to join the District directly. "We encourage cities to evaluate this possibility early as the process will take many months to finalize" says Steve West, General Manager for the District.

West Nile virus is having a significant impact on District operations this year. "We have nearly doubled our seasonal staffing levels" noted Kenn Fujioka, Assistant Manager, "but even with this increase, some of our other vector related services are taking a back seat." Due to the tremendous efforts being put forth by the District's field technician and surveillance crews to reduce the threat of West Nile virus, calls relating to honey bees and rodent problems are being responded to as time permits, or residents may contact a private pest control company if they are not comfortable waiting.

West commented, "This is, without a doubt, the most significant issue we have ever faced. We are doing everything in our power to protect our residents from West Nile virus – it is our single, most important focus right now."

With services now beginning in South Pasadena and Baldwin Park, residents of these communities are encouraged to contact the District to report adult mosquito problems, gutters that continuously hold water, "green" inoperable pools, spas, ponds and fountains, anonymously if they prefer. These sites can breed huge numbers of mosquitoes every week and pose a very real risk to public health. There will be no cost for these services. They also offer free mosquitofish for outdoor ponds or water gardens, informational brochures, and presentations to community groups about their services and West Nile virus. Brochures will also be placed in City Hall, Libraries, Police and Fire Stations, and other public areas.

Requests for services can be made by calling the District at (626) 814-9466 or by accessing the Districts web site at www.sgvmosquito.org.

Current statistics on WNV can be obtained at www.westnile.ca.gov or <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/> .