**Summer Buzzes into [CITY], Bringing With it, Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus**

If you’re a resident of [CITY], then you know summer is a fun time in your city. From events at your local parks to backyard BBQs, the heat won’t stop you from having a good time. However, summertime fun can be interrupted by uninvited visitors: blood-sucking, disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes and warm weather go hand-in-hand. This is especially apparent with the warm winter and spring we experienced this year in Southern California. As temperatures warm, the threat of West Nile virus increases. West Nile virus is a potentially dangerous disease transmitted by mosquitoes that can lead to death in humans, horses, birds, and wildlife. In milder cases, patients experience fevers, body aches, and headaches. In more severe cases, patients can experience coma and paralysis.

“People may think mosquitoes are just annoyances,” says FIRST LAST NAME, CITY OFFICIAL TITLE. “But in [CITY] and surrounding communities, they can pose a very serious threat to our health.”

Luckily, [CITY] has been working with the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District (SGVMVCD) to make sure residents understand the risks. Vector control has specialized staff that monitor diseases and control mosquitoes and other vectors that pose a threat to our health and comfort.

“Everything you learned about West Nile virus last year, will be put to the test again this year,” says Levy Sun, public information officer for SGVMVCD.

While Vector Control and [CITY] are fighting mosquitoes in parks, street gutters and public areas, we need your help to control them around your home. Here are some ways you can help:

* Tip ‘n toss stagnant water once a week. Spend 10 minutes to walk around your home to identify containers that can hold water and remove them. Make it game with the kids!
* If families are outdoors when mosquitoes are active, apply insect repellent. Just because you don’t see them, doesn’t mean mosquitoes won’t find you! The most effective repellents contain active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 or Oil of lemon eucalyptus (PMD). Always apply according to label instructions.
* Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep mosquitoes out. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
* Do you notice dirty, green pools or other potential mosquito breeding sources in your community? Let us know! Vector Control does free inspections and can help many people solve mosquito issues. Call us at 626-814-9466 or online at sgvmosquito.org.
* Invite Vector Control to your next event at a church, fair or organization. In addition to protecting public health, Vector Control loves educating the community! Call them at 626-814-9466 or online at sgvmosquito.org.