

# Eaton Fire Field Operations:

*Innovation Through Teamwork in Post-Fire Mosquito Control*

February 2, 2026

MVCAC Annual Conference 2026

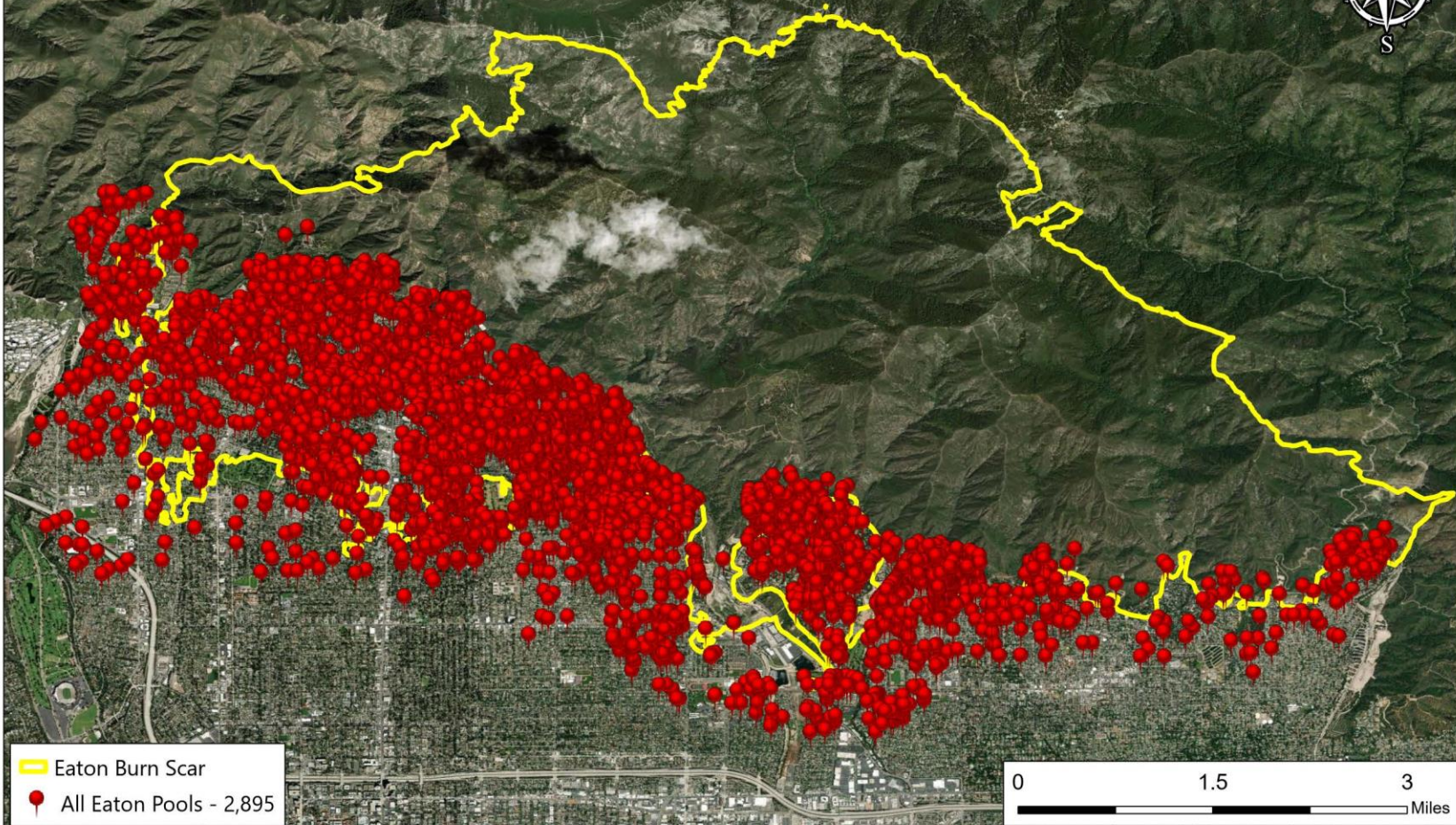
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*Director of Operations*

San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District



# SGVMVCD EATON BURN SCAR



 Eaton Burn Scar  
 All Eaton Pools - 2,895



# Where Do We Start?

- Began filtering swimming pools through Nearmap - Jan 13
- All Operations staff involved for ~2 weeks
- 2,895 pools identified on fire-affected properties
- Only small number of pools were unmaintained prior to the fire
- Majority of pools not previously in District database
- No inspection history or treatment plans
- First clear picture of the post-fire mosquito risk



# Challenges

- Scale: thousands of newly identified pools (2,895)
  - Pools not part of routine operations
  - Limited staffing and resources
- Limited access to fire-damaged properties
- Regulatory and safe-entry uncertainty
- First 30 days of the fire the area was completely toxic
- Long-term, recurring inspection and treatment needs

# Planning & Prioritization

- From Assessment to Planning for Action
  - Operations “think tank”
    - Weekly planning meetings, all departments represented
    - Continuous updates and adjustments
  - Staffing needs
  - Safety planning

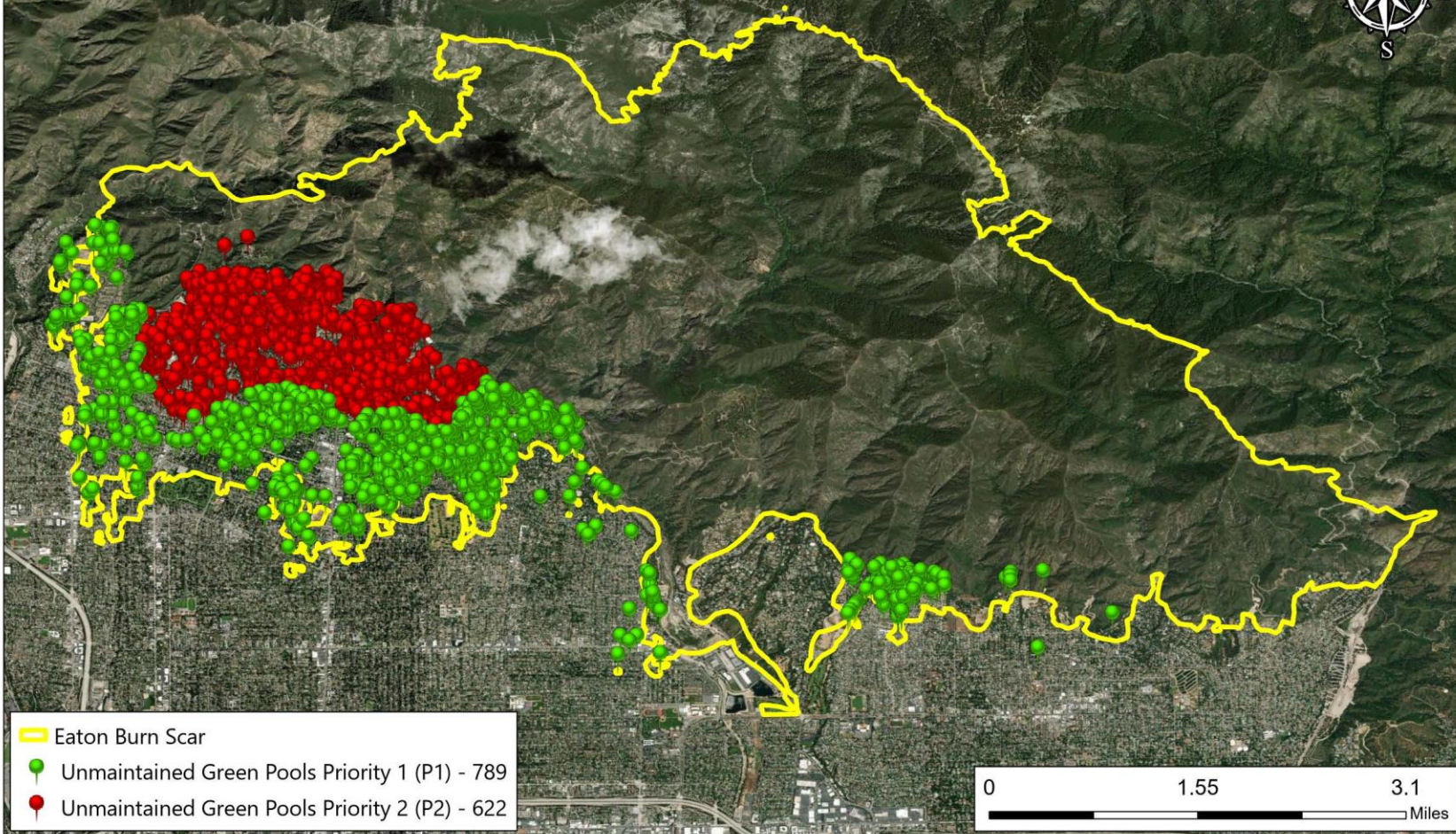


# Planning & Prioritization

- Operational focus:
  - Daily production targets
  - Planned product rotation
  - Pool prioritization strategy:
    - Priority 1: Perimeter pools with higher public health risk (800+)
    - Priority 2: Interior pools within the burn scar (600+)



# SGVMVCD EATON BURN SCAR



-  Eaton Burn Scar
-  Unmaintained Green Pools Priority 1 (P1) - 789
-  Unmaintained Green Pools Priority 2 (P2) - 622



# Field Innovation & Efficiency

- Adapting to Post-Fire Conditions
  - Treatment plan adjustments:
    - Custom treatment bags and floats



# Field Innovation & Efficiency

- Adapting to Post-Fire Conditions



# Field Innovation & Efficiency

- Adapting to Post-Fire Conditions
  - Treatment plan adjustments: Gambusia would be used in pools with >50% water
  - Pools would be tested to ensure water quality was acceptable
  - Treatments would be selected based on pool condition



# Field Innovation & Efficiency

- Adapting to Post-Fire Conditions
  - Vehicle modifications:
    - Bench seats with seatbelts
    - Rear footsteps for safer entry/exit



# Putting the Plan into Action



# Field Workflow & Mapping

- Workflow redesigned for post-fire conditions
- Mapping and routing prepared for high-volume treatments
- Driver remained in vehicle for navigation, data entry, and safety
- Two staff focused on field applications



# Field Workflow & Mapping

- Operational benefits:
  - Reduced time per stop
  - Improved safety in unstable environments
  - Increased daily production
  - Reduced number of Tyvek suits used



# Field Operations Timeline

- January 7: Eaton Fire occurs
- January 13: Strategy discussions and planning begin
- March 31 – June 12: First round of treatments completed using Natular NXRT (1,400+ pools addressed)
  - April 8: Greater Los Angeles County VCD mutual aid assistance
- July 7 – September 25: Second round of treatments completed using Altosid XR and Gambusia (1,200+ pools addressed)



# Results

- Measured Impact as of 12/31/2025
  - 1,400+ swimming pools addressed
  - Two treatment rounds completed
  - Active pool inventory reduced to approximately 1,100 pools:
    - 438 pools confirmed empty
    - 172 pools maintained with Gambusia fish
    - 442 pools treated with larvicide (many later became empty)



# Results

- **2,681** Individual treatments
- Altosid XR
  - **2,387** briquettes
- Natular XRT
  - **6,587** briquettes
- Gambusia
  - **15,551** fish
- Total Cost..... **\$52,000**

Not including labor or PPE



# Resources & Support

- Partnerships That Enabled Success
  - Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District
  - Provided field staff support during Priority 1 and Priority 2



# Resources & Support

- Larvicide Support
  - Altosid XR support (Thank you, Samer & Central Life Sciences)
- PPE Support
  - California Dept. of Public Health
  - Cal OES
- Biological Control
  - Mosquito fish provided by Orange County MVCD
  - Over 20,000 fish received



# Looking Ahead

- Preparing for the 2026 Mosquito Season
  - Anticipate mosquito fish populations to be well established
  - Fish expected to manage mosquito production during peak season
  - Reduced need for emergency-scale chemical treatments
  - First operational wave of 2026 planned using lessons learned
  - Data-driven projections will guide staffing and resources



# Key Takeaways

- Teamwork
  - Educate early
  - Create shared purpose
  - Trust the team
- Community presence
  - Residents proactively
  - Reported inoperable pools
  - Education and trust remained strong despite loss



# Key Takeaways

- Early data and prioritization were critical
  - First three months set the foundation
  - Priority 1 and Priority 2 structure ensured efficient use of resources
- Field innovation increased efficiency
- Mutual aid accelerated response
  - No standard operations were compromised





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – ALL DISTRICT STAFF





# THANK YOU

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