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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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MOSQUITO DISTRICT URGES COOPERATION FROM HOMEOWNERS FOR SWIMMING POOL INSPECTIONS

– Residents' reluctance often results in no access to potential mosquito-producing pools –

CONCORD, CALIFORNIA - - The Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District is urging residential swimming pool owners and renters to work cooperatively with District technicians in order to protect residents' health. Abandoned or neglected swimming pools are a significant source of mosquitoes in Contra Costa County and each one can produce hundreds of thousands of mosquitoes and affect residents up to a five-mile radius. Infected mosquitoes can transmit West Nile virus, a debilitating and potentially fatal disease.

“Residents are, in many cases, reluctant to work with us to solve mosquito problems for reasons varying between embarrassment to indifference,” said Deborah Bass, public affairs manager with the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District. “We want them to know that we are here as a public health agency to assist them and work with them to provide a safer environment for everyone.”

The District is also reporting 15 dead birds, five groups of mosquitoes, and one squirrel that tested positive for West Nile virus in the past week.

In Contra Costa County to date this year, 27 dead birds, 14 groups of mosquitoes, and three squirrels have tested positive for West Nile virus. Twenty of these birds, 10 of the mosquito samples and all three squirrels were from Antioch. So far, no human cases have been reported. High risk areas for West Nile virus infection still remain in Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley.

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District is located at 155 Mason Circle in Concord. Call the District to report mosquito problems at (925) 771-6195, or visit their office between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to get FREE mosquitofish for ornamental ponds or horse troughs. Mosquitofish are also available at City of Antioch Corporation Yard, 1201 W. 4th Street, Antioch, CA, Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

People wishing to be notified about adult mosquito fogging or spraying have several options. They may visit the District's Web site at www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us and opt to receive the notifications automatically by email, they can view information on the District Web site, or they may phone the District for a recorded message at (925) 771-6195.

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For information concerning human West Nile virus symptoms, prevention, or testing, please call the Contra Costa Health Services department at (888) 959-9911 or visit their website at www.ccpublichealth.org

For information concerning West Nile virus and horses, please visit the California Department of Food and Agriculture Animal Health Branch at www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv_info.htm or call them at (916) 654-1447.

Dead birds should be reported to 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or www.westnile.ca.gov . Not all birds will be picked up and tested, but reporting dead birds provides important information for mosquito control efforts.

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