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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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MORE BIRDS, MOSQUITOES, AND SQUIRRELS TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

– Risk remains high in Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley–

CONCORD, CALIFORNIA - - The Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District is reporting nine dead birds, one group of mosquitoes, and two squirrels that have tested positive for West Nile virus this past week. Antioch, Oakley, and Brentwood remain high risk areas for West Nile virus infection.

In Contra Costa County to date this year, 36 dead birds, 15 groups of mosquitoes, and five squirrels have tested positive for West Nile virus. Twenty-six of those birds, 11 of the mosquito samples and all five squirrels have been from Antioch. So far, no human cases have been reported.

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.

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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