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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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

– Mosquitoes still present; West Nile virus risk remains–

CONCORD, CALIFORNIA - - The Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District is reporting one horse, three groups of mosquitoes and eight dead birds that have tested positive this past week for West Nile virus in the county. The horse, from Martinez, was euthanized. Three of the birds were from Brentwood, two were from Antioch, one was from Concord, and one was from Walnut Creek.

In Contra Costa County to date this year, four people, 87 dead birds, 30 groups of mosquitoes, nine squirrels, 14 chickens, and three horses have tested positive for West Nile virus.

“Many people are surprised to learn that the risk of contracting West Nile virus is still with us during the fall months” said Deborah Bass, public affairs manager with the District. “As long as the mosquitoes are present, so is the risk of contracting the disease.”

The District is urging all residents to maintain water features in their yards and to report abandoned or neglected swimming pools. 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.

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. Human West Nile virus cases can be found at http://www.cchealth.org/topics/west_nile/cases.php

For information concerning West Nile virus and horses, please visit the California Department of Food and Agriculture Animal Health Branch at www.cdfa.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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