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(925) 685-9301 www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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Contact: Deborah Bass
Public Affairs Manager
(925) 771-6112 Office
(925) 260-4670 Cell
dbass@ccmvcd.net
www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us

WEST NILE VIRUS SEASON SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLOWING IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

– More mosquitoes, birds, squirrels and chickens test positive for West Nile virus–

CONCORD, CALIFORNIA - - The Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District is reporting seven birds, two groups of mosquitoes, two squirrels and nine chickens that have tested positive this past week for West Nile virus in the county. Two birds were from Brentwood, and one each was from Alamo, Antioch, Orinda, and Concord. The mosquitoes were from Antioch and Brentwood. The squirrels were from Antioch and Pleasant Hill. Six of the chickens were from Holland Tract and three were from Oakley. Antioch and Brentwood remain high risk areas for West Nile virus infection in Contra Costa County.

In Contra Costa County to date this year, four people, 73 dead birds, 26 groups of mosquitoes, nine squirrels, 13 chickens, and one horse have tested positive for West Nile virus. Forty one of those birds, 16 of the mosquito samples and six of the squirrels have been from Antioch.

“Mosquito season is still upon us,” said Deborah Bass, public affairs manager with the District. “Wearing mosquito repellent is as important as ever, especially at dawn and dusk.”

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.

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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. 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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