

TURLOCK DISTRICT AREA
City of Ceres, CA
City of Hughson, CA
City of Newman, CA
City of Patterson, CA
City of Turlock, CA
County of Stanislaus, CA

Turlock
Mosquito Abatement District

TELEPHONE (209) 634-1234
FACSIMILE (209) 634-4103
4412 N. WASHINGTON ROAD
TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA 95380

MANAGER
JERRY M. DAVIS

CORRESPONDENCE NO. 4
Page 1 of 2

June 26, 2008

Memorandum

To: Stanislaus County WNV Task Force
Interested Parties

From: East Side MAD and Turlock MAD

Update: WNV Activity and Control Efforts Stanislaus County

2008 JUN 30 P 3:25
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The first evidence of West Nile virus activity in Stanislaus County was found through the States dead bird program with (5) five positive American crows found with four (4) Modesto area and one (1) in the Turlock area. The first American crow was found on May 27, 2008. The Districts have been monitoring adult mosquito populations using light trap information collected through out the county to determine the effectiveness of control programs and to isolate new mosquito outbreaks. Surveillance for WNV and other mosquito-borne diseases includes collecting adult mosquitoes and testing them for infections (360 samples tested this year all negative), every two weeks testing (9) nine sentinel chicken flocks for recent infections and picking up dead birds for testing. Weather conditions conducive to WNV transmission occurred in Mid-May with averaged temperatures reaching 70 degrees for 5 consecutive days.

The most challenging control issue this year has been identifying and getting access into backyards to control residential mosquito breeding. The bottoming out of the real estate market and economic downturn has resulted in homes being abandoned and not maintained causing swimming pools including hot tubs to breed mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes that are found breeding in backyards accounted for 86% of all mosquitoes that tested positive for WNV last year in Stanislaus County. The District hired a flying service that specializes in taking aerial photographs to take pictures of backyards in April 2008. **Through this approach the District's isolated over 1,500 suspect backyard breeding sites. So far the District's have found mosquito breeding in 800 back yards. Mosquito fish are planted in pools where maintenance is not scheduled to control mosquitoes and reduce labor costs to make return inspections.** Obtaining permission to access the backyards often requires additional visits and in (8) eight instances the District's obtained inspection/abatement warrants to enter on the



MEMBER

property where permission was not given. Backyard sources will continue to be a major challenge through out the year as home owners fail to maintain their pools.

The Districts have received a good response from the public reporting green pools. The people in Stanislaus County are concerned about mosquitoes that affect their health and quality of life and expect that their neighbors maintain their yards to prevent mosquito breeding. Local cities governments have been helpful at not only reporting suspected backyard breeding but also helping to make contact with property owners.

West Nile virus is here to stay and the District's anticipate July, August and September to peak months where West Nile virus will be found in Stanislaus County. **People are encouraged to continue to report dead birds (877) 968-2473; contact the District for suspected mosquito breeding around their community or to report mosquito activity and to use insect repellent when out doors where mosquitoes are present.**

East Side Mosquito Abatement District boundaries are North of the Tuolumne River and East of the San Joaquin River in Stanislaus County, for service call (209) 522-4098.

Turlock Mosquito Abatement District boundaries are South of the Tuolumne River and West of the San Joaquin River, for service call (209) 634-1234.