

Mosquito district to make pitch for more funding

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At the end of April Butte County and Hamilton City landowners are going to get a chance to add what amounts to a new tax to their property to fight mosquitoes.

On Friday, the Butte County Vector and Disease Control District, will mail out ballots to landowners asking them to agree to a "special benefit assessment."

According to a letter from district manager Matthew C. Ball, the assessment would add \$9.69 to the tax bill annually on a single-family residence, on a lot of one acre or smaller.

"Other residential properties types would be assessed according to the number of dwelling units and size. Commercial, industrial and agricultural properties would be assessed according to their parcel size and property type."

The parcel fee approach the mosquito district wants to use comes from Proposition 218 that was passed by California voters in November 1996.

The letter was written to the Chico Unified School District board of trustees, seeking its support.

In it he wrote, "If approved the measure would fund continued, enhanced, year-round services to improve the control and elimination of mosquitoes using environmentally sound methods.

"It would also fund ongoing disease surveillance and control of disease outbreaks associated with mosquitoes and other insects including, but not limited to, encephalitis, canine heartworm, rickettsia, Lyme disease and West Nile Virus," he continued.