



## **Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District**

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**Matthew C. Ball**  
Manager

For Immediate Release

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**Subject: Butte County Cemeteries Continue To "Fight The Bite!"**

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For the fifth year in a row, Butte County's cemeteries continue to "Fight the Bite." Five years ago Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) offered an idea to cemeteries that would help reduce the amount of mosquito breeding thus reducing the threat of West Nile virus (WNV). The idea purposed was for cemeteries to adopt a new floral policy requiring all visitors to apply a "free of cost" water-absorbing polymer to each vase that the visitors were placing flowers in.

The water-absorbing polymer is a small granule that expands when water is absorbed which eliminates standing water. The polymer is non-toxic and reduces watering frequency. By eliminating standing water the potential to breed mosquitoes is eliminated while still feeding plants the vital vitamins, nutrients, and water needed. "This program has eliminated thousands of mosquito-breeding sources throughout the county," said Matt Ball, District Manager of Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District. "I am so grateful and want to publicly thank all the cemeteries that have participated in the program over the past five years and I feel that these cemeteries have truly went above and beyond to do their part to "Fight the Bite"," Ball said.

Without a program such as this, mosquito control at cemeteries is labor intensive, time consuming, and needs repeated attention. Each cemetery contains hundreds, if not thousands, of flower vases that are all potential mosquito-breeding sources. Prior to this program, the District used to send crews of three to six Mosquito Control Specialists to inspect, dump, and treat all the vases that were breeding on a weekly basis which could take over eight hours per cemetery. With overhead watering and the consistent flow of cemetery visitor's, new sources were being established each day. Having this program in place, the District only needs to send one inspector out to ensure that vases contain the water-absorbing polymer. When asked, Claudia Bartlett, manager of Chico Cemetery said, "We felt it was our obligation to do our part to help reduce the potential of West Nile virus. We feel the program is excellent and the customers love it!"

Residents are urged to protect themselves from mosquitoes by avoiding peak mosquito activity times, wearing repellent, wearing long pants and long sleeves, and to prevent mosquito breeding on their property. Residents should inspect their properties for any standing water and do what is necessary to remove the water and safe their property to ensure water won't stand in the future where applicable. Residents are encouraged to report suspected mosquito breeding sites and mosquito problems to the District at 530-533-6038, 530-342-7350, or [www.BCMVCD.com](http://www.BCMVCD.com).