



Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District

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Subject: *Un-maintained swimming pools and other possible mosquito breeding sources targeted*

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Contact at 530-533-6038 and/or 530-342-7350

Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District has again partnered with Mobile Infrared Systems to conduct aerial surveillance of un-maintained swimming pools and other “backyard breeders” such as, boats holding water, ponds without circulation, unused tires, un-maintained hot tubs, and other man made objects that hold water. “It is crucial to locate these suspected mosquito-breeding sources early in the mosquito season so that the District’s Mosquito Control Specialists can eliminate early season mosquitoes to prevent larger populations later in summer when virus is most active” said Matt Ball, district manager of Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District. “There are hundreds of un-maintained swimming pools throughout the county and with the rising rate of foreclosures the District expects even more this year!” Ball said.

Public health officials expect the mosquito transmitted West Nile virus (WNV) to be a serious public health concern in California this year. Last year the state observed a large increase in human infections while locally the human infections in Butte County reduced. “Undoubtedly the number of human cases could have been far worse last year if it had not been for this program and others like it. These programs aid the District in locating mosquito-breeding sources early in the season before they can yield large populations of mosquitoes creating a public health concern” Ball said.

For the past four years the District has started this program in late May or early June, but has decided to start in mid April of this year. The hope is to locate problem-breeding sources even earlier in the mosquito season lessening the severity of urban mosquito populations later in the year. Mosquito larvae have already been located in many urban mosquito-breeding sources and if the District delayed the program any longer, several generations of mosquitoes would hatch from these areas heightening the likelihood of virus transmission later in the summer.

Residents are urged to protect themselves from mosquitoes by avoiding peak mosquito activity times, wearing repellent, 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 safeguard their property to ensure water won’t stand in the future where applicable. Residents are encouraged to report mosquito breeding areas and mosquito problems to the District at 530-533-6038, 530-342-7350, or www.BCMVCD.com.