



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

April 4, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

**MOTION TO SUPPORT H.R. 342 (JOHN, D-LA), CREATING GRANT PROGRAMS TO CONTROL MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES (ITEM NO. 12, AGENDA OF APRIL 8, 2003)**

Item No. 12 on the April 8, 2003 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe that the Board support H.R. 342 (John, D-LA), which would authorize an appropriation for grants to states and counties for controlling mosquitoes, and directing the Chief Administrative Officer to send correspondence to President Bush, Senators Boxer and Feinstein, and the County's Congressional delegation, urging support and early enactment of this public health legislation.

H.R. 342 would establish two temporary grant programs to help state and local governments assess mosquito problems, and coordinate and operate mosquito control programs. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$100 million in FFY 2003, and such sums as are necessary in FFY 2004 through 2007 for these grants. Any appropriations made under this bill are to be in addition to those made under the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002.

The bill provides a variety of requirements, such as, a state must receive a grant before its political subdivisions (defined as counties, boroughs, and parishes) can receive a grant; preference will be given to states and political subdivisions with an incidence or prevalence of mosquito-borne disease; states must develop plans to coordinate the control programs of its various political subdivisions; state grants to political subdivisions cannot exceed \$10,000; direct grants to political subdivisions cannot exceed \$100,000, and each political subdivision is allowed only one grant; and, political subdivisions will have to provide a 1/3 cost share (one dollar for each two dollars from the Federal Government).

In Los Angeles County, mosquito abatement is carried out by five Vector Control Districts, which are governed by elected boards and funded by special assessments. By defining "political subdivisions" to include only counties, boroughs and parishes, the bill would not allow a Vector Control District to apply for a grant. However, since the County's Health Services Department, Public Health Programs and Services, is responsible for vector control, the County could apply for the grant and contract with the Vector Control Districts to perform the necessary work.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last year there were more than 5,000 people infected with mosquito-borne illnesses, such as Dengue Fever and West Nile virus. The Department of Health Services and the Executive Director of the Los Angeles County West Vector Control District report that, while this County has no reported cases of Dengue Fever or West Nile virus, the County does have an endemic problem with St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) and Western Equine Encephalomyelitis (WEE). These diseases can infect humans, causing hospitalization and even death. In fact, in 1986, there were 16 documented cases of SLE in Los Angeles County, including one fatality.

On March 12, 2003, H.R. 342 was passed by the House of Representatives on a vote of 416 to 9, and it was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in the Senate on March 13, 2003. If the bill passes the Senate and is signed by the President, Congress will still have to appropriate funds for it to become effective. A similar bill, H.R. 4793, was introduced by Congressman Christopher on May 22, 2002. That bill was also passed by the House of Representatives, on October 1, 2002, but it was never voted on in the Senate.

**The Department of Health Services and the Agricultural Commissioner recommend that the Board support H.R. 342 because it would fund mosquito control in areas not currently covered by any Vector Control District, and we concur.** This is particularly important as they expect the arrival of the West Nile virus in our region this year. Support of H.R. 342 is consistent with Board policy, as contained in the Federal Legislative Agenda, adopted by the Board on February 4, 2003, which supports funding for pest prevention and eradication efforts.

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c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Legislative Strategist