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August 31, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *Jonathan E. Fielding*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **WEST NILE VIRUS**

On August 21, 2007, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Antonovich, which 1) instructed the Directors of Public Health and Public Works to work with County Vector Control Districts to investigate and clear open water ways that harbor mosquito breeding, 2) instructed the Director of Public Health to fully implement the planned West Nile Virus (WNV) awareness and surveillance program by working cooperatively with the Mosquito & Vector Control Districts, the State and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and 3) instructed me to report back to the Board in 14 days on any Federal, State or local regulations which prohibit harborage of mosquitoes in open water ways and canals. This is the response to that motion.

Cooperative Efforts

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is working cooperatively with the local Mosquito and Vector Control Districts (Districts), the Health Departments of Long Beach, Pasadena, Vernon and the Department of Public Works (DPW) to take proactive steps and preventative measures to control mosquitoes and their potential breeding sites. The WNV Interagency Task Force of Los Angeles County consisting of all the mosquito and vector control districts, health departments, the state, and other local agencies, meets regularly. Its most recent meeting was on August 29, 2007.

Investigate and Clear Open Water Ways

The Districts have primary responsibility for mosquito control in open water ways. They routinely check over 150 open water ways consisting of, but not limited to, flood control channels, rivers, streams, wetlands, creeks, and drainage ditches cooperatively with Public Works, to have them cleared and treated with appropriate environmentally friendly mosquito control measures. Attachment 1 shows the waterways for which each District is responsible, the frequency of treatment, and the methods used.

The key agencies with which the Districts and DPW must work in this effort include the California Department of Fish and Game (habitat and species preservation), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (dam and waterway construction and maintenance for flood protection, and endangered habitat preservation), the California Coastal Commission (protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the environment), the State Water Resources Control Board (preserve, enhance and restore the water quality), and various private environmental groups (species preservation and habitat enhancement).

Vegetation such as cat tails and tules (hard stem bulrush) provide valuable nesting habitats for ground-nesting birds. Fish and Game prohibits clearing of these growths during the nesting season (March through August) which is also prime mosquito season. Long-standing growths provide a virtually impenetrable mat that acts as an effective barrier to any type of formulation used to manage mosquitoes breeding in the water below the mat. Although Fish and Game responds to public health emergencies and permits removal of the growth when disease threatens, under normal conditions non-permitted requests for clearance must be made far in advance of the nesting season.

In August, DPW took quick action to initiate clearance of several flood control channels, drains and catch basins, based on notification from Districts which were having difficulty in treating several flood control sites, due to excess vegetation. These were sites in areas with WNV-positive mosquito pools. DPW worked closely with the regulatory agencies and biologists to obtain quick approval.

On August 15, 2007, DPW began clearance of the Pacoima Wash in Panorama City. DPW completed the removal of vegetation at Pacoima Wash within that week, allowing the District to treat the water that weekend. In addition, DPW is bringing sand and rock to fill in the voids along the channel bottom, further eliminating the standing water.

All vegetation has been removed from the bottom of Limekiln debris basin in Chatsworth and a "clean out" was performed by removing sediment deposits. Other crews mowed the vegetation along both banks of Woodley Drain in Van Nuys and began work at Bell Creek debris basin in West Hills. In addition, DPW has been scraping the bottom of concrete lined channels, such as the Los Angeles River, on an as needed emergency basis over the summer.

DPW will continue to work with the Districts and DPH on control measures in open water ways during the remaining mosquito season.

Implement West Nile Virus Plan for 2007

Attachment 2 is the DPH WNV Plan for 2007, with responsibilities for various Public Health units, including Acute Communicable Disease Control, the Public Health Laboratory, Veterinary Public Health, and Environmental Health. All aspects of the plan are being implemented or have been completed. ACDC coordinates the surveillance for human cases. The most recent Epidemiology Report for 2007 is Attachment 3. The May 2007 issue of The Public's Health, the DPH newsletter for medical professionals included the 2007 WNV update for physicians, reminding them to report any WNV cases and obtain testing through the Public Health Laboratory. Veterinary Public Health continues its bird surveillance. Environmental Health (EH) continues to coordinate with the Districts assuring that mosquito abatement services are provided countywide. Currently, the cities of Baldwin Park and, LaCanadaFlintridge have contracts with Districts for mosquito control services. The city of South Pasadena has not renewed its contract for this mosquito season. Additionally, a service agreement between the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District and DPH provides coverage for county unincorporated areas in Agua Dulce and Action with other remote areas being covered by EH code enforcement activities.

Presentations and communications about WNV are regularly provided by multiple participants in the WNV Interagency Task Force. Attachment 1 contains the details of efforts over the past 18 months for the Districts and DPH. The Districts do a significant effort of communication for public awareness and education concerning WNV, including presentations, direct mailings, and media efforts. DPH Area Health Offices have completed over 175 presentations during that period.

Regulations Prohibiting Harborage of Mosquitoes

County Counsel has reviewed relevant statutes and regulations. Sections of the State Health and Safety Codes do provide the authority to inspect, issue notices of violations and take actions to eradicate mosquito breeding. The state recognizes the importance of organized public programs to conduct surveillance, prevention and control of mosquitoes. It enacted the "Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District Law." (Health & Safety Code section 2000 et seq). This law defines any water that is a breeding place for vectors as a public nuisance. (Health & Safety Code section 2002 (j)). The Vector Control District ("District") is authorized to inspect, issue notice of violations and eradicate mosquito breeding grounds, subject to procedure requirements set forth in the law. (Health & Safety Code sections 2040, 2041, 2060, 2061). When such breeding grounds are on private property, absent permission from the property owner, the District may seek a warrant to enter the property. (Health & Safety Code section 2053.)

The State's Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District Law provide that the District may enter into cooperative agreements with other public agencies in order to carry out its purpose. (Health & Safety Code sections 2044, 2045.) The law provides that if a dispute arises between the District and another public agency on how, or whether, to proceed on an abatement action, the District may appeal the decision to the Director of the State Department of Health Services. (Health & Safety Code section 2055.)

Local law forbids persons from allowing conditions on their lot that permit the breeding or harborage of mosquitoes. (LACC sections 11.30.010, 11.30.080). California Government Code section 25842.5 provides that the County Board of Supervisors may exercise the same powers as the Districts. Further, if approved by the city council of an incorporated city, the Board of Supervisors may exercise the power of the District in the incorporated areas, after a noticed public hearing. (Government Code section 25842.5)

Continuing the WNV Cooperative Efforts

DPH, DPW, the Districts, the other local health departments, and other agencies will continue to implement all components of their cooperative WNV plan this summer and fall, particularly during the peak months for human cases. Surveillance reports will be updated on the DPH website semi-weekly. Mosquito abatement and public awareness efforts will continue through the season. In November, we will provide you with a summary of the 2007 WNV efforts.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:eb
PH:708:004

Attachments

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Director of Public Works
Mosquito and Vector Control Districts
Mayors, Cities of Long Beach, Pasadena, and Vernon

WNV RESPONSE INFORMATION

Agency/Activities	Greater Los Angeles MVCD	San Gabriel Valley M VCD	Los Angeles County West VCD	Antelope Valley MVCD	Compton Creek MAD	Department of Public Health
<p>Major open waterways treated over the last 18 months:</p> <p>Frequency of treatment:</p> <p>Treatment methods and/or materials</p>	<p>50+ open waterways including:</p> <p>San Gabriel River Rio Hondo River Los Angeles River Monte Cristo Creek Brown's Creek Bull Creek Lario Creek Compton Creek Haskel Creek Woodley Creek Pacoima Wash San Jose Creek Coyote Creek Wilmington Wash Flood control channels Drainage ditches</p> <p>2-week re-treatment cycle unless otherwise needed</p> <p>VectoBac ectoLex Altosid</p>	<p>35+ open waterways including:</p> <p>San Gabriel River flood control channels (FCC), washes and creeks: Big Dalton Creek Little Dalton Creek Hook East FCC Hook West FCC San Jose Creek Arcadia FCC Sawpit FCC Alhambra Wash San Dimas Wash</p> <p>Plus numerous drainage ditches</p> <p>2-week to 4-week re-treatment cycle depending on conditions,</p> <p>VectoBac VectoLex Altosid, or source reduction</p>	<p>70+ open waterways including:</p> <p>Malibu Creek Ballona Creek Ballona Wetlands Hyperion Sew.Trt Pl. Flood control channels, washes, drainage ditches, and minor creeks</p> <p>2 to 4-week re-treatment rotation: mosquito fish, source reduction</p> <p>VectoBac/VectoLex Altosid, Agnique*</p>	<p>Amargosa Creek</p> <p>Treatment as needed (most of the summer the creek is dry)</p> <p>VectoBac VectoLex Altosid</p>	<p>Compton Creek</p> <p>2-week to 4-week re-treatment cycle depending on conditions,</p> <p>VectoLex Mosquito fish</p>	<p>NA</p>

	Greater Los Angeles MVCD	San Gabriel Valley M VCD	Los Angeles County West VCD	Antelope Valley MVCD	Compton Creek MAD	Department of Public Health,
All presentations on WNV for last 18 months	549 presentations, 18 health fairs, 13 press releases, 40 media interviews, 13 articles in quarterly news letter, 184 media segments, 537 radio spots, 25,000 brochures.	78 presentations, 55 health fairs, 3 press releases, 30 media interviews, 1,029,000 direct mail pieces.	74 presentations, 28 health fairs, 18 media releases/interviews, plus direct mailings.	30 presentations		SPAs 1 and 2 provided 50 presentations, SPAs 3 and 4 provided 37 SPAs 5 and 6 provided 49 Spas 7 and 8 provided 39 (totals = 175)



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April 5, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J. Fielding*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **WEST NILE VIRUS PLAN FOR 2007**

This is to inform you of Public Health's plans for West Nile Virus (WNV) for 2007.

In 2006 California reported just 292 cases of WNV infection, 16 of which were in Los Angeles County. There were no WNV associated deaths in Los Angeles County, but WNV remains an important endemic, vector-borne infection for the foreseeable future. The final 2006 epidemiological report is attached.

Once again, the following Public Health Programs have key responsibilities for WNV: Acute Communicable Disease Control Program (ACDC), the Public Health Laboratory (PHL), Veterinary Public Health Program (VPH), and the Environmental Health Division (EH):

- ACDC will conduct surveillance as in past years, including case investigation, weekly surveillance reports for posting on our web site, and regular communication with the State and local vector control districts. The surveillance plan has been updated.
- ACDC's speakers' bureau WNV presentation has been distributed to our volunteer speakers in various public health units.
- ACDC will distribute a letter by May 1, 2007 to Los Angeles County physicians reminding them that WNV is a reportable disease and that testing is available through the PHL.

Each Supervisor
April 5, 2007
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- ACDC continues to participate in the WNV Interagency Task Force, consisting of representatives of EH and VPH, the mosquito abatement districts, the State's vector-borne disease section, and officials from the Pasadena and Long Beach Health Departments.
- VPH will continue its surveillance in bird, squirrel, and horse populations (these species experience high morbidity and mortality from WNV).
- EH will continue to work closely with the vector and mosquito abatement districts, which have the primary responsibility for enforcing mosquito abatement. Abatement services in Agua Dulce and Acton are being provided by the Antelope Valley Mosquito Abatement District and are in effect through the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07. Baldwin Park and South Pasadena are similarly being served by the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District through the end of FY 2006-07. Abatement services beyond June 30, 2007 are in negotiation.
- EH will continue its educational (pamphlets and speakers' bureau) activities in WNV mitigation.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:eb
PH:702:004

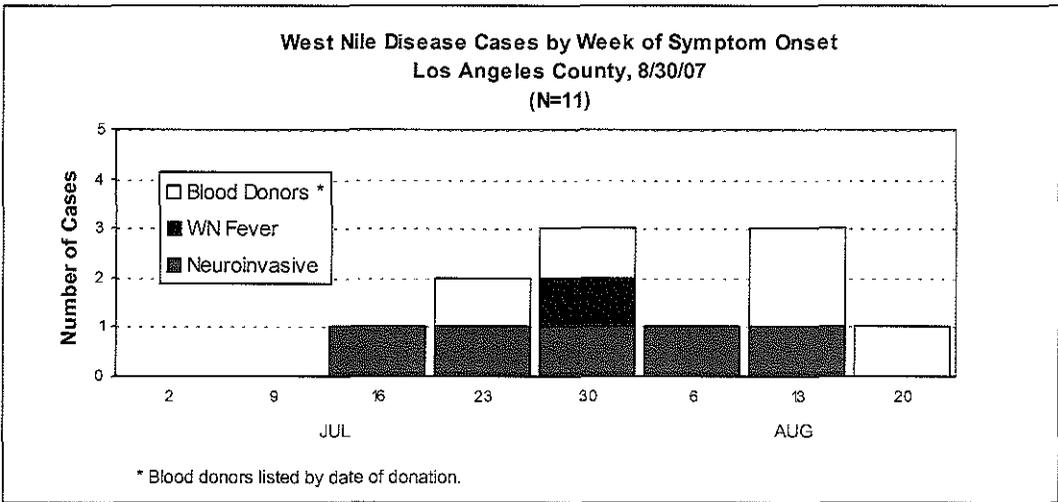
Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

WEST NILE VIRUS: Epidemiology Report
Cumulative Totals – August 30, 2007

West Nile Virus Case Characteristics - Los Angeles County ¹ , 2007										
	Total #	Information Unknown ³	Asymptomatic Blood Donor	Clinical Presentation					Demographics	
				WN Fever	Neuro-invasive	Neuroinvasive Diagnosis	Hospitalized ⁴	Deaths	Gender (M / F)	Median Age (range)
TOTAL²	11	0	5	1	5	1 = Encephalitis 4 = Meningitis 0 = Acute Flaccid Paralysis	6	1	11/0	60 yrs (21-85 yrs)

1. Excludes cases in Long Beach and Pasadena.
 2. Cumulative case total as of Thursday, 8/30/07, 3pm. Totals are provisional and subject to change.
 3. Cases reported positive but clinical and demographic information is pending.
 4. Hospitalized at time of diagnosis and may not reflect current clinical status.



West Nile Virus: Case Count by Service Planning Area (SPA)
 Los Angeles County, 8/30/07

LOCATION	TOTAL ¹
SPA 1: Antelope Valley	1
SPA 2: San Fernando	7
SPA 3: San Gabriel	2
SPA 4: Metro	0
SPA 5: West	0
SPA 6: South	1
SPA 7: East	0
SPA 8: South Bay	0
Residence Unknown ²	0
TOTAL³	11

1. Cumulative case total as of Thursday, 8/30/07, 3pm. Totals are provisional and subject to change.
 2. Demographic information is excluded or pending.

