



**Greater Los Angeles County
Vector Control District
12545 Florence Ave.
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
(562) 944-9656**

INFORMATION RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 26, 2010

Local Contact: Crystal Brown
Public Information Officer, GLACVCD
Office: (562) 758-6511
Cell: (562) 325-3271
Email: cbrown@glacvcd.org

State Contact: Catherine Smith
Executive Director, MVCAC
Office: (916) 440-0826
Email: casmith@mvcac.org

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE DECLARES APRIL 26-30, 2010 WEST NILE VIRUS AND MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL AWARENESS WEEK

Educational Programs and Other Activities Sponsored by Local Mosquito & Vector Control Agencies Raise Awareness about West Nile Virus and Personal Protective Measures

The California State Legislature declared April 26-30, 2010 West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week. The week kicks off what is anticipated to be a busy mosquito season for the more than 60 agencies statewide serving to protect Californians from public health vectors and mosquito-transmitted illnesses.

Above average rainfall and flooding this winter in California has been followed by warmer weather this spring. Stagnant water accumulating in ditches, drains, gutters, and backyard containers and pools is ideal for mosquito breeding. That is why the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) and the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) are encouraging residents this mosquito season to take the threat of mosquito-borne illnesses seriously and be extra vigilant in preventing mosquito bites.

Residents are reminded to take personal protective measures including eliminating mosquito breeding sources around their home, wearing protective clothing, using

--More--

approved insect repellents, and reporting mosquito breeding problems in their neighborhood. Foreclosed and unoccupied properties continue to pose a challenge for mosquito control districts this year, so residents are asked to report vacant homes and neglected swimming pools as soon as possible. Call your local mosquito and vector control district to report problems or to request mosquitofish for backyard ponds and out-of-order swimming pools.

In 2009, West Nile Virus transmission led to a reported 112 human cases in the State, four of which resulted in fatalities. One life lost to mosquito-transmitted diseases is too many. For those who become ill, patient treatment costs and loss in productivity can be high and take an economic toll on individual patients, their families, and their communities. Effective mosquito control and public education is key to maintaining a high quality of life in California.

For information regarding mosquito control and local public education activities, please contact GLACVCD's Public Information Officer Crystal Brown at (562) 758-6511 or cbrown@glacvcd.org. GLACVCD staff members would also like to encourage residents to visit their Web site at www.glacvcd.org for new media materials and the latest information about West Nile virus.

MVCAC represents 61 special districts and other subdivisions of local government responsible for mosquito and vector control, surveillance of West Nile Virus and other vector-borne diseases, and public education programs to help Californians protect themselves from disease. MVCAC advocates safe, effective and environmentally-friendly methods of mosquito and vector control. MVCAC's Web site at www.mvcac.org provides statewide mosquito, vector, and West Nile virus information.

###