



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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 11, 2005

Contact: Jack Hazelrigg
District Manager
(562) 944-9656
(562) 244-4664 cell

Aerial Application of Mosquito Larvicide in the Hansen Dam Recreational Area

On Monday, August 15, 2005, the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) will be suppressing the larval stage of mosquitoes by helicopter application of a mosquito control agent in the Hansen Dam Recreational area. The sites treated will include wetland type habitats north of the dam, the southern perimeter of the lake, smaller wetland habitats proximate to the lake formed as a result of last year's near-record rainfall, and portions of the Tujunga Wash and Kagel Canyon Creek. The mosquito control agent VectoBac G will be applied to the water surface at the selected sites. This will not be a liquid aerosol spray application.

Jack Hazelrigg, Ph.D, District Manager, states, "The purpose of this application is to significantly reduce the mosquito population and prevent the occurrence of West Nile virus transmission in this high public use area and to the surrounding residential communities." The application of VectoBac G will start at approximately 6:30 a.m. (weather permitting) and take an estimated 2-3 hours to treat 100 acres of aquatic surface. Residential areas will not be treated. Notices have been posted in the Hansen Dam Recreational area, four days ago, informing the public on the application.

VectoBac G, an EPA registered and approved microbial mosquito control agent, is a granular material made of specially processed corncobs impregnated with a naturally occurring soil bacteria specific for controlling mosquito larvae within 6-24 hours. This material is not harmful and possesses no risk to plants, wildlife, domestic animals or humans during or after the application. Because VectoBac G is a weighted granule to be applied directly to the water surface, and drift to immediate areas will not occur. Hazelrigg says, "The District is anticipating a 70-90% decrease in the mosquito population after treatment, however, control results will not be immediate and only become evident after several days."

Because of the extent of the mosquito problem this year, this is the first time GLACVCD will make an aerial application to control mosquitoes in the Hansen Dam Recreational area. The District's past practice was applying larvicides to wetland habitats in this area using a hovercraft and airboat, but the amount of vegetation currently growing in these habitats prohibits use of these methods in delivering materials to control mosquitoes and prohibits the effective use of mosquito-eating fish.

Although treatment is scheduled for August 15, 2005, subsequent applications may be needed and scheduled approximately every ten days thereafter until mid-October. Those days are tentatively scheduled for: August 25, September 4, September 14, September 24, October 4, and October 14, 2005.

-More-

West Nile virus spreads when mosquitoes bite infected birds and consequently transmit the virus to humans and animals through future bites and is not contagious or spread by person-to-person contact. To date, West Nile virus has afflicted 118 Californians, including three human fatalities, 86 horses, and 1,055 birds have tested positive for West Nile virus.

Residents can protect themselves and their families by playing an active role in mosquito prevention.

- Mosquitoes breed in standing water. Eliminate standing water on your property by dumping or draining water in neglected swimming pools, ponds, rain barrels, discarded tires, buckets, or anything holding water for more than a few days. This will stop the mosquito life cycle.
- Wear long-sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors, especially at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are active.
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.
- Pick up FREE mosquitofish at your local vector control district for placement in ponds, out-of-order swimming pools, and spas to control mosquitoes.
- Report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD or visit www.westnile.ca.gov

Please contact Jack Hazelrigg or Minoo Madon at GLACVCD (562) 944-9656 for questions.