



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

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Truc Dever, Public Information Officer
(562)244-2648 cell
Minoo Madon, Sci.-Tech. Services Dir.
(562)244-0728 cell

Vector Control District Confirms Heightened West Nile virus activity in
Panorama City

Santa Fe Springs— Panorama City residents may face a higher risk of West Nile virus (WNV) transmission this summer. The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District reports that 17 out of 19 West Nile virus confirmed mosquito samples collected this month were from Panorama City within zipcode 91402. The remaining West Nile positive mosquito samples were collected from Granada Hills, another hotbed of activity in the San Fernando Valley, and from Rowland Heights within zipcode 91789.

The confirmed samples, collected on August 2, 2007, bring the District's year-to-date total to 32 WNV positive mosquito samples. Nine birds collected within district boundaries have also tested positive for the virus this year.

The test results come a day after the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health confirmed the county's first human case of 2007.

"The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District is taking immediate action to assess the mosquito breeding situation and the risk of human infection in Panorama City," says Truc Dever, the District's Public Information Officer. "West Nile virus disease warning signs will be posted in public areas to alert residents and visitors of the increased health risk." Dever added that efforts to increase mosquito control in the region are also underway. The District is looking at all potential mosquito breeding sites above and below ground, including the underground storm drain systems.

Throughout the state, the number of cases is climbing dramatically. Statewide, 552 birds and 402 mosquito samples have been confirmed positive for WNV. The California Department of Public Health reports 86 human cases of WNV, including five WNV-related fatalities.

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“The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District maintains an aggressive campaign to control mosquitoes and test for diseases such as West Nile virus,” says Minoo Madon, the District’s Scientific-Technical Services Director. “Since August, September, and October are the ‘prime’ months of the year when the number of human cases increases rapidly, the District encourages residents to do their part to prevent mosquito breeding in their neighborhoods and take extra precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites during this critical time.” Residents can follow these simple steps:

- Inspect all areas around your home and eliminate anything that holds water for more than a week.
- Ensure that swimming pools, spas, and ponds are properly maintained.
- Report mosquito-breeding problems in your neighborhood.
- Avoid over-watering your lawns and gardens to prevent excess run-off.
- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using mosquito repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Keep tight fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes
- Pick up FREE mosquitofish from the Greater L.A. County Vector Control District for placement in out-of-order swimming pools, spas, and ponds to control mosquitoes.

The public is encouraged to report dead birds to help with West Nile virus surveillance and control efforts, as birds play an important role in maintaining and spreading the virus. The CA Department of Public Health’s toll-free hotline is 877-WNV BIRD or visit on-line at: www.westnile.ca.gov.

For more information or a media interview, please contact Truc Dever at (562)244-2648 or Minoo Madon at (562)244-0728 or visit: www.glacvcd.org.