

Areas of Concern When Contracting Out Rat Control Services

- 1.** By contracting out and referring Pest Control Operators (PCOs), OCVCD will be providing an introduction and endorsement of that PCO which can be used to obtain more business; we have no control of how that business is solicited.
- 2.** Subcontracting a routine vector control service would require a review of OCVCD by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to determine whether the arrangement would violate the Cooperative Agreement.
- 3.** A change in service model for rat control may require a review and modification of the 1974 Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the County of Orange
- 4.** OCVCD staff places rat bait in tamper resistant bait stations that may be wired well above the ground in dense vegetation in the homeowner's yard. The home owner signs a release of liability form which is kept on file by the District. Depending on licensing, placement of bait by PCOs may be restricted.
- 5.** Private Pest Control will have the opportunity and motivation to seek long-term contacts for additional pest control services, as well as for repair services which may or may not be necessary
- 6.** District will have no control of PCO employee standards (e.g. background checks, grooming standards, etc.).
- 7.** While the OCVCD Inspector is in the yard other vectors and sources are noted (mosquitoes, flies, and RIFA) and treated. PCOs do not conduct multi-vector inspections except to help up-sell.
- 8.** OCVCD talks to neighbors or provides literature for neighboring homes when those residents need to be involved in rat control on their property.
- 9.** Rat populations are routinely sampled through live trapping by OCVCD staff for disease and parasite surveillance. PCOs do not conduct disease surveillance.
- 10.** OCVCD's mission is to protect public health in most efficient way possible; a PCO's role is pest control. Subcontracting blurs the distinction between pest control and vector control for public health.
- 11.** Inspectors work with cities, communities, and Home Owner Associations (HOAs) to resolve rat problems on non-residential and common areas. PCOs are not covered by the Cooperative Agreement and may not be able to treat public rights-of-way.
- 12.** District staff has a legal option to abate rat sources when needed; private pest control does not have same legal authority.
- 13.** There may be a conflict between a PCO providing indoor trapping service and the OCVCD model of outdoor control and education which will reduce the need for indoor service.
- 14.** What are the possible legal consequences of a subcontractor placing pesticides, entering properties, etc.? Who would be liable for the pesticide? If OCVCD makes the referral, is the District's liability increased?