

# Memo

DATE: February 4, 2010

TO: Gerard Goedhart, District Manager

FROM: Michael Hearst, Director of Communications

RE: Weekly Memo

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**Rodent Control Privatization Update:** This afternoon, the OCVCD Operations Committee will be meeting to review the discussion with the private pest control operators that was held on January 14. There was a follow up letter from an attorney representing the Orange County Chapter of the Pest Control Operators of California. This letter will also be a topic of discussion at the meeting.

The steps needed to create a pilot program and select a service provider should a city decide to have rodent control provided by private industry rather than the OCVCD will also be discussed.

**Return of El Niño Update:** Service requests and reports from the field are bearing out the predictions of an overall increase in vector activity. The roof rats are moving indoors to escape the drenching rains, backyard containers are filling and the Inspectors have noticed an increase in the number of sites that are breeding mosquitoes. The Argentine ants have moved indoors in many cases and the Red Imported Fire Ants have repaired their mounds and tunnels and in so doing they have revealed their presence.

We are working on a series of warnings about this increased activity with recommendations for actions available to the public that will minimize the effect of the increased rainfall.

**MVCAC Annual Conference Update:** Several staff members will be heading for the Annual Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California Conference in Sacramento this weekend. We will have reports for the Board when we get back. In addition to the obvious topics of interest to all public agencies, like funding shortfalls and raids by the State on what is left, a major topic will be the various permits that will be required of the districts to be in compliance with water quality standards. The situation will be covered in the staff reports following the conference.

# Memo

TO: Gerard Goedhart, District Manager  
FROM: Lawrence H. Shaw, Director of Operations  
DATE: February 4, 2010  
RE: Weekly Operations Report

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**Rains Fill Marshes With Water:** The inland marsh that is formed behind the Villa Park Dam is filled with over 200 acre feet of water. Coastal marshes from Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge to the Santa Ana River also are filled with water totaling over 1,000 acre feet. With this amount of water staff is determining where the mosquitoes are breeding and performing treatments where necessary. As more rain falls and the temperature slightly increases, the mosquito life cycle will progress faster. Operations staff is arranging for a helicopter treatment that will treat all of the marshes in four to five hours. The same safe Bti based pesticide that is applied by ground crews will be applied by air.

**Neglected Swimming Pool Report:** Operations has 1,279 neglected pools on our lists to inspect and treat on schedule. In January 406 pools were inspected with 87 pools breeding mosquitoes. This time of year the number of neglected pools increase due to the rains. It is a District goal to have the pools in working order or have them drained. Some residents are unable to reach these goals so District Inspectors will place either mosquito-eating fish in the pools or a slow release pesticide where applicable.

(continued next page)

**Total Red Imported Fire Ant Work for 2009:** Note the increased inspection and treatments when seasonal employees are present during April through October.

<b>O.C.V.C.D. RED IMPORTED FIRE ANT UPDATE: 2009 Totals</b>						
	<b>LARGE AREA</b>		<b>SITES</b>		<b>RESIDENTIAL SITES</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>SITES TREATED</b>	<b>ACRES TREATED</b>	<b>SITES SURVEYED</b>	<b>ACRES SURVEYED</b>	<b>NEW SITES TREATED</b>	<b>SURVEYS</b>
January	63	899	13	220	20	0
February	44	871	8	109	20	0
March	83	1175	43	599	39	0
April	126	1200	6	142	15	0
May	295	3681	118	854	38	0
June	369	3413	186	2251	153	32
July	345	4394	149	2062	117	70
August	338	4552	151	2267	121	32
September	362	4597	176	2166	227	98
October	192	2711	34	400	338	28
November	76	1267	48	900	67	14
December	36	460	46	1091	35	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2329</b>	<b>29220</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>13061</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>281</b>

# Memo

TO: Gerard Goedhart, District Manager  
FROM: Robert Cummings, Scientific Technical Services Director  
DATE: February 4, 2010  
RE: Scientific Technical Services Section, 1/29 – 2/4

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## **Tick-borne Disease Surveillance**

Several cases of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF), a bacterial disease spread by ticks, have occurred in Orange County and surrounding areas of southern California and Arizona in the last few years. Unfortunately, there are no testing labs, commercial or public, that screen for this disease agent in ticks for surveillance purposes. We have established a relationship with a graduate student at Humboldt State University who is studying bacteria in ticks. Recently, we sent 260 Pacific black-legged ticks and 200 specimens of another species, the Pacific Coast tick, collected in south Orange County to her as part of a state-wide study. She will be using PCR to test them for the presence of rickettsia, the type of bacteria responsible for a variety of both tick and flea-borne diseases.

## **Rodent-borne Disease Surveillance**

A total of 46 rodents were tested recently. One of 17 deer mice trapped along the 241 toll road in Irvine, between Portola Parkway and the Tomato Springs Toll Station, was positive for Sin Nombre Virus, the causative agent of hantavirus.