

**Orange County  
Vector Control District**

# Memo

DATE: January 7, 2010

TO: Gerard Goedhart, District Manager

FROM: Michael Hearst, Director of Communications

RE: Weekly Memo

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**Rat Control Sub-Contracting Study Update:** We have sent a letter inviting the 13 Pest Control Operators (PCO), which the District is currently partnered with for fire ant control, to a special meeting of the Operations Committee on January 14. This meeting will provide an opportunity for the Committee to discuss the prospect of expanding our partnership to include rat control. Staff has prepared a document outlining the steps involved in setting up a test.

**Continuing Education Update:** There will be a three-day continuing education symposium at the end of this month. The event will be held at the Phoenix Club in Anaheim. Topics covered will range from fire ants to snakes and from new formulations of mosquito control products to habitat remediation. This three-day session, combined with the video supplements, is usually sufficient to fulfill the continuing education requirement for an entire two-year cycle.

**Legislative Update:** Talk about pension reform continues; unfortunately, there has still been very little action. District staff will continue working on pesticide regulation and water quality issues that have the potential to impact District activities. The key concept is to impress on legislators the difference between an application of a product for control of a public health threat and the agricultural or homeowner applications. One major problem is the fact that an estimated 80 percent of the pesticide runoff is due to applications made by homeowners. Vector control applications account for only a tiny amount of the remaining 20 percent.

It is standard procedure to request that agencies involved in vector control programs be exempt from the proposed restrictions. Because of the public health mission of these agencies and the tiny amount of material involved, the exemption is frequently granted.

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# Memo

TO: Gerard Goedhart, District Manager  
FROM: Lawrence H. Shaw, Director of Operations  
DATE: January 7, 2010  
RE: Weekly Operations Report

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**Mosquitoes Starting to Breed in Freshwater Marshes:** The early rains have filled depressions at fresh water marsh sites throughout the County. Inspectors have found mosquitoes breeding at the sites and have treated them with safe and effective pesticides.

**Planning for Seasonal Employees:** Preparation has begun for the return of seasonal employees in the spring. The seasonals are a very important part of the mosquito and Red Important Fire Ant control efforts.

**Mid-Year Budget Review:** It is once again time to go over the Operations budget by line item. The budget has been managed carefully so no unexpected changes are anticipated.

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# Memo

TO: Gerard Goedhart, District Manager  
FROM: Robert Cummings, Scientific Technical Services Director  
DATE: January 7, 2010  
RE: Scientific Technical Services Section, 1/1– 1/7

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## **Environmental Management Program**

District staff attended a special meeting of the Southern Region Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) for the purpose of discussing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance needs and strategies. The group recognized that with impending water quality NPDES requirements, vector control agencies need to review and update their CEQA documents. A committee was formed to explore the practicality and feasibility of jointly cost sharing the expense of preparing a region-wide CEQA document.