

**Orange County  
Vector Control District**

# Memo

DATE: March 11, 2010

TO: Gerard Goedhart, District Manager

FROM: Michael Hearst, Director of Communications

RE: Weekly Memo

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**Legislative Update:** Both the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) are holding Legislative Committee Meetings this month. It is interesting that the focus of the two groups is converging on water. The CSDA is largely made up of water districts, and the issue of water availability is on everyone's mind. The MVCAC is faced with a variety of water quality bills. The two areas are of interest to the District because of the contribution that water nuisance run-off makes to urban mosquito production, and water quality concerns could potentially impact which materials public health agencies are able to use to control mosquitoes.

As the demand for water grows and the available supply lessens, water conservation will become more important. Water conservation programs begin with reducing the amount of wasted water in the form of runoff. Engaging the public in the effort to reduce runoff and other forms of water waste will eliminate many mosquito breeding sites with no further effort on the part of District staff. This will also reduce the amount of control material that needs to be applied in the County.

There have been several challenges to the exemptions enjoyed by mosquito and vector control agencies that treat water for public health purposes. It is unfortunate because it has been estimated that public health applications of pesticides account for about 0.3 percent of all reported pesticide use in California. This is all the more disturbing when the estimated use of pesticides by homeowners is as high as 80 percent of the total, and homeowner use is unreported. The challenge is to provide monitoring data on the impact of the mosquito control agencies when their total usage is in reality in the range of 0.3 percent of 20 percent or 0.06 percent of the actual total. The true impact of mosquito control activities on the overall health of the environment is minimal

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# Memo

TO: Gerard Goedhart, District Manager  
FROM: Lawrence H. Shaw, Director of Operations  
DATE: March 11, 2010  
RE: Weekly Operations Report

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**Helicopter Mosquito Larviciding:** The helicopter larviciding that took place last week was very successful. Spot checks showed the helicopter was able to accurately drop the biolarvicide Bti where the larvae were breeding. This treatment helps our staff maintain a proper cycle time and prevents the emergence of mosquitoes.

**Operations Budget:** Staff is helping me prepare reports and work on the second round of budget talks scheduled for Friday, March 12, with Gerard and the Administrative Services staff.

**Vertebrate Pest Conference:** John Parsons, who is a Zone Supervisor, attended the 24<sup>th</sup> Vertebrate Pest Conference in Sacramento, California. A variety of topics were presented that included the accidental release of Gambian Giant Pouched Rats in Florida. These rats were imported for the pet trade and accidentally released. A presentation on novel ways to control fleas on a group of wild rodents was discussed. The flea control is administered in feed and does not injure the rodents. There were 253 people in attendance from 28 states and over 24 countries.

**Red Imported Fire Ant February Update:** (See Table on next page.)

<b>O.C.V.C.D. RED IMPORTED FIRE ANT UPDATE: FEBRUARY 2010</b>						
<b>CITY</b>	<b>LARGE AREA SITES</b>				<b>RESIDENTIAL SITES</b>	
	<b>SITES TREATED</b>	<b>ACRES TREATED</b>	<b>SITES SURVEYED</b>	<b>ACRES SURVEYED</b>	<b>NEW SITES TREATED</b>	<b>BAIT SURVEYS</b>
ALISO VIEJO	0	0	0	0	0	0
ANAHEIM	1	4	3	17	8	7
BREA	3	52	1	2	3	0
BUENA PARK	0	0	0	0	1	1
COSTA MESA	0	0	0	0	0	0
COTO DE CAZA*	0	0	0	0	0	0
CYPRESS	0	0	2	36	0	0
DANA POINT	0	0	0	0	0	0
FOUNTAIN VALLEY	0	0	0	0	0	0
FULLERTON	3	49	3	187	7	2
GARDEN GROVE	1	11	2	24	4	0
HUNTINGTON BEACH	0	0	0	0	0	0
IRVINE	0	0	4	266	0	0
LA HABRA	5	36	0	0	0	0
LA MIRADA	0	0	0	0	0	0
LA PALMA	0	0	0	0	0	0
LADERA RANCH*	1	2	8	27	0	0
LAGUNA BEACH	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAGUNA HILLS	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAGUNA NIGUEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAGUNA WOODS	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAKE FOREST	0	0	1	32	0	0
LAS FLORES*	0	0	0	0	0	0
LOS ALAMITOS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISSION VIEJO	0	0	1	35	0	0
MODJESKA*	0	0	0	0	0	0
NEWPORT BEACH	0	0	0	0	0	0
ORANGE	5	46	12	63	2	0
PLACENTIA	8	57	0	0	2	3
RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA	1	10	0	0	0	0
SAN CLEMENTE	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAN JUAN HOT SPRINGS	0	0	0	0	0	0
SANTA ANA	0	0	10	120	1	0
SEAL BEACH	0	0	0	0	0	0
SILVERADO CANYON*	0	0	0	0	0	0
STANTON	0	0	0	0	0	1
TRABUCO CANYON*	0	0	0	0	0	0
TUSTIN	1	5	4	57	0	0
VILLA PARK	0	0	0	0	0	0
WAGON WHEEL*	0	0	0	0	0	0
WESTMINSTER	0	0	0	0	0	0
YORBA LINDA	12	181	6	41	6	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>14</b>

\*UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY

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# Memo

TO: Gerard Goedhart, District Manager  
FROM: Robert Cummings, Scientific Technical Services Director  
DATE: March 11, 2010  
RE: Scientific Technical Services Section, 3/5– 3/11

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## West Nile Virus Surveillance

The recent rains have filled up plenty of mosquito breeding sites around Orange County. Of special concern early in the year are wetlands and neglected swimming pools. Both these types of habitats can produce a lot of *Culex tarsalis*, a species of mosquito that is a very efficient vector of West Nile virus. District personnel are emphasizing early-season monitoring and treating of these sites throughout the County, with the hope of dampening any future, large-scale outbreak of the virus.

## Environmental Management Program

The District received bids from three environmental planning companies in response to a recent District RFP for preparation of a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document. District personnel are reviewing the proposals and will finalize their recommendation by the April 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees meeting.

## Small Mammal Disease Surveillance

There were 15 rats, 3 squirrels, and 1 rabbit tested for bubonic plague – all were negative. These included the last of 2009's specimens.

During February, 38 field mice and 8 rats were tested for hantavirus from Costa Mesa, Irvine, and San Juan Capistrano. All were negative.

At the request of Dr. Scott A. Bernhardt, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 450 squirrel fleas from three Orange County localities (Brea, Orange, and Fullerton) were sent to CDC in Fort Collins, Colorado, for genetic testing. He is investigating the vectorial capacity of various species of squirrel fleas to transmit bubonic plague.