

Memo

TO: Michael G. Hearst, Interim District Manager
FROM: Lawrence H. Shaw, Director of Operations
DATE: May 6, 2010
RE: Weekly Operations Report

OCVCD Respiratory Protection Plan: A written Respiratory Protection Plan has been prepared and implemented at the District. The need for respiratory protection is important for staff that mix, load, and use some of the pesticides at the District. The District has had a long-standing plan, but this new plan replaces that with minimal changes to the program.

County of Orange Agricultural Commissioners Office Makes Annual Visit: Staff from the Orange County Agricultural Commissioners Office made a scheduled visit to the District offices this week. They are interested in looking at various records, a site inspection of the pesticide shed, and postings regarding safety procedures. The District received 100 percent compliance on the inspection report.

Aerial Services Neglected Pool Survey: The District has hired Aerial Services to fly the northern half of the County to locate neglected swimming pools. The flight is scheduled for next week as long as the weather cooperates. The last north County flyover revealed over 2,000 swimming pools that were inspected and treated by District staff for mosquito breeding.

District CEQA Document Scoping Meeting: Several Operations staff are involved with the formation of the District's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance document. Information that is being provided will assist Dr. Beck and his team in the preparation of the important document. District Biologist Amber Semrow is facilitating the consultants on this project.

Memo

TO: Mike Hearst, Interim District Manager
FROM: Robert Cummings, Scientific Technical Services Director
DATE: May 6, 2010
RE: Scientific Technical Services Section, 4/30 – 5/06

Mosquito Activity & West Nile Virus:

Although rainfall totals during this El Niño year are up about 5 inches above normal in Orange County, springtime temperatures have been several degrees below average. Fortunately, because of this recent spate of unseasonably cool weather, mosquito counts have also been lower than normal for this time of year. No dead birds or mosquito pools have tested positive for West Nile virus in the County during these early months of 2010.

Environmental Management Program:

Last week, District Biologists and additional staff completed the construction and plumbing for ten 1,200 gallon fish tanks situated in the back of the District's property. This was the second phase of a project to improve and increase the carrying capacity and quarantine areas for existing and future stocks of mosquito fish. The first phase of this project, pond relining and retrofitting, was completed in September 2009, for nine earthen ponds in the fish holding area of the District. In addition to increased capacity, the implementation of these additional tanks will also enable District Biologists to implement captive breeding efforts in a more efficient manner.

Rodent-borne Disease Surveillance:

Eighteen small rodents (rats and squirrels) from various south County locations were tested for bubonic plague recently. None were positive.