

Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Lora Young, Director of Communications
Phone: (714) 971-2421 Fax: (714) 971-6242
E-mail: lyoung@ocvcd.org

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF REGULATIONS HONORS ORANGE COUNTY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT FOR INNOVATIONS THAT REDUCE PESTICIDE RISK

Garden Grove, CA. The Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD) is one of four organizations awarded the “2017 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Achievement Award” from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). The IPM Achievement Award is considered one of DPR’s highest honors and is awarded to agencies and organizations that demonstrate innovative strategies based on scientific principles of IPM, including a preference for practicing preventative measures and using beneficial organisms for pest control when feasible.

The award was presented to OCMVCD at a ceremony on Monday, February 12 at the California Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters in Sacramento.

“In recent years, District staff has worked hard to find innovative ways to apply IPM principles when addressing the management of mosquitoes, rats, and Red Imported Fire Ants,” says OCMVCD District Manager Rick Howard. “Our goal is to protect public health while leaving the smallest environmental footprint possible. We are honored to be recognized by DPR for our efforts.”

OCMVCD was recognized for the following:

- Re-focusing of the Rat Control Program to an education-based program that considers rodenticide placement only if certain conditions are met, resulting in a significant decrease in rodenticide use in 2016.
- Establishing a Door-to-Door Team to provide education and one-on-one home inspections when responding to nuisance and disease carrying Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes and travel-acquired human disease cases.
- Launching a West Nile Virus High Risk Area Initiative targeting nine cities that have recorded the highest abundance of West Nile virus human cases since 2004. The initiative focused on collaborations with targeted cities to increase awareness and education within the communities most impacted by West Nile virus.

- Development of a mobile outreach unit and an inflatable mosquito display capable of being deployed to communities with mosquito activity, and implementation of a school-based classroom education program led by a certified educator in 2016.

DPR urges California agencies to utilize IPM to reduce the use of traditional pest control practices. Agencies are also encouraged to use research, strategic planning and cultural and environmental means to prevent and address pest management issues.

Visit the OCMVCD website at www.ocvector.org to see the video highlighting the District's use of IPM strategies and highlighting the CDPR IPM Achievement Award.

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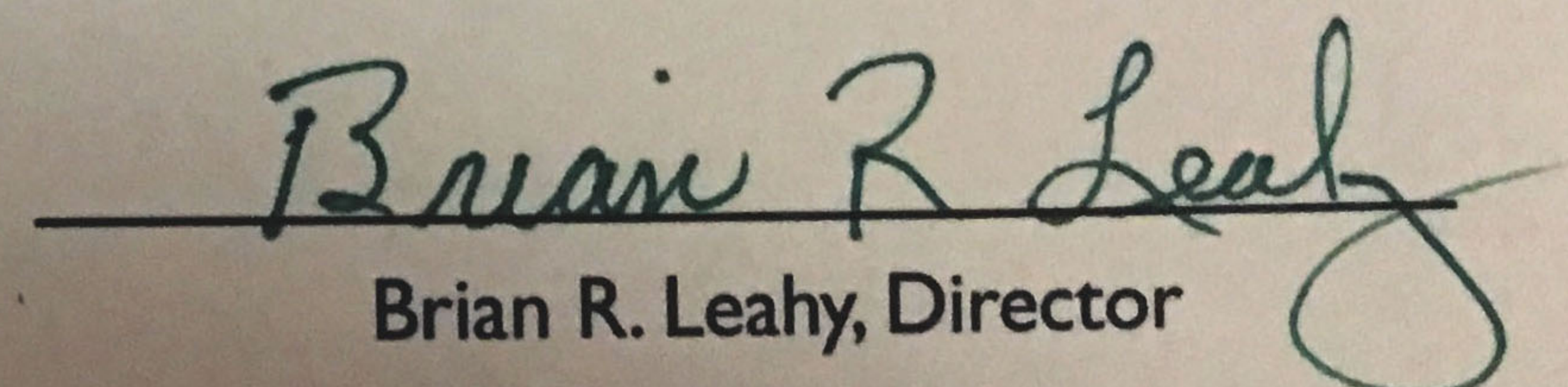
California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Pesticide Regulation

IPM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Orange County Mosquito and
Vector Control District*

Is hereby recognized for outstanding achievement for advancing
the use of integrated pest management practices in California





Brian R. Leahy, Director

February 12, 2018