



**Greater Los Angeles County
Vector Control District**
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Vector Control District Seeking Boundaries to Asian Tiger Mosquito Infestation in South El Monte

Los Angeles, CA— The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) will be launching its third door-to-door campaign in the City of South El Monte today in response to the Asian tiger mosquito threat. The campaign will take place Thursday, October 20 from 3 – 6 p.m. in several neighborhoods between Rosemead Boulevard and Merced Avenue in South El Monte. Vector control district staff will be conducting property inspections and providing educational materials to residents.

“We are continuing to evaluate the infestation and hoping to establish its boundaries before the mosquitoes may go dormant for the winter,” says Director of Community Affairs Truc Dever. “That way, we can better target our control efforts when mosquito breeding resumes next spring.”

District vector ecologists positively identified this aggressive, day-biting mosquito in the 2000 block of Santa Anita Avenue in September of this year. This is less than a mile from the area in the City of El Monte where the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District first found this non-native invader. The species has not been seen in Los Angeles County since 2001 when it was accidentally imported in shipments of “Lucky Bamboo” (*Dracena spp.*) plants from Southeast Asia. Fortunately at the time, local vector control agencies were able to successfully contain and eradicate the species from the region.

Unlike most mosquitoes native to California, the Asian tiger mosquitoes are aggressive day-time biters and efficiently carry and transmit dengue, chikungunya, and several other viruses that can cause encephalitis. Asian tiger mosquitoes are responsible for recent outbreaks of dengue virus in south Florida, Texas, and Hawai'i. They are approximately ¼ inch long and have distinctive black and white bands across their bodies and legs. These mosquitoes are considered “container breeders” and require very little water to lay eggs and breed. Females will lay individual eggs next to the water surface in buckets, flower pots, and even trash. They will also lay eggs in natural containers such as tree holes, bamboo, and inside flowering plants such as bromeliads. The eggs can remain viable for years in the right environment and hatch once the eggs are re-flooded with water.

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For more information about the Asian tiger mosquito, to submit a service request, or to report possible sightings, please contact the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562)944-9656 (www.glacvcd.org). For media opportunities, please contact GLACVCD PIO Crystal Brown at cbrown@glacvcd.org or call 562-325-3271.