



**Greater Los Angeles County  
Vector Control District**  
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# INFORMATION RELEASE

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Vector Control District Confirms More West Nile virus Activity in L.A. County

**Santa Fe Springs, CA**--The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has confirmed the second West Nile virus (WNV) positive bird within its district boundaries for 2009. That brings the total number of dead birds identified with the virus in Los Angeles County this year to three. Tests on a dead American crow collected from Los Feliz in zip code 90027 late last month confirmed active virus transmission in the region. So far this year, there have been 23 confirmed WNV positive dead birds statewide.

The District is in the midst of another busy mosquito season. Mosquitoes are typically most prevalent during summer months; however, GLACVCD must work hard year-round to prevent vector-borne disease transmission. Southern California's warm climate is ideal weather for mosquito breeding so extra vigilance is necessary to control mosquito populations. Mosquitoes are responsible for more human deaths each year than any other living creature worldwide so controlling them is essential to protecting public health.

In addition to weather conditions, the on-going housing crisis continues to pose a challenge for the District, since the high number of foreclosures and vacant homes with neglected swimming pools provide ideal breeding habitat for mosquitoes. Neglected swimming pools have contributed to the more than 1,300 service requests the District has received so far this year. The District expects the number of service requests to remain high throughout the summer.

The District continues to urge residents to report dirty swimming pools and vacant properties that may harbor mosquitoes. Residents should also take precautions to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites and mosquito-transmitted diseases.

Remember the 3 D's:

- **DUMP and DRAIN:** Eliminate standing water where mosquitoes can breed

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- DUSK and DAWN: Stay indoors when mosquitoes are most active
- DEFEND: Prevent mosquito bites by wearing approved insect repellents

The Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District is a local government and public health agency dedicated to reducing populations of public health vectors and preventing human infection associated with mosquito-transmitted diseases. The District serves 34 cities in Los Angeles County and areas of unincorporated L.A. County. GLACVCD provides vector and disease prevention, surveillance, control, and educational services to more than 6 million residents within a 1,330 square mile area.

For more information, or if you wish to contact the District, call (562)944-9656 for the District headquarters or dial (818)364-9589 to reach the District's Sylmar facility. For additional information regarding West Nile virus activity in California, visit [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).