



**Greater Los Angeles County
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Greater Los Angeles Mosquito and Vector Control Public Health and Educational Foundation and the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District Announce 1st Annual “Bite Back Against Mosquito Attacks!” Student Poster Contest Winner

Downey, CA—The Greater Los Angeles Mosquito and Vector Control Public Health and Educational Foundation and the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) announced on Tuesday the winner of their first annual “Bite Back Against Mosquito Attacks!” student poster contest.

Jeremy Marquez, a fifth-grade student in Ms. Karen Keiss’ class at Old River Elementary School in Downey, received a special classroom visit from GLACVCD staff this morning. The eleven-year-old won a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond for himself and a pizza party for his teacher and classmates. In addition, Marquez’s winning artwork will be featured on approximately 40 Los Angeles County Metro buses this summer.

“I am excited about winning the poster contest,” exclaimed Marquez. “I made the poster to help share the message about the dangers of vectors with people.” Marquez is an avid reader and currently enjoys the *Wimpy Kid* and *Harry Potter* book series. He also plays chess, basketball and football in his free time. At school, he excels in science and English. He lives with his parents, Israel and Griselda Marquez, and has one older brother, Alan, who attends college at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Principal Teresa Medina remarked that she loves the vector control program. “We feel fortunate that the Bug Bus can come every year and educate our kids on real life issues that support our science program,” said Medina. “We appreciate the program and the benefits the students reap.” The Mobile Education Unit (MEU) Program, featuring the Bug Bus, is the first mobile science education program of its kind in the nation and is aimed at teaching fifth-grade elementary school students about vectors and vector-borne diseases.

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This unique 35-foot traveling RV classroom makes science come alive for students and is the flagship program for the Educational Foundation. The program meets California educational standards for science curriculum.

For more information about the poster contest winner or about the MEU program, please call **(562) 944-9656** or visit **www.glacvcd.org**.

The Greater Los Angeles Mosquito and Vector Control Public Health and Educational Foundation is a non-profit organization founded by the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District to involve elementary school students in backyard control of vectors such as mosquitoes. The GLACVCD formed the foundation in March 2001 to further advance the existing educational program and community outreach efforts.

The Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District is an independent, special district dedicated to promoting community health, comfort and welfare through effective and responsive vector control. GLACVCD is one of five mosquito and vector control districts in Los Angeles County. The District serves approximately 6 million residents in a 1,330 square mile area, making GLACVCD the largest vector control district in Los Angeles County.

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