



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

For Immediate Release

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Mosquito Adulticiding in Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River Corridors

On Wednesday, August 4, 2004, the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) will be adulticiding or suppressing adult mosquitoes by ultra low-volume (ULV) truck-mounted ground fogging in the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River corridors in response to several positive West Nile virus mosquitoes and many dead birds within the area to prevent further human and animal West Nile virus infections.

Cities within the treatment area are Montebello, Pico Rivera, and Whittier. Drift into residential areas is not expected, and residential areas will not be posted before treatment. Cities were given 48 hours notice.

Fogging will commence at 9:00 p.m. in the San Gabriel River. GLACVCD Vector Control Specialists will enter the San Gabriel River at San Gabriel River Pkwy, starting from the Whittier Narrows Dam in the City of Pico Rivera and proceeding south to Telegraph Road. This treatment will take approximately two hours. The second treatment will start at approximately 11:00 p.m. in the Rio Hondo River, with entrance at E. Lincoln Ave. and the Whittier Narrows Dam in the City of Montebello, with treatment scheduled for completion by 2:00 a.m. It was determined to start fogging at 9:00 p.m. because mosquitoes are more active earlier in the evening, than compared to the early morning hours due to warmer temperatures. The adulticide fog will permeate the thick vegetation where adult mosquitoes harbor, knocking down their populations. Pre-treatment adult mosquito trapping will take place in the river corridors to determine mosquito populations before the treatment, and post trapping to verify treatment success. The District is anticipating a 70% decrease in the mosquito population after treatment within the river corridor areas.

The adulticide Scourge® will be used at 1.1 ounces per acre. The active ingredient is resmethrin—a synthetic pyrethroid, similar to pyrethrum, which is derived naturally from chrysanthemum flowers and one of the least poisonous insecticides to mammals and low in toxicity because it is quickly broken down into inactive forms. Scourge® is registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). District Manager Jack Hazelrigg states, “ This small amount of active ingredient which is in the form of microscopic droplets, and literally only molecules of the killing agent are used to kill mosquitoes, which essentially negates exposure and risk to people and the environment.” The benefit of adulticiding is the immediate impact in reducing the number of adult mosquitoes to prevent people and animals from becoming infected with West Nile virus.

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This is not the first time this year GLACVCD has adulticided. Since May of 2004, the District has been adulticiding Machado Lake within Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City on an as-needed basis, with seven treatments completed this year. West Nile virus warning signs have also been posted to safeguard the public's health in these areas.

West Nile virus spreads when mosquitoes bite infected birds and consequently transmit the virus to humans and animals through future bites and is not contagious or spread by person-person contact. While there is no evidence that people can get the virus from handling live or dead birds, individuals should not attempt to catch or handle live, sick birds. To date, there are 64 human cases in California and two deaths due to West Nile virus.

Residents can protect themselves and their family by playing an active role in mosquito prevention by doing the following:

- Mosquitoes breed in standing water. Eliminate standing water on your property by dumping or draining water in neglected swimming pools, ponds, rain barrels, discarded tires, buckets, or anything holding water for more than a few days. This will stop the mosquito life cycle.
- Wear loose, light colored, long sleeve shirts and pants outdoors, especially at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET.
- Keep tight fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.

To find out more, visit www.wipeoutwestnile.com or www.glacvcd.org.