



**Greater Los Angeles County
Vector Control District
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Greater Los Angeles County Sees Dramatic Increase in West Nile Virus Activity

Los Angeles, CA— West Nile virus activity is escalating in cities throughout the Southland as summer temperatures continue to rise. In just one week, the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) has confirmed five additional West Nile virus (WNV) positive dead birds and 15 more WNV positive mosquito samples. This brings the District's total to 13 WNV positive dead birds and 24 WNV positive mosquito samples so far this year. All five dead birds confirmed this week were American Crows. Two of the WNV positive dead birds were collected in Cerritos (zip code 90703), two in Long Beach (zip codes 90807 and 90815), and one in Reseda (zip code 91335). Of the 15 WNV positive mosquito pools identified this week, five were collected in Sherman Oaks (zip code 91403), three in Cerritos (zip code 90703), two in Diamond Bar (zip code 91789), two in South Whittier (90605), one in Lakewood (90715), one in Reseda (91335), and one in Rowland Heights (91789).

This is the first incidence of West Nile virus activity for Lakewood, Long Beach, Reseda, Rowland Heights, Sherman Oaks and Whittier for 2011.

“Our staff has been extra vigilant in identifying and treating mosquito breeding sources,” says Director of Community Affairs Truc Dever. “Since we service such a large, densely populated urban area, we’re asking residents to help us by getting rid of standing water in their yards and reporting breeding sources.”

The District also encourages residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites. Remember, there is no cure for West Nile virus so mosquito bite prevention is the key to staying healthy. Residents can follow the 3 D's of West Nile virus prevention to protect themselves and their families:

- 1. Dump/Drain**
Eliminate standing water on your property because that's where mosquitoes breed.
- 2. Dusk/Dawn**
Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active.
- 3. Defend**

-More-

News Release / P. 2

Wear EPA-registered insect repellent and long-sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors. Use properly-fitted screens free from tears on windows and doors around your home.

For more information about West Nile virus and our vector control services, please contact Public Information Officer Crystal Brown at the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 944-9656 x511 or visit www.glacvcd.org. For statewide information and statistics about West Nile virus, or to report a dead bird or squirrel, visit www.westnile.ca.gov or call **1-877-WNV BIRD**.

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