



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

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Positive Dead Crow Found In Pico Rivera

On May 27th, 2005 a dead crow was picked up by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Veterinarian, southeast of the Whittier Dam area in a residential neighborhood. On June 6, 2005, the dead crow was confirmed positive for West Nile virus (WNV). To date, there are six WNV positive birds within the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District's jurisdiction: Valencia (2), Woodland Hills (1), Long Beach (2), and Pico Rivera (1), and seven total within Los Angeles County.

District Manager Jack Hazelrigg states, "The District will continue its proactive mosquito control and surveillance efforts in the City of Pico Rivera and throughout the District." So far, it has been a mild year for West Nile virus activity, but as temperatures warm up, there could be increased activity and human cases. There are no WNV human cases in California to date.

Birds, particularly crows, ravens, magpies, and jays are highly susceptible to WNV and an indicator that the virus is active. The public's participation in dead bird reporting is highly encouraged because it helps the District concentrate its mosquito control efforts in areas where there is WNV bird activity. The CA Department of Health Services has set up a free hotline for the public to report dead birds: 877-WNV BIRD or on-line at: www.westnile.ca.gov.

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

- Eliminate standing water on your property by dumping or draining water in neglected swimming pools, spas, ponds, clogged rain gutters, rain barrels, discarded tires, buckets, holes in trees, watering troughs, leaking garden equipment, water gardens, or anything holding water for more than a week. Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in birdbaths weekly. Keep children wading pools empty and on their sides when they are not being used. This will stop the mosquito life cycle.
- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants outdoors, especially at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET.

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- Keep tight fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.

For further assistance, call the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District at (562) 944-9656 or visit: www.glacvcd.org