



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

For Immediate Release

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West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes Discovered in Chatsworth

Mosquitoes collected from traps at six different residential sites in Chatsworth are positive for West Nile virus. The mosquitoes collected by the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District were confirmed positive for West Nile virus on August 19, 2005 by the California Department of Health Services and the UC Davis arbovirus diagnostic laboratory. The positive mosquitoes were collected from zip code 91311 in an area south of the 118 freeway, east of the Ventura/Los Angeles County border, north of Plummer St., and west of Canoga Ave.

A total of 13 West Nile virus positive *mosquito pools* (a pool is a vial with 10-50 mosquitoes submitted for virus testing) have been collected from the Chatsworth area since July 2005, and 10 out of the 13 tested positive last week (August 19, 2005). To date, there are seven West Nile virus human cases in Los Angeles County.

“There is a strong correlation between West Nile virus positive mosquitoes and the occurrence of human cases,” states District Manager Jack Hazelrigg. “West Nile virus positive mosquitoes increase the risk of people acquiring the disease,” says Hazelrigg. To prevent human cases from occurring, the District is urging residents who reside in areas with positive mosquitoes to take extra precautions and prevent mosquito bites.

To help prevent the spread of the West Nile virus in the Chatsworth area, the District is proactive by inspecting, and if needed, treating public sources such as the Chatsworth Reservoir, the Santa Susana Wash, all local parks, underground storm drains, street gutters, catch-basins, and other public mosquito breeding sources. On Saturday, August 20, District staff went door-to-door inspecting resident’s backyards for potential backyard breeding sources.

To help notify Chatsworth residents residing in the 91311 zip code about the occurrence of West Nile virus, the District will be posting West Nile virus warning signs in the following recreational areas: Chatsworth Oaks Park, Chatsworth Park North, and Mason Recreational Center. The District does not discourage park use, but warning recreation users to be more cautious of increased virus

-More-

activity in this area. The peak time of concern is between dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are active, not during the day.

Residents can protect themselves and their families by playing an active role in mosquito prevention.

- 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 long-sleeve shirts and pants when outdoors, especially at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are active.
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.
- Pick up FREE mosquitofish at your local vector control district for placement in ponds, out-of-order swimming pools, and spas to control mosquitoes.
- Report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD or visit www.westnile.ca.gov

For more information please call (562) 944-9656 or visit: www.glacvcd.org