How Can Communities Help Maintain Healthy Wetlands?
Residents must become active in maintaining healthy wetlands in their community by:

- Maintaining the wetland’s water quality by not dumping human or animal waste.
- Preventing wetland degradation by not contaminating storm runoff water sources, such as catch basins and gutters with grass clipping, trash, fertilizers and other harmful chemicals.
- Reducing sedimentation by not dumping soil or fill material in wetlands.
- Avoiding displacing native animal and plant species by not releasing exotic animals and plants into wetlands.

Where Can I Get Further Information?
Information and assistance can be obtained by contacting your mosquito control agency. Call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (968-2473) and enter your zip code to determine the mosquito control agency nearest you. Additional information may be obtained via the following publications:

UCANR Publication 8125 by Marco Metzger, Ph.D., CDHS-VBDS
UCANR Publication 8117 by William Walton, Ph.D., UC Riverside
UCANR Publication 7451 by Bruce Eldridge, Ph.D., UC Davis

These documents can be found at http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu

This brochure is provided by the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California.
What Are The Drawbacks To Wetlands In Urban Areas?

Increasing connection between wetlands and residential/commercial areas have increased the ability of vectors (mosquitoes, rodents and other mammals) to enter and transmit diseases in urban environments.

Mosquito to wild bird interactions in a wetland habitat can maintain and amplify various encephalitis viruses known to infect humans and animals.

Wetland habitats may also provide breeding sources of nuisance insects, annoying nearby residents and reducing intended recreational activities.

Is Adequate Funding Needed To Maintain And Manage Wetlands?

Yes. Wetlands and other aquatic projects that benefit or enhance the environment must meet the mandates of public health agencies responsible for controlling mosquitoes and vector-associated diseases.

To be successful, wetland projects should proceed only if adequate, long-term funding is provided throughout the life of the project for continuous management of water quality, aquatic vegetation and mosquito control.

If Not Properly Managed, Can A Fine Be Imposed?

The California Health and Safety Code clearly defines and empowers mosquito and vector control districts, enabling them if necessary, to file abatement notices and impose punitive fines up to $1,000 per day until the public nuisance is abated by the responsible property owner.