



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
& Vector Control District**
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

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A Second Bird Tests Positive for West Nile in the AV

Lancaster, CA – The Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District (AVMVCD) has just received confirmation from the Los Angeles County Veterinary Public Health and Rabies Control Department that a second dead bird from Lancaster has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV).

A concerned resident found the dead bird on his property near 25th Street West and Avenue K on June 8, 2009 and reported it to the West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-877-WNV-Bird. This is the second dead bird that tested positive for WNV in Lancaster this year.

“Our technicians are working hard to keep mosquito populations at bay,” District Entomologist Karen Mellor said. “In addition to their regular routes treating ditches and basins, they are also checking over 700 pools that looked bad on our aerial pictures.” Fortunately some of those pools are now clean and maintained, but the mosquitoes that hatched out of there when the water was green, may still be flying around, potentially spreading disease. “A lot of people don’t maintain their pools in the winter. What they don’t realize is, that mosquitoes will reproduce in that dirty water long before they get it ready for swim season.”

So far this year 14 Counties in California show WNV activity in 46 dead birds, 56 mosquito samples, 3 chickens and one tree squirrel. To date in Los Angeles County, 1 mosquito sample, 5 dead birds, and 3 chickens have tested positive for the virus. At this time last year there were 152 birds, 41 mosquito samples, and 2 chickens from 18 Counties reported to be positive for WNV.

West Nile Virus is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. Although most people that are infected do not show any symptoms, West Nile Virus is a potentially debilitating disease. District

officials urge residents to take individual responsibility, and remember the 3 D's protect yourself and your family from West Nile Virus:

* DRAIN all standing water – Empty out small containers at least once a week, keep pools and spas chlorinated or drained, and repair all water leaks. Conserve water and prevent mosquito breeding.

* DUSK and DAWN – are peak activity times for mosquitoes.

* DEFEND yourself - wear long sleeved shirts and pants and use mosquito repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR3535 when outdoors during mosquito activity. Always follow instructions on the product label. Keep tight fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes.

Also remember to:

* get FREE mosquito-eating fish (*Gambusia affinis*) for fish ponds, pools, and horse troughs.

* vaccinate your horses properly.

* report stagnant pools and other backyard sources to the AVMVCD.

* report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at www.westnile.ca.gov.

Birds that are not picked up by the end of the day can be safely discarded in the trashcan using gloves, a shovel or an inverted trash bag to handle them.

For any further questions or services please feel free to contact the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District by phone (661-942-2917) or check us out online at www.avmosquito.org.