



STAFF REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF March 14, 2017

To: Town Council

From: Town Manager

Subject: Declaring Mosquito and West Nile Virus Awareness Week April 16 – 22, 2017

Date: March 1, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

Hear presentation and adopt the attached Resolution.

DISCUSSION:

The Placer Mosquito & Vector Control District has requested to give a presentation to the Council and to adopt a resolution declaring Mosquito and West Nile Virus Awareness Week to be April 16 – 22, 2017.

CEQA:

There are no CEQA issues associated with this action.

FINANCIAL Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this action.

PMVCD Questions and Answers about Current Mosquito Activity

What is the current situation?

- Western Placer is seeing a lot of mosquitoes out lately. These mosquitoes are locally known as "rice field mosquitoes", which are also known as Anopheles mosquitoes. These mosquitoes are special because they overwinter as adult mosquitoes, which is a kind of hibernation.
- These mosquitoes are an issue for any agricultural or ag-adjacent areas in the region.
- These mosquitoes are coming out of their shelter because of the recent warmer daytime temperatures (65+ degrees) and are NOT emerging from standing water sources. They are coming out of bushes, trees, under decks, or other areas that provide shelter from the winter cold. Since the warm weather has "tricked" them into coming out of hibernation early, they will be hungry and aggressive.
- These mosquitoes will try to enter your garage or home when the temperatures drop in the evening.

What is the good news?

- These mosquitoes are NOT competent vectors for West Nile virus or other common human diseases transmitted by mosquitoes.
- The winter emergence of these mosquitoes is usually a short period of time (3-4 weeks) and is cut short when daytime temperatures get colder again or with rain, which is in the forecast for the next few days.

What does the District do to manage Anopheles mosquitoes?

- The District monitors Anopheles mosquito activity year-round. At this time of year, and with this particular type of mosquito, environmental conditions are not favorable for wide-area adulticide treatments. The bulk of Anopheles mosquito management happens in the spring and summer, when we treat surrounding rice fields for mosquito larvae, and in the summer and early fall, when we treat the adult Anopheles mosquitoes in the rice fields and surrounding areas, before they find their winter shelters.
- Since these mosquitoes are also capable of traveling up to 15 miles, localized treatments would only provide a 1-2 days of relief.

What does the District do to help prevent West Nile virus?

- For West Nile virus prevention, the District monitors standing water sources year-round.
- When environmental conditions are suitable, we start placing mosquitofish in standing water sources. This typically happens around March, depending on the year.
Once we identify mosquito larvae for Culex species mosquitoes in water sources, we begin to treat those areas with mosquito larvicides. This typically begins in the late spring, depending on temperatures. Culex species mosquitoes are the ones that transmit West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne encephalitis viruses.
- In the spring, the District also starts setting over 50 adult mosquito traps throughout the county to monitor adult mosquito numbers and to see if any mosquitoes are testing positive for West Nile virus infection.
- The District also begins to test dead birds for West Nile virus infection.
When we start to see increased numbers of West Nile virus vector mosquitoes, or West Nile positive dead birds or mosquitoes, this is usually the indication when we need to do wide-area adulticide treatments.

What can residents do?

- Dumping or draining standing water is always a good idea, even if mosquitoes are not quite laying eggs or emerging from water sources right now. It will get you in the habit of doing it all the time, especially when the risk for West Nile virus is high (summer and early fall).
- Make sure your doors, windows, and garage doors remain closed and window screens are in good condition. When temperatures drop in the evening, Anopheles mosquitoes will aggressively try to seek warm shelter either in your garage or your home.
- If you will be outside, wear thick long sleeves and long pants, and apply a CDC-recommended repellent to any exposed skin.

TOWN OF LOOMIS

RESOLUTION 17 -

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LOOMIS RECOGNIZING WEST NILE VIRUS AND MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL AWARENESS WEEK 2017

WHEREAS, the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California has designated the week of April 16 to April 22, 2017 as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week;

WHEREAS, West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that can result in debilitating cases of meningitis and encephalitis and death to humans, horses, avian species, and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, mosquitoes and other vectors, including, but not limited to, ticks, rats, fleas, and flies, continue to be a source of human suffering, illness, and death, and a public nuisance in California and around the world; and

WHEREAS, excess numbers of mosquitoes and other vectors spread diseases, reduce enjoyment of both public and private outdoor living spaces, reduce property values, hinder outdoor work, reduce livestock productivity, and have a negative impact on the environment; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, West Nile virus resulted in 19 human deaths in California, and 426 individual cases in 32 counties; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, West Nile virus surveillance resulted in 103 West Nile virus-positive mosquito samples and 30 West Nile virus-positive dead birds, and no human cases in Placer County; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, West Nile virus resulted in 7 individual human case and 1 death in Placer County; and

WHEREAS, two invasive mosquito species in California, *Aedes Albopictus*, and *Aedes aegypti*, are posing new public health threats in central and southern California due to their capability to transmit potentially deadly or debilitating diseases, such as dengue, yellow fever, chikungunya, and Zika virus, diseases that are not currently transmitted in California but are at epidemic levels in the Americas and other continents; and

WHEREAS, professional mosquito and vector control based on scientific research has made great advances in safely reducing mosquito and vector populations and the diseases they transmit; and

WHEREAS, adequately funded mosquito and vector control, disease surveillance and public awareness programs, coupled with the best management practices emphasizing nonchemical approaches, are the best ways to prevent outbreaks of West Nile virus and other diseases borne by mosquitoes and other vectors; and

WHEREAS, the Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District, along with mosquito and vector control agencies throughout the State of California, works closely with local public and environmental health officials, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the State Department of Public Health to reduce pesticide risks to humans, animals, and the environment while protecting human health from mosquito and vector; and

WHEREAS, the public's awareness of the health benefits associated with safe, professionally applied mosquito and vector control methods will support these efforts, as well as motivate the state and the public to eliminate mosquito and vector breeding sites on public and private property; and

WHEREAS, West Nile virus and Mosquito and Vector Awareness Week will increase the public's awareness of the threat of diseases and encourage the public to take action in preventing mosquito and vector-transmitted diseases, and will highlight the activities of various mosquito and vector research and control agencies working to reduce the health threat within California; and

WHEREAS, the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California has designated the week of April 16 to April 22, 2017, inclusive, as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week in the State of California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Loomis does hereby recognizes April 16 to April 22, 2017 as West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of March, 2017 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Robert Black, Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk