

SOLANO COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW



PREPARED BY

PACIFIC MUNICIPAL CONSULTANTS
1590 DREW AVENUE, STE 120
DAVIS, CA 95616

NOVEMBER 2006

SOLANO COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT SERVICES

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SOLANO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF LAFCO

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act (Government Code Section 56000 et seq.) requires all Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs), including the Solano LAFCo, to conduct a municipal service reviews (MSR) prior to updating the spheres of influence (SOI) of the various cities and special districts in the County (Government Code Section 56430). The fundamental role of a LAFCo is to implement to CKH Act, providing for the logical, efficient, and most appropriate formation of local municipalities, service areas, and special district. The focus of this MSR is to provide LAFCo with all necessary and relevant information related to Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD) services.

PURPOSE OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

This MSR is intended to provide a comprehensive analysis of service provision by the SCMAD within Solano County. This MSR will provide Solano LAFCo with an informational document and make determinations in different areas of evaluation. The SCMAD's boundary is coterminous to both its Sphere of Influence and the County boundary; as such, this service review evaluates the ability of the District to serve the entire County. The District's boundary is shown in Figure 1.

This MSR evaluates the structure and operation of the District and discuss possible areas for improvement or coordination. Key sources for this study were agency-specific information gathered through research and surveys, as well as the Municipal Service Review Guidelines published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR).

This report is divided up into six sections Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies, Growth and Population, Cost Avoidance and Facilities Sharing, Financing and Rate Restructuring, Government Structure and Management Efficiencies, and Local Accountability.

INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

This section analyzes whether sufficient infrastructure and capital are in place, and reviews capabilities for accommodating future growth in service demands.

GROWTH AND POPULATION

This section reviews projected growth within the existing service boundaries of the District and analyzes the District's plans to accommodate future growth.

COST AVOIDANCE AND FACILITIES SHARING

This section evaluates factors affecting the financing of needed improvements, as well as opportunities for the District to share facilities.

FINANCING AND RATE RESTRUCTURING

The District's fiscal history is evaluated to determine viability and ability to meet service demands. Rate structure is also examined as a means to eliminate unnecessary cost.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES

This section evaluates the ability of the District to meet its demands under its existing government structure, and considers the overall managerial practices.

LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

This section examines how well the District makes its processes transparent to the public and invites and encourages public participation.

OVERVIEW

SCMAD is an independent special district originally organized under the Mosquito Abatement District Act of 1915 (Health and Safety Code §2000-2093). This Act was amended in 2002 and is now referred to as the Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District Law.

The District was founded in 1930 in order to control the pestiferous *Ochlerotatus* mosquitoes that were being produced in the 184-square mile Suisun Marsh. The Solano County Mosquito Abatement District is responsible for mosquito abatement throughout the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Solano County, which covers 829 square miles.

The District is authorized by law to¹:

- a) Conduct surveillance programs and other appropriate studies of vectors and vector borne diseases.
- b) Take any and all necessary or proper actions to prevent the occurrence of vectors and vector borne diseases.
- c) Take any and all necessary or proper actions to abate or control vectors and vector borne diseases.

THE MOSQUITOES OF SOLANO COUNTY

There are 21 mosquito species of concern in Solano County. Most of these species breed in the habitats of the county characterized by standing water. Though all the species are capable of creating nuisance, the main species of concern are the House mosquito (*Culex pipiens*) and Encephalitis Mosquito (*Culex tarsalis*) because they lay eggs in stagnant water, wetlands and marshlands. The county's topography includes over 1,200 acres of tidal marshlands, ideal habitat for the promulgation of mosquitoes.

Encephalitis Mosquito (*Culex tarsalis*)

These mosquitoes breed in rain pools, marshes, reservoirs, pools, rice fields, irrigation tailwaters, ditches, and domestic sources. Although this species prefers clear, standing waters, it is sometimes found in vegetation along streams and in polluted waters.

¹The District is also permitted to take "any and all actions necessary for or incidental to the powers granted" by the governing act (d).

This breed reaches maximum populations in the late summer, and in the hot weather they can live for two or three weeks. During the cooler months, the females of this species may live for several months.

As its common name suggests, this mosquito species is one of the most significant vectors of Encephalitis in the state, carrying Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE), St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE), and California Encephalitis. Also, this species was one of the most significant carriers of the West Nile Virus as recently as 2004.

House mosquito (*Culex pipiens*)

These mosquitoes keep close ties with humans. Common breeding grounds for these mosquitoes include standing waters such as street drainage, septic tanks and cesspools, sewage, and backyard sources like unused swimming pools and stale-water ornamental ponds.

Like the Encephalitis mosquitoes, the house mosquitoes are at peak populations during the summers and live for 2-3 weeks during hot months. This species is also a secondary vector of Western Equine Encephalitis, St. Louis Encephalitis, and the West Nile Virus. Additionally, house mosquitoes may also transmit the organisms causing bird malaria, fowl pox, and canine heartworm.

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW PROCESS

The Municipal Service Review (MSR) process is a comprehensive assessment of the ability of government agencies to effectively and efficiently provide services to residents and users. The form and content of the MSR is governed by requirements of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reformation Act of 2000 (CKH Act) and the State of California's LAFCo MSR Guidelines (Guidelines), published in August 2003. This MSR considers the operations and management of the mosquito abatement district within Solano County.

The MSR contains analysis and conclusions, referred to in this document as determinations, regarding nine topic areas set forth in the CKH Act. These areas of analysis contain the essential operational and management aspects of each district, and together constitute a complete review of the ability of each provider to meet the service demands of the residents within their boundaries. The nine topic areas have been combined into the following six topic headings for analysis in this MSR:

- 1) Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies
- 2) Growth
- 3) Financing and Rate Restructuring
- 4) Cost Avoidance and Facilities Sharing
- 5) Government Structure and Management Efficiencies
- 6) Local Accountability

An explanation of the specific operational and management aspects of each district considered in each of these topic areas is provided below.

TOPIC AREAS OF ANALYSIS

The MSR considers the nine areas of analysis required by CKH. For ease of use and clarity in reading, some of the topic areas have been combined in the body of the report. The following topics of review are provided in the MSR:

1. INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND SHARING OF FACILITIES

This section assesses the adequacy and quality of infrastructure at the District. Infrastructure refers to the physical facilities in use by each district, including land, offices, equipment and vehicles, and pesticide inventory. Occurrences of facilities sharing are listed and assessed for efficiency, and existing facilities sharing arrangements are discussed.

2. GROWTH AND POPULATION

This section assesses the likely increase in service demand within the District. Changes in demand for services can be based on a variety of factors, including future changes in demographics, potential changes in land use, and the ability to track service demands and respond accordingly.

3. COST AVOIDANCE AND FACILITIES SHARING

This section analyzes existing cost avoidance and facilities sharing measures currently being utilized by the District to reduce the cost associated with service operations.

4. FINANCING AND RATE RESTRUCTURING

This section analyzes the financial structure and viability of the District. Included in this analysis is the consideration of local rates, revenue and expenditure sources, and service operations.

5. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES

This section compares existing District goals with existing operations and analyzes the existing government structure for efficiency and effectiveness.

6. LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

This section includes an evaluation of the District's compliance with public meeting and public record laws, including the Ralph M. Brown Act.

SUMMARY OF DETERMINATIONS

Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

The District maintains an inventory of existing equipment and facilities. According to District officials, existing infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate existing and projected service needs.

Growth and Populations

District utilizes a database system to track service demands and respond accordingly. Ability to meet future demand, involves consideration of future changes in demographics and potential changes in land use; the capacity of the District to effectively address service demands is dependent on its continued ability to adapt and redirect resources as needed. As urban and suburban growth continue, the district reports it may be necessary to hire additional personnel and is prepared to do so when necessary.

Cost Avoidance and Facilities Sharing

The District currently utilizes a variety of cost avoidance and facilities sharing opportunities including: pooled insurance program, state and private re-imbusement agreements, membership in the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California, and facilities sharing. The District appears to utilize a sufficient range of cost avoidance and facilities sharing opportunities.

Financing and Rate Restructuring

Auditors reports and budgets were reviewed; the District appears to be in good financial standing.

Government Structure and Management Efficiencies

The District works to meet its existing mission statement and internal goals. Based on its principal act, the District could expand its services to include vectors other than mosquitoes without activating a new power or getting prior approval by LAFCO. The overall management structure

of the District is sufficient to account for necessary services and maintain operations in an efficient and effective manner.

Local Accountability

An eight-member Board of Trustees manages the operation of the District. Board meetings are posted in accordance with the Brown Act and the public is encouraged to participate.

3.0 SOLANO COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

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SUMMARY OF SERVICE PROVISION

The Solano County Mosquito Abatement District provides comprehensive control services of all mosquitoes which may bring disease or harassment to humans or domestic animals. Service needs necessary to fulfill this service is reviewed and updated continuously based on the District's extensive surveillance program. Surveillance includes regular review of all known locations of mosquito production during breeding season, independent checks of all areas for new sources, and responses to service requests made by residents of the County. Based on this information, the District develops a response, mitigation, and education program designed to reduce mosquito populations and to educate property owners and residents about risk reduction.

The program for providing comprehensive control services is broad and includes a variety of overlapping programs and practices to eliminate mosquitoes. The following programs and practices are implemented as appropriate and necessary to address mosquito breeding within Solano County:

- Deployment to and treatment on properties upon request by a property owner or resident.
- Routine inspection and treatment of known mosquito breeding sources every 7-10 days during breeding season.
- Aerial spraying of State-owned lands within the Suisun Marsh, private duck clubs, and other areas, as appropriate.
- Hosting annual workshops for duck club owners to educate them about Best Management Practices for reducing mosquito populations.
- Provides mosquito fish free of charge for use in mosquito-breeding waters.
- Monitoring and trapping of mosquitoes throughout the County.
- Testing of larval and adult populations of mosquitoes for diseases with the potential to harm humans and domestic animals.
- Biological and chemical treatments of waters and mosquito grounds to control populations and reduce future breeding opportunities.
- Provides recommendations to landowners on physical modifications to their land in order to reduce mosquito breeding.
- Summation of findings and distribution of mosquito statistics to the California Department of Health Services.
- Education of private property owners regarding mosquito breeding and risks of mosquitoes to human and animal health.
- Collection of dead birds to be tested at other facilities for a variety of diseases, including several forms of encephalitis.
- Testing of dead birds for West Nile virus using district facilities

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The implementation of these programs and practices is intensive and requires significant resources, including allocation of staff hours in the field for testing and monitoring, use of vehicles, testing and monitoring equipment, testing and storage facilities, significant quantities of pesticides, insecticides, and other chemicals to kill mosquito larvae and adults, and protective gear for District personnel. Mosquito fish and guppies are bred and grown on site for use and distribution, requiring ponds and supporting resources to ensure adequate growth and harvesting ability.

In addition, the District is required to maintain and operate the District consistent with State laws governing special districts, including applicable provisions of the Health and Safety Code, Government Code, and other statutes.

INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

The District operates from its administrative office at 2950 Industrial Court in Fairfield. District facilities include administrative offices plus an internet room, map room, file room, Board room, conference room, and Laboratory.

District Equipment includes:

7	Ford 4x4s
1	Chevy Van
3	Honda Quad Motorcycles
3	Fish tanks
2	Fish transport tanks
1	Auto lift/ramp/rolling bridge
4	Sprayers
8	Foggers
1	M.A.G. ULV Aerosol Generators
1	Invader Boat
1	Forklift
1	Tractor
8	Argos
7	Trailers
1	Becomist ULV
1	Electromist EM 3000 GT

Additionally, the District owns other smaller equipment for service and maintenance, as well as analysis equipment for the biological lab contained at the District offices. The District maintains a full listing of all equipment and facilities.

According to the District Manager, the existing infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate both present demand and anticipated future demands. Equipment and facilities of the District appear sufficient to provide necessary services. All infrastructure and equipment, including vehicles, generators, and facilities, are owned by the District. There are no outstanding issues related to the needs and deficiencies of infrastructure with the District.

DETERMINATIONS

- 1) The Solano County Mosquito Abatement District provides mosquito control services for the citizens of Solano County. The District has sufficient infrastructure and resources to provide effective abatement services within the boundaries of the District, both at present and into the future.

3.0 SOLANO COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

GROWTH AND POPULATION

Assessing future service demands, and the District's ability to meet that demand, involves consideration of future changes in demographics, potential changes in land use, and the ability to track service demands and respond accordingly.

POPULATION GROWTH

Solano County is slated to be a growth leader among the nine Bay Area counties in all categories during the next twenty years, with a 32% increase in population, a 37% increase in jobs, a 33% increase in the number of households, and 31% increase in the number of employed residents.

PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH FOR SOLANO COUNTY

	2005	2010	2020	2030
Solano County	421,657	466,100	532,400	581,800

Source: ABAG 2005 projection

LAND USE

In 1984 Solano County adopted the "Solano County Orderly Growth Initiative," directing all growth into urbanized and incorporated areas. The initiative was reaffirmed in 1994 and protects the designations of specific non-urban lands through 2010. The initiative also puts restrictions on certain residential lands and agricultural lands, guaranteeing growth will not extend and require urban services in these areas.

SERVICE DEMANDS

SCMAD service demands relating to mosquito control are based on a combination of factors, including seasonal conditions, breeding habits, and the presence of stagnant water. Mosquitoes are a year round problem and the District maintains constant surveillance to provide treatment when necessary. The overall greatest peak in demand occurs during mid-June to mid-October, with some areas having peak demands outside the normal mid-June to mid-October period. Outside of the greatest peak demand period, District personnel spend the rest of the year treating other major problem areas, treating the Suisun marsh, performing maintenance, and getting equipment ready for peak demand.

To track service demands, the SCMAD implemented a database data collection system in 2005. The database includes the name and address of requestor, dates of activity (prior, request, action), technician visits, treatment type, and acres treated, and hours spent on the service request.

According to the District records, in an average month, the District receives approximately 110 service requests, which results in 100 technician visits to properties. On average, 160 acres are treated on 20 different properties. An average of 20 hours were spent addressing the needs of each property requiring treatment.

In addition to responding daily to service requests made by Solano County residents, Control technicians routinely inspect known mosquito sources within the SCMAD on a 7 to 10-day cycle and independently check areas for new sources of mosquitoes. Samples are identified and findings are sent to the California Department of Health Services.

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As population increases, and growth occurs within Solano County, service demands will increase. Urban areas provide breeding habitats for mosquitoes (stagnant water), and treatment becomes more difficult and costly, as treatment needs occur more on individual private properties. District officials note that at monthly safety meetings, new developments are discussed, and the need for hiring more personnel/obtaining more equipment is discussed. Expansion of services is facilitated by increases in revenues due to increases in property tax income from new development.

DETERMINATIONS:

- 1) Service demands for the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District are guided primarily by seasonal, environmental, and land use activities in the county. Current mechanisms are sufficient to allow the District the flexibility necessary to meet service demands. The capacity of the District to effectively address future service demands is dependent on its continued ability to adapt and redirect resources as needed.
- 2) As service demands continue, the District has the financial and administrative resources necessary to hire additional personnel and is prepared to do so when warranted.

COST AVOIDANCE AND FACILITIES SHARING

The District utilizes a variety of cost avoidance and facilities sharing measures in its operations.

The District maintains a pooled insurance program through the California Special District's Association for comprehensive general liability, property damage, and worker's compensation.

Other cost avoidance activities include the use of the "Argo" vehicle, which is an amphibious off-road All Terrain Vehicle (ATV), and allows a singular employee to cover more terrain than in the past.

Reimbursements by state and private sources allow the District to recover costs for providing higher levels of service to properties with persistent mosquito problems. The District is reimbursed by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for aerial spraying on the state-owned lands in the Suisun Marsh. Additionally, the District is reimbursed 50% of the costs of aerial pesticides on private duck club properties through an agreement with the Suisun Resource Conservation District and private duck club owners.

The District is a member of the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California. This organization is comprised of 56 public agencies and provides its members with a number of valuable services, including cost avoidance opportunities relating to training services and publication materials. Other notable services offered by this organization include serving as a legislative advocate for statewide vector control and abatement issues and facilitating the exchange of service information between member agencies.

SCMAD participates in facilities sharing. The Suisun Resource Conservation District holds annual workshops for duck club owners at the SCMAD facilities, and a major topic at these workshops is Best Management Practices (BMPs) for reducing mosquito populations.

DETERMINATIONS

- 1) The District appears to utilize a sufficient range of cost avoidance and facilities sharing opportunities.

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FINANCING AND RATE RESTRUCTURING

Annual auditors reports and financial statements from fiscal year (FY) 2004-05 were reviewed to determine the fiscal status of the District.

For most services provided by the District, fees are not charged to private homeowners for services rendered; sources of revenue for the District include air spraying re-imbursements, interest, and other sources including mosquito fish sales. For properties requiring regular or frequent treatment for mosquito breeding, fees are levied upon the property owner for services provided. The District's primary funding source is property tax revenue; \$.50 per \$1,000 of property tax revenue collected by the County is distributed to the District. Revenues for FY 2004-05 totaled \$1,676,864.

The District's primary source of expenditures is salaries and benefits, which totaled \$839,392 in FY 2004-05. Other sources of expenditures included operations (insecticides, materials/supplies, and equipment maintenance), administrations (including professional services, memberships, board expenses, and travel), building and equipment purchases, and depreciation. Total expenditures for FY 2004-05 totaled \$1,390,694.

In fiscal year 2005, The District's actual revenues exceed operating expenses by more than \$285,000. Budgeted expenses exceeded actual expenses by \$622,756. According to District personnel, the District generally projects high expenses in anticipation of potential costs that would be associated with West Nile, were it to become a problem during that fiscal year.

FY 2005 SCMAD BUDGET AND ACTUAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
Revenues	\$1,509,044	\$1,676,864	\$167,820
Operating expenses	\$2,013,450	\$1,390,694	\$622,756

REVENUE COMPARISONS WITH OTHER DISTRICTS

The Solano County MAD has a relatively good revenue base compared to other urbanized areas in the state. It appears that the Solano County MAD is well funded and highly efficient. Revenue per capita in Solano County in FY 2004-05 was \$3.95.

Mosquito Abatement/ Vector Control District	Total Revenues (FY 1998-99)	Population (FY 1998-99)	Revenue per person
Colusa	\$242,898	18,550	\$13.10
Contra Costa	\$3,396,300	928,550	\$13.66
Los Angeles	\$8,495,995	9,330,100	\$0.91
Napa	\$424,200	121,900	\$3.48
Sacramento-Yolo	\$4,953,723	1,348,600	\$3.67
Sutter-Yuba	\$1,441,440	138,000	\$10.45
Solano	\$1,005,136	384,000	\$2.62
Solano (FY 2004-05)	\$1,390,694	421,657	\$3.95

Sources: Revenues from Sacramento-Yolo MSR/SOI update 2002; Populations from DOF

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The District has experienced significant changes in its funding during its history. The passage of the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) affected this and all special districts by changing the allocation of tax revenues to provide additional support to school districts Statewide. The passage of the ERAF resulted in a loss of approximately 50 percent of the District's operating revenue. As a result, the District experienced a significant reduction in staffing levels and service capabilities. The District has the flexibility to change its staffing levels and service provision to account for yearly changes in revenue, and has shown an ability by the District to meet its service demands in times of financial uncertainty.

DETERMINATIONS:

- 1) Services provided by the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District are funded from property taxes. This revenue stream ensures that each property owner pays a proportionate share of the District's operational expenses and supports the equitable distribution of vector control services in Solano County. The District generally does not charge user fees or fees for service; however charges to private ducks clubs, state property, and fees to repeat customers augment income levels.
- 2) The District is in good financial standing, as revenues are currently exceeding expenditures. The FY 2004-05 audit noted that the District was in full compliance with the law.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

The government structure of a District refers to its legal structure under California law, its enabling legislation, and the powers granted to the District by its charter. The Solano County Mosquito Abatement District was formed under the Mosquito Abatement District Act of 1915, codified in the Health and Safety Code as Section 2000-2093. The District is an independent special district, indicating its autonomy from other government entities.

The Health and Safety Code currently permit few types of government entities to perform mosquito abatement services. Cities and counties, as well as mosquito abatement and vector control districts, have the authority to provide these services. In review of the provision of this service across Solano County, the need to ensure that service is provided comprehensively is essential, thus the entity providing service must be able to serve the entire County. The only other service provider legally permitted and structurally able to provide the service at this scale is the County of Solano.

If the District is unable to continue the provision of this service, there are several options available to transfer the service from the SCMAD to the County. The two most appropriate options are (1) the District could be dissolved with the County then assuming service, or (2) the District could be reorganized as a subsidiary district to the County. In either case, the change in government structure would be warranted only if the current provision of service was unacceptable, or future conditions would lead to the inability of the District to continue an adequate level of service. Eliminating the District or reforming the District under the County would involve a significant expenditure of time and resources to process the change, and would not result in an improvement in service levels or a greater cost efficiency in the provision of service. Based on the analysis of the SCMAD contained in this MSR, there is no current justification for altering the government structure of the District or changing the service provider.

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MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCIES

A District Manager is hired by the appointed Board of Trustees to manage the operation of the District. The District Manager oversees eight full-time employees including a Biologist, Supervisor, Secretary-Bookkeeper, and five Control Technicians. Each technician is assigned one particular zone within the service boundary of the District. The Department of Health Services mandates certification of all technicians.

SCMAD's jurisdictional boundary is coterminous with its Sphere of Influence and includes all lands within the contiguous 829 square miles of Solano County. SCMAD does not overlap any other jurisdictions providing the same or similar services, and it does not serve any land outside its boundaries.

As reported by the District's manager, the District's mission statement is:

[T]o control all mosquitoes which may bring disease or harassment to humans and domestic animals. This is accomplished by using the most effective and economical measures that result in the least possible damage to non-target organisms or to other elements of the environment.¹

To meet its mission, the District conducts larval and adult mosquito control and monitoring and trapping, although most activity in the district occurs during the spring and summer months when mosquito growth and activity is at its peak.

District goals include killing mosquitoes in their larval stage, before they have wings. The main species of concern are the *Culex pipiens* and *Culex tarsalis* because they lay eggs in stagnant water, wetlands and marshlands.

SCMAD's mosquito abatement programs include controlling both larval and adult populations through physical control and environmental modifications as well as biological and chemical controls.

PHYSICAL CONTROL

The District's primary tool for reducing mosquito populations is through source reduction and environmental management strategies. The most successful long-term solutions for mosquito abatement are physically controlling or modifying mosquito habits to help revoke or lessen man-made or natural breeding ground.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

SCMAD uses biological control for both short- and long-term abatement wherever possible. This method involves stocking stagnant water sources with mosquito fish, which feed on larvae. Mosquito fish do not work in salty or shallow waters or polluted water. No other biological control methods are currently employed by the district.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

The District only uses chemical control as a temporary, short-term strategy for managing both larvae and adult species. If the District determines the other control methods would be

¹ Jon Blegen, written correspondence. 3.16. 2006.

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ineffective in controlling a particular mosquito population in a particular habitat, pesticides may be applied by hand, machine, or aircraft.

In addition to operations, District management and employees receive regular training in methods of treatment, new products and practices, and related changes in the field. The District Manager attends the four meetings of the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) held each year, and updates its practices and policies according to available information and resources. Employee training is conducted as needed and required under State and federal laws.

DETERMINATIONS:

- 1) The Solano County Mosquito Abatement District is empowered under California Health and Safety Code to provide a broad range of services relating to the control of vectors and vector-borne diseases. Based on its principal act, the District could expand its services to include vectors other than mosquitoes² without activating a new power or getting prior approval by LAFCO.
- 2) The overall management structure of the District is sufficient to account for necessary services and maintain operations in an efficient and effective manner. The District works actively to meet its internal goals.

LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The District has an eight-member Board of Trustees that serves as its decision-making body. The Board consists of appointees from the seven City Councils in Solano and one member appointed by the County Board of Supervisors.

Four of the members serve at will appointments, and the other four have terms expiring between August 2006 and April 2009.

Trustee Board meetings are on the second Monday of each month in the District's administrative office in Fairfield. Notice is posted on the window next to the front door. These meetings are open to the public and are held in compliance with the Brown Act.

The District offers a variety of outreach tools for educating residents about the need to help prevent and reduce local mosquito populations. In addition to raising public awareness about the disease potential of mosquitoes, the District also offers advice on home abatement techniques. The District maintains a website, which includes links for online reporting of dead birds. Public workshops, such as educational meetings of duck club owners, are also held to provide information and resources for reducing mosquito populations in the County.

DETERMINATIONS:

- 1) The District appears to maintain a sufficient level of accountability in its governance, and public meetings appear to be held in compliance with Brown Act requirements. Information regarding the District is readily available to members of the public.

² Vector is defined by California Health and Safety Code §2002(k) as any animal capable of transmitting a human disease or producing human discomfort or injury. This includes mosquitoes, flies, mites, ticks, other arthropods, rodents, and other vertebrates.