



Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District
43-420 Trader Place • Indio, CA 92201 • (760) 342-8287 • Fax (760) 342-8110
E-mail: CVmosquito@cvmvcd.org • Website: www.cvmvcd.org

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT:
Branka B. Lothrop, PhD.
General Manager

Maria C. Kylis
Community Outreach Coordinator
(760) 342-8287 or (888) 343-9399
Email: mkylis@cvmvcd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 19, 2010

VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT OBTAINS BLANKET AERIAL WARRANT FOR NEGLECTED POOLS FOR THIRD YEAR

INDIO, CA, MARCH 19, 2010: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) obtained for the third year a blanket area warrant for inspection and abatement of mosquito breeding in neglected pools. The unfortunate increase of unoccupied or foreclosed homes that continues to rise in the Coachella Valley has resulted in an escalating amount of neglected pools. “A neglected pool can be rich in organic matter and microbial activity which can attract mosquitoes and turn it into a productive mosquito breeding site and ultimately increase the local risk of West Nile virus (WNV) transmission,” said Jeremy Wittie, Scientific Operations Manager for the District. “The blanket area warrant will allow the District to reduce potential mosquito breeding sites in a timely manner.”

When a neglected pool is reported to the District, an attempt will be made to contact the homeowner or tenant to let them know the pool may be producing mosquitoes; they will ask permission to check and possibly treat the pool to control the mosquitoes. In an event that the homeowner can not be reached, the District will use its blanket area warrant to enter the exterior of a property to

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inspect and treat the pool if mosquito breeding is found. “The United States Supreme Court has acknowledged that in certain instances, government agencies may obtain a blanket warrant in order to protect the public health and safety. This warrant, which is not to be used for law enforcement purposes, will ensure that the District is able to keep the public safe from the spread of West Nile Virus and other diseases spread by mosquitoes,” said Nicholas Hermsen, from Green, de Bortnowsky & Quintanilla, LLP, the office of the District Legal Council.

Mosquitoes that breed in this type of habitat can transmit WNV. These mosquitoes commonly lay their eggs in neglected pools. The eggs hatch, and after water stages of development, adult mosquitoes will emerge as flying, biting adults in as little as 7 days. A single, neglected pool can produce thousands of these mosquitoes over the course of the summer. Adult female mosquitoes search for a blood meal to produce eggs. When the female mosquito takes a blood meal from a WNV infected bird, it can become infected with the virus and transmit the virus to horses, humans or other birds when it takes its next blood meal.

The District urges residents to report neglected pools by calling 760-342-8287 or 1-888-343-9399. Residents can also call to report mosquito problems, to request FREE mosquitofish, or to report standing water. For more information on District services and programs, to book a presentation or tour for your group, please visit our website at www.cvmvcd.org

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