

West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Aerial Neglected Pools Survey Begins In West Valley

May 14, 2009 – The West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has teamed up with Aerial Services, Inc., a company that specializes in aerial photography and neglected pool surveys, to track down mosquito breeding sources. Aerial services, Inc. uses a fixed-wing plane to survey larger land tracts in a shorter amount of time than was previously possible. The high resolution images are made accessible to the district after their trained staff evaluates the photos, identifies suspect pools and geo-codes the address of each property with suspected neglected pool. The photos are again looked at by vector control staff, then a technician is dispatched to the locations with suspected neglected pools. Location information about the properties is stored as well for use in later district data evaluations.

“We are pleased to see this novel approach working well.”, said District Manager Min-Lee Cheng, Ph. D., “Aerial Services, Inc. has already flown the eastern portion of the district and we have identified over 400 suspect pools. West Nile virus and mosquitoes are showing no signs of slowing down this year, so with this kind of tool in our arsenal, we have a good chance of reducing mosquito breeding habitats this summer.”

The western portion of the district will be surveyed tentatively starting May 14th.

The District reminds residents to:

Dump standing water – tires, buckets, birdbaths, flower pots, and even soda cans can become “mosquito nurseries”.

Defend your house – make sure screens on windows and doors are tight fitting and in good repair.

Defend yourself – when outdoors at dusk and dawn, use a mosquito repellent. The active ingredients DEET, Picaridin, IR 3535, and oil of lemon eucalyptus are the longest lasting and most effective.

Call the District to report green pools or mosquito problems:

The District can help you with mosquito problems, and always takes anonymous calls regarding green pools or mosquito breeding sources.

For more information visit: www.wvmosquito.org and "http://www.westnile.ca.gov"

Residents can also report dead birds and squirrels to the CA Department of Public Health's toll-free hotline, 877-WNV BIRD or visit on-line at: www.westnile.ca.gov.

For more information or an interview, please contact Min-Lee Cheng or Brian Reisinger at 909-635-0307.