PRESS RELEASE

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VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES FIRST WEST NILE VIRUS POSITIVE MOSQUITO SAMPLE OF THE YEAR

INDIO, CA, MAY 27, 2010: The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation from UC Davis of the first West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito sample of the year in the Coachella Valley. The mosquito sample was taken from a trap located in the North Shore area. District will be intensifying their surveillance and larviciding in that area to reduce the number of adult mosquitoes. To date, in California, there have been 2 positive mosquito samples (1 San Bernardino and 1 Riverside County) and 6 dead birds (2 Los Angeles County and 4 Santa Clara County) that have tested positive for the WNV. No human cases of WNV have been reported this year.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Most individuals who are infected with WNV will not experience any illness. Others will have only mild symptoms, such as fever, headache and body aches. However, WNV can be

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severe in young children, the elderly, or individuals with lowered immune systems.

The District continues its extensive surveillance, prevention, and treatment programs throughout the Coachella Valley and urges residents to help reduce mosquito breeding sources by inspecting their backyards and neighborhoods for standing water sources at least once a week.

Individuals can reduce their risk of mosquito-borne diseases by taking these precautions:

- Avoid outdoor activity at dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and other protective clothing.
- Apply insect repellent according to label instructions.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property that can support mosquito breeding.
- Contact your local mosquito and vector control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or work.

Contact the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District at 760-342-8287 or 1-888-343-9399 to report mosquito problems, request mosquito fish, to report neglected pools or standing water. Service requests can also be submitted online at www.cvmvcd.org.

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