



MVCAC
Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California

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Assemblymember Wood Sponsors Mosquito Awareness Resolution

ACR 51 is critical in elevating and maintaining awareness about mosquito prevention and protection methods

SACRAMENTO, May 26, 2015 – West Nile virus is on the rise in California. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) reported over 800 human cases of WNV in 2014, 31 of which resulted in death; the highest number of deaths ever recorded in California. A contributing factor for the staggering number of WNV cases is the ongoing drought, which is reducing the number of sources of water for birds, and mosquitoes. As California faces a drought of historic proportions, we are seeing an increase in mosquito activity earlier than usual and we expect that activity to continue through the warm summer months.

“As the threat to public health increases from mosquitos that carry West Nile Virus as well as other diseases, ACR 51, paired with educational efforts to inform the general public, is particularly timely. It is valuable to realize that mosquitos can cause far more damage than just an irritating bite,” stated Assemblymember Wood.

With warmer temperatures, and the driest year on record, Californians need to be especially aware of preventive measures they can practice to maintain the highest levels of protection from mosquito bites and mosquito-transmitted diseases. To help address this statewide effort, the California State Legislature has passed ACR 51, authored by Assemblymember Wood. The initiative seeks to raise awareness and educate Californians about the public health threats mosquitoes and vectors can have on our local communities.

“Established mosquito and vector borne diseases such as West Nile virus cause illness and sometimes death every year in California. ACR 51 is critical in elevating and maintaining awareness of how families and local communities can protect themselves from the sometimes fatal impacts of these diseases,” stated Joel Buettner, President of the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California.

To minimize exposure to mosquito bites and WNV, practice the “3 Ds:”

1. **DEET** – Apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaradin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 according to label instructions. Repellents keep mosquitoes from biting. DEET can be used safely on infants and children 2 months of age and older.
2. **DAWN AND DUSK** – Mosquitoes capable of transmitting WNV are most active in the early morning and evening, so it is important to wear protective clothing and repellent if you are

outside during these times. Make sure that your doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.

3. **DRAIN** – Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including in flower pots, old car tires and buckets. If you know of a swimming pool that is not being properly maintained, please contact your local mosquito and vector control agency.

To increase awareness and enforce prevention and control programs statewide, the MVCAC provides support to more than 65 districts throughout California. As a result, approximately half the land area and 85 percent of California's population are within the boundaries of a mosquito control program.

MVCAC represents special districts, other subdivisions of local government, and the state of California which are responsible for: mosquito and vector control, surveillance of WNV and other vector-borne diseases, as well as public education programs to help Californians protect themselves from disease. MVCAC advocates safe, effective, and environmentally friendly methods of mosquito and vector control.

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