Ongoing State Funding is Critical for Mosquito Surveillance and Research

The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) seeks ongoing state support of $500,000 annually for the California Vectorborne Disease Surveillance Gateway (CalSurv Gateway). Without additional funding, the future of CalSurv is in jeopardy, putting public health at risk.

CalSurv Gateway serves 81 mosquito and vector control and public health agencies in California providing tools for real-time data collection, visualization, and analysis that allows agencies to make informed decisions on interventions. The system tracks disease-spreading mosquitoes – where they are, where they’ve been, where they may appear in the future, and where new diseases might be emerging.

- In 2019, CalSurv Gateway was codified in statute (AB 320 – Quirk) as the statewide surveillance database that enables public health and vector control agencies to proactively identify invasive and native mosquitoes, prioritize problematic areas, and develop the most effective responses to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

- In the 2018-19 state budget, there was a one-time provision of $500,000 directly to UC Davis to support the CalSurv Gateway. This has allowed the program to hire programmers who have developed the following new features:
  - Interactive maps and graphs of mosquito and virus activity showing real-time views of invasive mosquito spread, dengue and Zika infection risk, and mosquito abundance
  - Improved statewide tracking of insecticide resistance
  - Scalable software services that allow local agencies to interact with data and define custom reports

WEST NILE VIRUS HUMAN RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 15, 2020

CalSurv Gateway map showing the risk of human West Nile virus infections based on the Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance and Response Plan published by the California Department of Public Health.
ADDITIONAL FUNDING IS NEEDED TO SUSTAIN AND GROW CALSURV

- Mosquito control needs — the spread of invasive mosquitoes throughout the state, Zika virus emergence and the ongoing burden of West Nile virus — extend beyond the available resources and state support is desperately needed.

- The one-time state appropriation of $500,000 is being used to support staffing, develop maps and research tools, and maintain software services for the CalSurv Gateway. This funding will run out in June 2020.

- Without additional funding, the CalSurv program will be forced to eliminate staff who support the system, drastically impacting the ability to maintain this valuable research resource and fully support mosquito and vector control districts and public health agencies throughout the state.

- State funding is needed to ensure adequate staffing, provide certainty for future planning, and support the development of new tools such as maps showing insecticide resistance that will guide mosquito control efforts throughout the state.

Mosquito control and public health professionals need the tools to combat the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. This will ensure that California will be prepared for current and future threats from vector-borne diseases. Funding CalSurv is a cost-effective and smart investment in California’s public health.