



**MVCAC**  
Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California

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### **SB 1246 Puts Californians at Increased Public Health Risk**

**SACRAMENTO, March 10, 2016** – A new bill introduced in the California state senate poses a significant threat to the health of residents and visitors. SB 1246 (Nguyen) would require local mosquito control agencies to provide notice to governmental agencies, school districts, chambers of commerce, and elected officials at least seven days before administering pesticides by aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicles over a residential area. The proposed requirement would impair mosquito control agencies' ability to manage mosquito populations and protect public health.

“Mosquito and vector control agencies base their disease-control programs on real time surveillance. Once a threat is identified, we must act quickly to prevent mosquitoes from infecting people,” said Kenn Fujioka, President of the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC). “Our ability to act immediately is critical to our mission of protecting public health.”

SB 1246 would make it impossible for mosquito control agencies to immediately address threats to public health from mosquito populations. Mandated notifications would not only prevent immediate action in response to the detection of disease, but may force mosquito control districts to use pesticides less efficiently because they will have to treat larger areas, as populations of infected mosquitoes grow and disperse farther during the seven-day waiting period. The result would be greater risk of infection to the public and increased costs for mosquito control districts.

“SB 1246 is based on fear, not facts. Any factor that delays aerial treatment after a threat is identified increases needlessly the risk of mosquito transmitted diseases.” said Fujioka. “Products used for mosquito control in California are tested, registered with the Environmental Protection Agency, and considered effective for protecting the public from mosquito-borne disease, while posing an extremely low risk.”

The emerging threats of mosquito-transmitted diseases, such as chikungunya, dengue fever, and now Zika virus, make it even more critical for local agencies to react appropriately and adequately to protect the communities they serve. Existing mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile virus (WNV) are already keeping agencies on high alert, with 737 human cases in California and a record number of deaths attributed to WNV last year.

To prevent the spread of both existing and emerging viruses, mosquito agencies must continue to act quickly, using the most effective tools, to reduce mosquito populations and the transmission of deadly diseases that threaten more than 38 million Californians.

The protection from mosquitoes and the diseases they can transmit cannot be hindered by mandates that weaken the ability for agencies to do their job in a timely and effective manner. The MVCAC strongly opposes this harmful legislation and will continue educating residents and lawmakers on the critical importance of protecting California citizens from mosquito-borne diseases.

*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.*

*The 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. The MVCAC advocates safe, effective, and environmentally friendly methods of mosquito and vector control.*

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