



MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
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June 4, 2009

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Not unlike all local governments – special districts, cities and counties – mosquito and vector control districts have shifted a substantial portion of our local government property taxes to the State of California through the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). Property taxes are the primary funding for our local agencies mandated to offer a very high level of public health services. The continued loss of these property taxes dollars has placed many of our agencies in their own fiscal peril.

In 2004, when local government agreed to take a final two-year “hit” to allow the State time to regain its fiscal footing and to support the passage of Proposition 1A, mosquito and vector control agencies were exempted from the final formula. You and the Legislature removed our agencies from the final formula recognizing the significant reliance on property taxes to perform public health functions in a time of increased cases of West Nile virus and the possibility of other emerging mosquito and vector-borne disease outbreaks.

With the state once again facing a fiscal crisis, local governments are being told that you may again borrow over \$2 billion of local governments’ property tax revenues. The current discussion calls for each local agency to lose 8 percent of their fiscal year 2008-09 total property tax revenues. For us, this hit will be in addition to the revenues our members continue to shift to ERAF since the early 1990s, a reduction in property taxes we are seeing due to property devaluation and foreclosures as well as increased regulatory costs.

We respectfully urge you, should Proposition 1A be suspended, to exempt mosquito and vector control agencies, allowing them to continue providing Californians with public health services, not the least of which is protection from West Nile virus.

Sincerely,

John R. Rusmiser
President