



MVCAC

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**MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
JOINS GOVERNOR IN URGING EPA TO REQUEST CASE REHEARING**
Case Decision Would Be Detrimental to California Vector Control

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) supports Gov. Schwarzenegger in urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to petition for rehearing of a 6th Circuit decision, which unless overturned, will jeopardize the public health of Californians and be detrimental to vector control. The governor today sent a letter to the EPA expressing the necessity to have the case reheard and the likely consequences of the decision.

The decision of the case – National Cotton Council of America, et al. v. United States Environmental Protection Agency (6th Cir. Jan. 7, 2009) – would most certainly increase the risk of West Nile Virus (WNV) transmission among Californians by limiting vector control agencies' abilities to conduct adult mosquito control. WNV transmission resulted in 15 deaths in California and sickened more than 438 others in 2008, which proves the necessity of effective vector control.

The decision, which limits resources and imposes enormous costs on vector control agencies, will put public safety and welfare at unnecessary risk, with minimal environmental benefit. MVCAC urges the EPA to consider the potential consequences to public health programs, especially during challenging economic times, and to petition for a rehearing immediately.

MVCAC represents 63 special districts and other subdivisions of local government responsible for mosquito and vector control, surveillance of West Nile virus and other vector-borne diseases, and 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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