

PLEASE WATCH FOR YOUR BALLOT BY MAIL STARTING ON APRIL 26, 2014.

What is the Butte County Mosquito, Vector and Disease Control Measure?

The Butte County Mosquito, Vector and Disease Control Measure is a mailed ballot measure for property owners that, if approved, will supply the needed funding to provide improved, year-round mosquito and vector control and disease prevention services throughout the District.

What types of services will be funded?

- Improved Disease Surveillance and Prevention
- Improved Mosquito and Vector Control and Abatement
- Improved Response to Service Requests and Mosquito-fish

Summary of proposed services:

- **Mosquito Control** - Improved inspection and control of mosquitoes in residential, commercial, and agricultural areas. Monitoring of mosquito breeding sources and identification and control of new breeding sources. Control of mosquito larvae before they emerge and begin biting people and animals. Year-round control of mosquitoes before they hatch using environmentally sound methods. Mosquito-eating fish provided to the public free of charge.
- **Disease Surveillance, Testing and Prevention** - Proactive surveillance for diseases that can be carried by mosquitoes and other vectors to routinely identify the presence, location, types and quantities of mosquitoes and the diseases they can carry. Expanded local testing and monitoring for diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, such as, West Nile virus (WNV), St. Louis encephalitis (SLE), western equine encephalitis (WEE), and malaria.
- **Protect Public Health with Emergency Response** - Respond to new mosquito-borne diseases quickly and effectively to prevent human disease transmission. If diseases are discovered the District would take immediate action to help prevent a disease outbreak.
- **Prevention of West Nile Virus and Other Diseases** - Expanded year-round testing for WNV, SLE, and WEE, and other diseases carried by mosquitoes such as yellow fever and chikungunya virus. Well-focused disease prevention and control services in locations where disease is found.
- **Surveillance of Ticks and Other Vectors** - Surveillance and testing of ticks, yellow jackets, and other vectors and the diseases they carry such as Lyme disease, relapsing fever, hantavirus, and rickettsiosis.
- **Free Mosquito-eating Fish and Response to Local Service Requests** - Mosquito fish available to the public at multiple locations. Faster response to property owners' and residents' requests for mosquito and vector control services in the area of their property.
- **Community Education** - Provide information to the local community about protecting themselves, their livestock and pets from diseases carried by mosquitoes and other vectors and how to prevent mosquito breeding.

Why did I receive a ballot?

The ballot you received is your opportunity to vote on the proposed mosquito, vector and disease control services from the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District. The purpose of this ballot measure is:

- to provide improved, year-round mosquito, vector and disease control services in Butte County (excluding areas covered by the Durham & Oroville Mosquito Abatement Districts) and Hamilton City of Glenn County.

- to establish a stable funding source for mosquito, vector and disease control services in the District. This will help us provide year-round, improved services for the growing demand for mosquito and vector control, as well as prepare us for emerging diseases like West Nile Virus. Please review the notice included with your ballot for more information on this measure.

Why is this measure needed?

The District's primary source of funding is from local property taxes. For the last 10 years, a significant portion of the District's property tax has dramatically decreased due to declining property values, and the transfer of District revenues to other agencies by the State and County. In addition, the District's limited budget has been further stressed by cost increases and the cost of controlling disease outbreaks from mosquitoes and other vectors (West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis, western equine encephalitis, Lyme disease, rickettsiosis, hantavirus and relapsing fever).

A new stable source of funding will allow the District to **continue and improve** surveillance and control of mosquitoes and other vectors, and to more actively test and respond to new diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, ticks and other vectors. Property owners in many other populated areas of the State have approved similar ballot measures to improve their local mosquito and disease control services.

Will any of this money go to the County or State to be used for other purposes?

No. All money collected by the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District from this proposed Mosquito, Vector and Disease Control Measure must be used for local mosquito, vector and disease control within the District.

How would assessment funds be spent? What are the public accountability and fiscal controls

All the assessment funds raised would be spent on mosquito, vector and disease control in the District. Public accountability and fiscal controls include the following:

- Budget for the services proposed each year will be overseen by the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District Board of Trustees
- Annual independent audits
- Annual public hearings and public reviews

Is there a public hearing on the assessment? When will results of the ballot proceeding be known?

A public hearing will be held by the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District Board of Trustees on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, commencing at 7:30 pm, at the District headquarters, located at 5117 Larkin Road, Oroville, California. You are invited to attend the public hearing. Tabulation of the returned ballots will commence after the close of the public hearing. Results of the tabulation are expected to be announced at a public meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, 2014, at 7:30 pm at the District substation, located at 444 Otterson Drive, Chico, California.

How can I return my ballot?

You may return your ballot in either of the following ways:

- Mail it to the address shown in the enclosed, postage-paid return envelope so it is received on or before June 11, 2014.
- Deliver it in person by June 11, 2014 (before 7:30 pm and previous to the close of the public input portion of the public hearing) to Davis Hammon & Co CPA, the tabulator, located at 2080 Myers Street, Suite 3, Oroville, California.
- Deliver it in person to the public hearing which is scheduled to begin at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, at the District headquarters, located at 5117 Larkin Road, Oroville, California.

What is the deadline for returning my ballot?

To be counted, ballots must be received before the close of the public testimony portion of the public hearing scheduled to begin at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, June 11, 2014. This deadline applies regardless of whether the ballot is mailed or hand-delivered at the public hearing.

I own several properties. Why did I receive only one ballot?

Ballots can list up to 14 parcel numbers. Property owners that own more than one piece of property with the same mailing address in the District will receive/received one ballot with up to 14 of their properties listed on the ballot as well as the proposed assessment for each property. When you cast your ballot, you are casting for all of your properties listed on the ballot.

How much is this assessment?

The proposed assessment for your property for fiscal year 2014-15 is printed on the Official Ballot included with the notice and information item. The proposed assessment would raise approximately \$795,600 for fiscal year 2014-15.

Can the amount of the assessment be adjusted for inflation in future years?

If approved in this ballot proceeding, the assessment can be continued annually based on a majority vote of the Board of Trustees. The assessment rate can be adjusted by an annual amount equal to the change in the United States Department of Labor, Northern California (SF-Bay Area) Consumer Price Index, not to exceed 3% per year.

How long will the assessment last?

The assessment, which is initially proposed for the fiscal year 2014-15, may be continued on an annual basis with a majority vote of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District Board of Trustees. Before the assessment can be continued in any future year, the District must first prepare a budget and plans for upcoming fiscal year. Then the Board of Trustees must hold a noticed public hearing on continuing the assessment and the budget for the assessment before the assessment can be authorized for the upcoming year.