

Mosquito districts reorganized

Butte County moves to absorb Oroville mosquito district

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Last Thursday (Dec. 7), the **Butte Local Agency Formation Commission** (LAFCo) voted unanimously to finalize a review of two tiny, taxpayer-funded mosquito abatement districts in Oroville and Durham.

The vote put the **Durham Mosquito Abatement District** on probation for one year to bring its level of service up to that of the **Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District** and annexed about 15,000 acres of rice fields the district has failed to treat effectively. LAFCo is also pushing for the eventual dissolution of the **Oroville Mosquito Abatement District**, which monitors and treats 12.7 square miles of mosquito territory.

In September, **Jeff Cahn**, the Oroville district's longtime manager and sole staff member, was killed in an auto accident on Highway 99. The tragedy left the agency with nobody to oversee day-to-day operations, and meanwhile, two members of its five-member board were removed due to not living within district boundaries.

For the upcoming mosquito season, Oroville will contract with the county.