



Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District

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For Immediate Release

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Subject: Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District Participates in the MVCAC West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week.

Contact: District Manager Matt Ball or Public Information Officer Doug Weseman at (530) 533-6038 or (530) 342-7350.

MVCAC West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week

The week of April 26th - April 30th has been declared West Nile Virus & Mosquito and Vector Control Awareness Week by the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC). The mission of the MVCAC is to provide quality public information, comprehensive mosquito and vector-borne disease surveillance, training to high professional standards, and effective legislative advocacy on behalf of California mosquito and vector control districts. The City of Chico and City of Gridley have passed proclamations recognizing the West Nile Virus and Mosquito Control Awareness Week.

During West Nile Virus and Mosquito Control Awareness Week the MVCAC's goal is to educate the general public about the significance of mosquitoes in their daily lives, the viruses that mosquitoes may carry and the important service provided by mosquito control workers throughout the State of California, the United States, and worldwide.

The Butte County Mosquito Abatement District was formed in June of 1948 to fight the outbreak of malaria in Butte County. In April of 1994 "Vector Control" was added to the District name to reflect the additional disease surveillance and information now provided. The District covers over 1,600 square miles, and includes all of Butte County, except the small areas served by the Durham and Oroville Mosquito Abatement Districts. The District also serves the Hamilton City area of Glenn County.

The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) provides many services to Butte County and Hamilton City residents. One service available to residents is they can stop by the District's Oroville headquarters, Chico substation and nine other sites (feed stores and nurseries) throughout the service area and pick up free mosquitofish for their ponds, horse troughs, unmaintained swimming pools and other possible mosquito breeding sources. Mosquito surveillance and control is another service available. Residents experiencing mosquito problems can request service by calling the District office at 530-533-6038 / 530-342-7350 or by visiting the District's website at www.BCMVCD.com. Once a request is received, the information will be dispatched to a Mosquito and Vector Control Specialist who will be visiting the site to assess the problem and take necessary action. In addition to the above services, the District is available for wasp and yellow jacket nest removal, insect questions and identification, land owner mosquito reduction best management

practices, and pre and post development advisement. The District's public education department is available for educational school programs, presentations for agencies and civic groups, displays at fairs, festivals, and expos, guided facility tours, and distribution of educational information. Please call the District's office for more information.

In recognition of the MVCAC's "West Nile Virus and Mosquito and Vector Control Week" the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District will be hosting an Open House from April 26th - April 29th, 2010. The Open House hours will be from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Public Information Officer Doug Weseman will be guiding the tours of the District facilities. The tours will include the visual explanation of the Districts mosquitofish, aerial application and integrated vector management programs (IVM). The Open House will give the public a chance to see how the District operates and what they can do to help the District fight mosquitoes on and around their property. Attendees will be provided a soft drink and fly swatter containing the Districts contact information.

Residents are urged to protect themselves from mosquitoes by avoiding peak mosquito activity times, using repellent, wearing long pants and long sleeves, and preventing mosquito breeding on their property. Residents should inspect their properties for any standing water and do what is necessary to remove the water and to ensure water won't stand in the future where applicable. Residents are encouraged to report any suspected mosquito breeding sites and mosquito problems to the District at 530-533-6038, 530-342-7350, or www.BCMVCD.com.

The mission of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District is primarily to suppress mosquito-transmitted disease and to also reduce the annoyance levels of mosquitoes and diseases associated with ticks, fleas, and other vectors through environmentally compatible control practices and public education.

For more information please call District Manager Matt Ball or Public Information Officer Doug Weseman at 530-533-6038 or 530-342-7350 to schedule a tour.