



Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District

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Manager

For Immediate Release

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Subject: **TRANSPARENCY CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE AWARDED TO THE
BUTTE COUNTY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**

Oroville, CA - The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received the Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of the District's outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

"This award is a testament to the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District's commitment to open government," said Matthew Ball, District Manager. "The District's entire Board of Trustees and staff is to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight."

In order to receive the award, a special district must demonstrate the completion of eight essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District also fulfilled fifteen website requirements, including providing readily available information to the public, such as board agendas, past minutes, current district budgets, and the most recent financial audit.

Finally, the district must have demonstrated outreach to its constituents that engages the public in its governance, through regular district newsletters and community engagement projects.

The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District was formed in June 1948. The District covers 1600 square miles, and includes all of Butte County, except the small areas served by the Durham and Oroville Mosquito Abatement Districts, which were formed earlier. The District's service area also includes Hamilton City of Glenn County. In April of 1994, "Vector Control" was added to the District name to reflect the additional disease surveillance and information now provided.

SDLF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation, and other recognition programs.

Special Districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities, such as water, fire protection, parks and recreation, healthcare, sanitation, mosquito abatement, ports, libraries, public cemeteries, and more. Districts are established by voters and their funding is approved by voters in order to meet specific needs through focuses service. They can be specially molded to serve large regions or small neighborhoods depending on the need.

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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.

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Individuals can reduce their risk of mosquito-borne disease by following these prevention tips:

- Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are active, especially at dusk and dawn
- If you must be outdoors when mosquitoes are active, wear long pants, and long-sleeved shirts, socks and shoes
- Before going outdoors, apply insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to label instructions
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes
- Eliminate all standing water on your property that can support mosquito-breeding
- Report standing water to Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District
- Contact Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live, work, and/or play

The public is encouraged to become part of the state's monitoring effort for WNV by reporting any dead birds that may have been dead for less than 48 hours. Please call 1-877-968-2473 to report dead birds that may be accepted for testing, or visit the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) website, www.westnile.ca.gov. Individuals should take note of the location and condition of the bird before calling for further instructions. While there is no evidence that people can get the virus from handling live or dead birds, individuals should not attempt to catch or handle the birds.

The District requests any and all assistance by area residents to report any suspected mosquito-breeding sites and/or any mosquito activity. Reports can be made by phone at 530-533-6038 or 530-342-7350 or website at www.BCMVCD.com.

For more information call the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District at 530-533-6038 or 530-342-7350.