

## MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

595 Helman Lane, Cotati, CA. 94931 (707) 285-2200 FAX: 285-2210 [www.msosquito.com](http://www.msosquito.com)

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### ~ News Release ~

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 13, 2007**

### REAL ESTATE AGENTS URGED TO REPORT UNKEPT SWIMMING POOLS

*-Local Mosquito Control District Recruit Real Estate Agents To Help Fight Mosquitoes*

(Cotati), California August 13, 2007- The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District is reaching out to local realtors in Marin and Sonoma counties to help fight the battle against mosquitoes and West Nile Virus. "Realtors have access to many homes and with the rate of foreclosures increasing many of these homes are vacant. Generally vacant homes are not maintained and that could mean improperly maintained swimming pools" said District Manager, Jim Wanderscheid. "One unkept swimming pool can produce tens of thousands of mosquitoes. Not only is this a nuisance for the neighborhood it is a public health hazard; increasing the chances of West Nile Virus transmission." Wanderscheid stated.

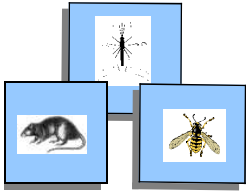
Resident's backyards remain the number one source of mosquito production. Unkept swimming pools, ponds, bird baths, water gardens and even pets water dishes are all capable of producing many mosquitoes. Working together with local agents affords the District just that much more of an advantage over these disease carrying insects.

It is also of vital importance that Marin and Sonoma county residents do their part and forge a critical partnership in protecting the public against this epidemic.

#### **Here is what residents should do to protect themselves:**

1. **Defend yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent**, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow all label directions.
2. **Make sure that you are not breeding mosquitoes in your back yard.** Ornamental ponds, swimming pools, plastic wading pools, boats, animal watering troughs and other containers can all contain standing water which is an essential ingredient in raising mosquitoes. Please:
  - **EMPTY OR COVER CONTAINERS THAT CAN HOLD WATER**
  - **PUT MOSQUITOFISH IN PERMANENT PONDS**
  - **STORE OLD TIRES INSIDE OR COVER**
  - **REPORT ALL DEAD BIRDS AND SQUIRRELS****Online reporting is preferred at <http://westnile.ca.gov>. The toll-free line to report a dead bird is 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473)**

For information on mosquitoes, please call the Marin / Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District at (707) 285-2200; or toll-free (800) 231-3236, or visit our website at [www.msosquito.com](http://www.msosquito.com).



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### 2007 West Nile virus activity:

**Sonoma County:** 2 equine cases, 1 human, 1 birds, 0 squirrels, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 humans, 0 mosquito pools have tested positive for West Nile virus.

**Marin County:** No detection of WNV

### 2006 West Nile virus activity:

**Sonoma County:** 21 dead birds, 1 equine fatality, 2 mosquito pools, 0 humans, 1 sentinel chicken tested positive for West Nile virus.

**Marin County:** 8 dead birds, 1 equine fatality, 3 mosquito pools, 1 human, 1 Western Gray squirrel, 2 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus.

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