



## MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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### ~ News Release ~

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **District confirms First Mosquito Pool to Test Positive for West Nile Virus in Marin County**

*District also reports 2 more birds positive for the virus.*

(Cotati), California August 25th, 2006 the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in Marin County. WNV is a viral disease of birds that can be transmitted to humans by a mosquito that has fed on an infected bird. **The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District confirmed its first West Nile Virus positive mosquito pool this year. The positive pool was collected from Marin County.** (*Mosquitoes are trapped and collected from the field. The collected females are then pooled together by species. Each sample contains a minimum of one to a maximum of 50 mosquitoes per sample.*)

In addition, two more birds have tested positive for West Nile virus by the **Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District** in cooperation with the California State Health Department.

The birds were reported from the following locations: One (1) American Crow from San Rafael in the vicinity of Marydale Road submitted on 08/07/06. One (1) American Crow from Sonoma in the vicinity of Charles Van Damm Way. **This year, 8 birds have tested positive for West Nile Virus in Marin and Sonoma Counties (5 in Sonoma and 3 in Marin) along with 1 Western Gray Squirrel and 1 mosquito pool in Marin County. The detection of WNV in wild birds, squirrels and mosquitoes indicates the virus is present in both counties.** No human cases have been reported

positive at this time in either Marin or Sonoma County. The District is checking all known mosquito breeding sites and setting adult mosquito traps in the areas where the bird has been found. **We ask that the public remain diligent in their own mosquito control efforts by checking their yards for breeding sources since they are generally the main source for mosquitoes.**

Symptoms of WNV range from mild flu-like conditions, such as fever, headache, and nausea to a stiff neck, restlessness, stupor, delirium, and convulsions. Most cases are mild; however, fatalities can occur in extreme cases.

The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District along with Dr. Fred Schwartz, Marin County Public Health Officer and Dr. Leigh Hall, Sonoma County Deputy Health Officer are reminding citizens to take these protective measures:

- Avoid being outside when mosquitoes are most active, between dusk and dawn.
- When engaging in outdoor activities, wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and apply insect repellent according to label instructions. Products containing the active ingredient DEET or Picaridin are the most effective, while oil of lemon eucalyptus is another option.
- Screen all windows and make sure the screens are in good repair.
- Cover septic tanks and screen roof vent pipes.
- Identify and eliminate all sources of standing water around your property.
- Remove water from rain gutters, boat covers, tires, tree holes, plastic containers.
- Report dead crows, ravens, magpies, jays and raptors that have been dead for less than 24 hrs.

Online reporting is preferred at <http://westnile.ca.gov/deadbird.cfm>. The toll-free line to report dead birds is 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473).

