



San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District

1145 North Azusa Canyon Road, West Covina, CA 91790

Phone: 626-814-9466 | Website: www.sgvmosquito.org

Email: district@sgvmosquito.org

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA APRIL 14, 2023 – FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

1. **Call to Order**

1.1 Determination of a Quorum – Noted Absences

1.2 ORDER OF BUSINESS - Review and prioritization of agenda Items including, if necessary, identification of any emergency items arising after posting of the agenda and requiring action prior to next regular meeting

2. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

(Individual Public Comments may be limited to a 3-minute or less time limit) During Public Comments, the public may address the Committee on any issue within the District's jurisdiction that is not on the agenda. The public may comment on any item on the agenda at the time that item is before the Committee for consideration. There will be no dialog between the Committee and the Commenter. Any clarifying questions from the Committee must go through the Committee Chair.

3. **Funding and Legislation Update (EXHIBITS 3A-3H)** (District Manager, Jason Farned) (Discussion)

4. **Consider Recommendation to File Letter of Support for Assembly Bill 557 (EXHIBITS 4A, 4B)** (District Manager, Jason Farned) (Recommendation for Board Consideration)

- **Call for Public Comment**

- **Committee Action Required:** If the Committee concurs, following the public discussion by members for this item, the appropriate action is to:

- Direct staff to draft a letter of support for AB 557;
- Recommend a letter of support for AB 557 for full Board consideration.

- **Alternative Committee Action:** If after discussion by members of this item, the Committee may choose to deny the recommendation of a letter of support for AB 557.

5. **Adjournment**



CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that a copy of the foregoing agenda was posted at 1145 North Azusa Canyon Road, West Covina, CA 91790 and the District's website (www.sgvmosquito.org) not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting per Government Code 54954.2.

Materials related to an item on the Agenda submitted after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public viewing and inspection at the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District Office located at 1145 North Azusa Canyon Road, West Covina, CA 91790 during regular business hours.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cecilia Contreras".

Cecilia Contreras, Clerk of the Board
San Gabriel Valley MVCD

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This agenda shall be made available upon request in alternative formats to persons with a disability as required by the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §12132) and the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code §54954.2).

If you need special assistance or accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 626-814-9466 ext.1001. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35. 102-35. 104 ADA Title II)



San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District District Manager's Report

Date: April 14, 2023

Meeting of: San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District Board of Trustees:
Legislative Committee

Subject: **Funding and Legislation Update**

Exhibit(s): Exhibits 3A-3H

Funding and Legislation Update

State

1. MVCAC funding requests
 - a. Preserve CalSurv funding (currently represented in draft budget)
 - b. Create Aedes Revolving Fund (Wood) - \$5 Million rolling fund.
2. MVCAC Priority Legislation
 - a. **AB 1484** (Zbur) – Unionization of seasonal/temporary workers
 - b. **AB 1752** (Committee on Ag) – Adds civil penalties for violating regulations necessary to minimize pesticide hazards to bees.
 - c. **AB 1016** (Jones-Sawyer) – Spot bill for drone certification. Additionally includes private applicators.
 - d. **AB 99** (Connolly) – Requires DOT to develop IPM strategy that honors county ordinances banning the use of herbicides and pesticides on state roads and highways.
 - e. **AB 557** (Hart) – Would extend teleconferencing provisions when a state of emergency is in effect.
 - f. **SB 441** (Portantino) – Would authorize an appointed legislative body to use alternate teleconferencing provisions similar to those allowed during the state of emergency.
3. CSDA Priority Legislation
 - a. **AB 557** (Hart) – Would extend teleconferencing provisions when a state of emergency is in effect.
 - i. CSDA is asking for a letter of support for the bill.
 - b. **AB 1484** (Zbur) – Would bring temporary or seasonal employees into collective bargaining agreements.

Federal

1. AMCA funding requests
 - a. Data Modernization (Expand VectorSurv nationwide) - \$10 Million
 - b. Validation of EPA models for ULV adulticide treatments - \$5 Million
 - c. Reauthorization of the SMASH Act (Current funding expires FY 2023)
 - d. Support epidemiology and lab capacity grants
 - e. Champion EPA funding for pesticide review and approval

District Manager's Recommendation

None



San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District District Manager's Report

Committee Action Options

No action required at this time. For review and discussion.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Farned".

Jason Farned
District Manager



FROM DATA TO ACTION: CALSURV CONTINUES TO REVOLUTIONIZE MOSQUITO CONTROL

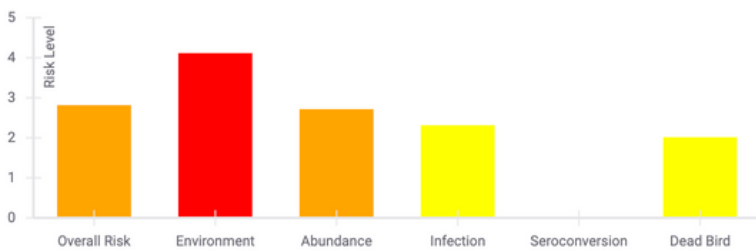
The California Vectorborne Disease Surveillance Gateway (CalSurv) is an essential tool in fighting vector-borne diseases. It is recognized in statute (AB 320 – Quirk) as the statewide surveillance database critical to preventing the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. The platform was included in the 2022-23 state budget as an annual appropriation. The state’s ongoing support for this online interactive platform is critical as it enables real-time collection, visualization, and analysis of data on vector-borne diseases. CalSurv, housed at UC Davis, curates local and statewide data to enable 81 mosquito and vector control and public health agencies to make informed decisions on public health interventions.

State funding has sustained CalSurv and enabled the addition of new capabilities

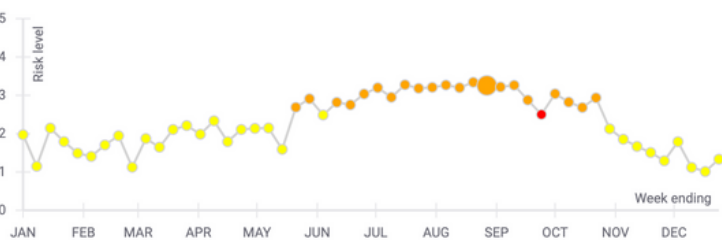
- New data tools to support surveillance for the vectors of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases.
- Open-data portal to accelerate research on the spread of invasive species and climate change-related impacts.
- Support for Integrated Vector Management practices through immediate reporting of mosquito and tick surveillance and pathogen test results.
- Improved local, state, and national interoperability.

On top of the ongoing threat of West Nile virus, invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes, which can transmit Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever, continue to spread throughout the state. CalSurv is an important part of controlling invasive mosquitoes as it helps identify pesticide resistance and visualize disease outbreak risks.

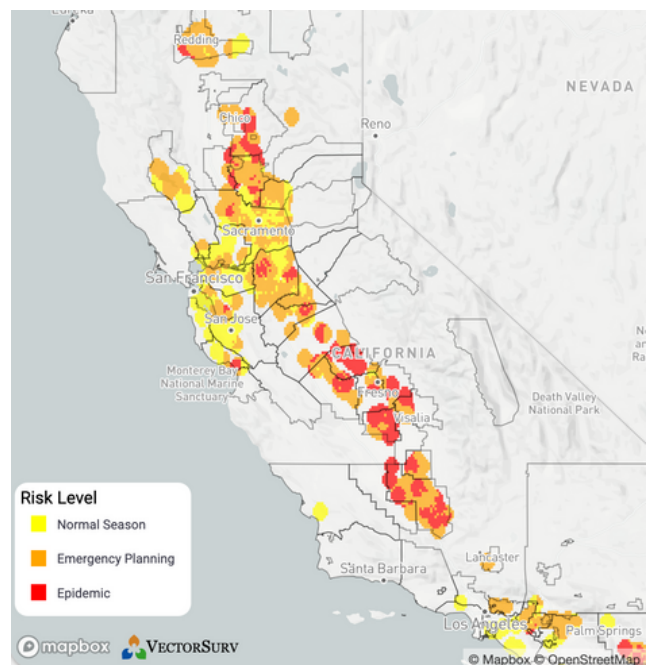
Risk Components for Week Ending August 27, 2022



Overall Risk Levels for 2022



West Nile Virus Human Infection Risk Assessment for Week Ending August 27, 2022



LEARN HOW CALSURV WORKS

Turns data into evidence for public-health decision-makers.

- Tracks the spread of invasive mosquitoes.
- Enables real-time control decisions based on surveillance data to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases.

Supports cutting-edge research.

- Provides data that supports research to enhance surveillance and control strategies and predict new disease outbreaks.

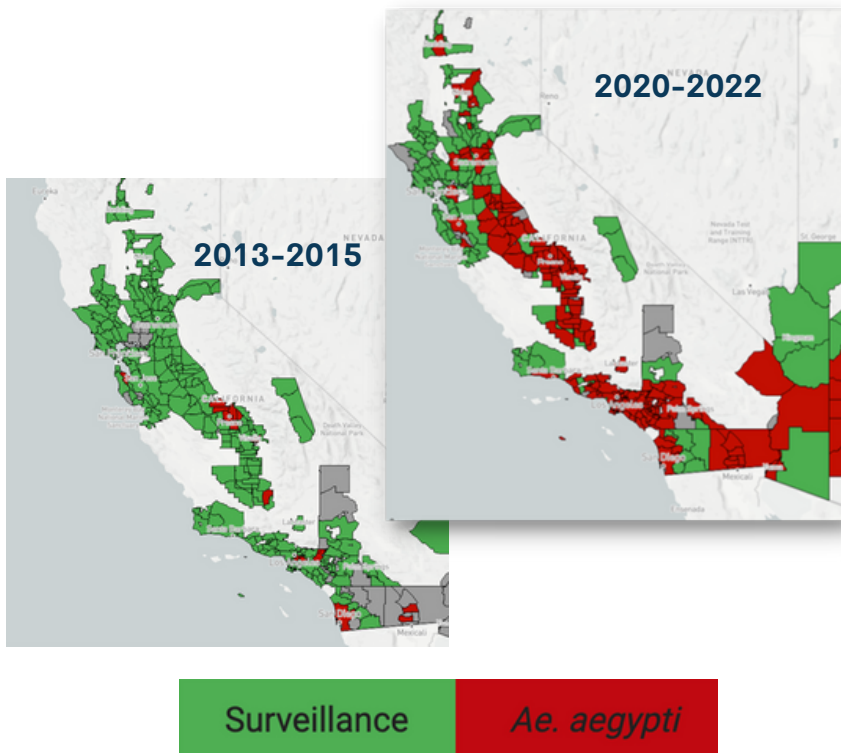
Enables state and national reporting and risk assessment.

- CA Dept. of Public Health uses CalSurv data on mosquito abundance, mosquito infection rates, dead birds, sentinel chickens, and weather to provide statewide reports and assess transmission risk for vector-borne diseases.

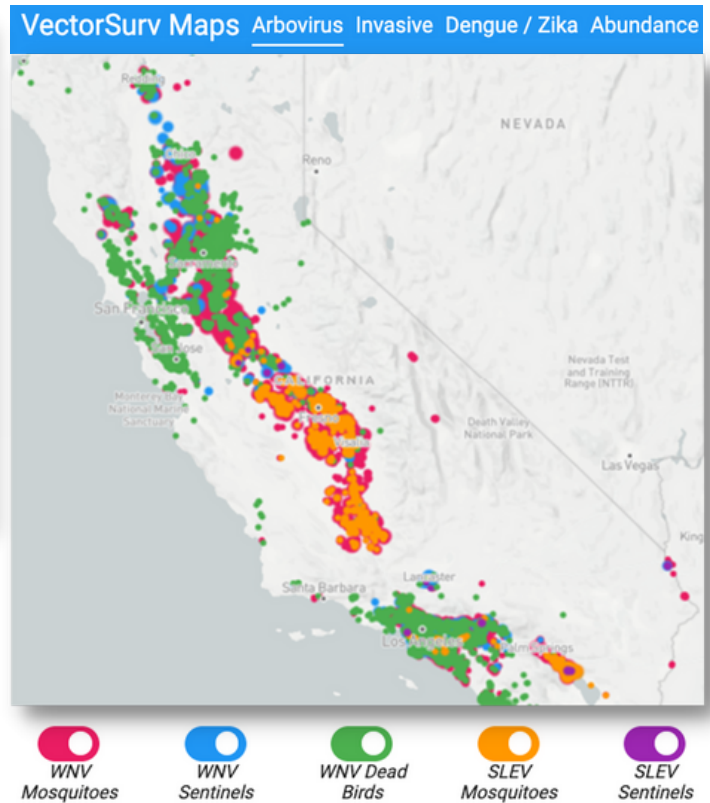
Reduces health disparities.

- Local vector control programs vary greatly in funding and operational capacity.
- CalSurv provides a software solution for surveillance data in smaller rural communities that have a higher risk of arbovirus transmission but limited vector control resources.

Aedes aegypti Detections Based on Surveillance



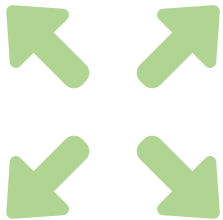
Mosquito-Borne Virus Activity Detected by Surveillance January 2013 - January 2023





MOUNTING COSTS: THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF INVASIVE AEADES ON MOSQUITO DISTRICTS

Invasive *Aedes* are hard to control, resistant to traditional mosquito control approaches, have the potential to spread deadly diseases, and are draining mosquito district budgets. *Aedes* mosquitoes exploit small and cryptic water sources and are resistant to many commonly used insecticides which limits the efficacy of traditional mosquito control approaches. New technologies like Sterile Insect Technique are being evaluated to help control this invasive species but districts need funding for innovative techniques.



Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes continue to rapidly spread throughout California



25 counties with *Aedes* Detections



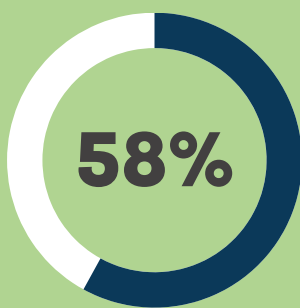
Aedes infestations proliferate by the second and third year of detections



Costs continue to rise for labor, equipment, testing, pesticides, and surveillance

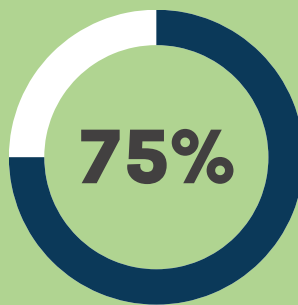
DISTRICTS REPORT RISING COSTS

SURVEILLANCE



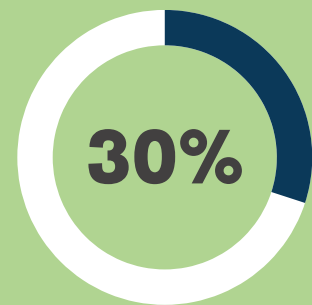
Surveillance cost increases up to 58%

OPERATIONS



Operation cost increases up to 75%

STAFFING



Staffing cost increases up to 30%



NEW TECHNOLOGIES URGENTLY NEEDED

Mosquito districts need new innovative technologies to support control efforts but they cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. In the past 10 years, no new tools have been approved in our state to assist mosquito control districts in fighting the spread of invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes.

The timeframe it takes for disease-spreading mosquitoes to invade new regions is not in line with current regulatory standards for approval and such delays put our state very far behind.



Self-limiting mosquitoes



Wolbachia



Irradiation

Scan here to see videos explaining how these technologies work



INVASIVE AEADES HAVE COMPLETELY ALTERED THE WAY WE DO MOSQUITO CONTROL

"We've had to divert labor and equipment resources to address this emerging issue to the detriment of our existing public health mosquito control efforts engaged in West Nile virus protection."

Peter Bonkrude, District Manager, Shasta Mosquito & Vector Control District



"When, not if, a tropical disease is locally transmitted by an invasive *Aedes* species, every mosquito and vector control district in the state will be impacted."

Michelle Brown, District Manager, West Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District



"An increase in funds available for staffing, equipment, public outreach, and pesticide budgeting is necessary to maintain our level of service to our community and protect public health. "

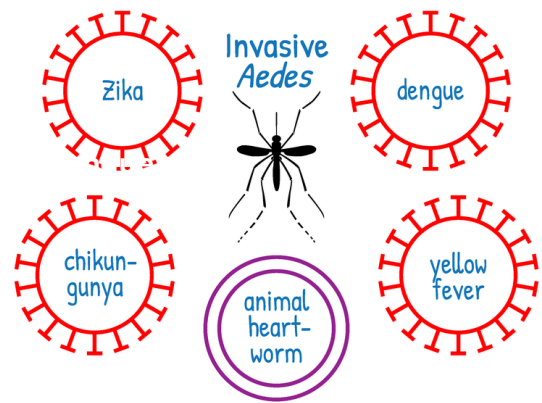
Cary Svoboda, Vector Ecologist, Ventura County Vector Control Program



BEYOND THE BASICS: INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES NEEDED FOR INVASIVE MOSQUITO CONTROL

Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes are rapidly spreading across California although they are not native to the state and don't have a place in our ecosystem. These mosquitoes are hard to control and can become resistant to commonly-used insecticides. Female *Aedes* mosquitoes lay their eggs in small water sources in front yards, backyards, and patios, areas where mosquito control agencies can't easily inspect or control. Also, their eggs are resistant to drying out and can survive for many months.

Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes are more than a nuisance - they are a serious public health threat and California's mosquito and vector control agencies need new ways to control them.



There are three different innovative technologies being considered in California: self-limiting mosquitoes, *Wolbachia*, and irradiation. These technologies will be used as part of an overall Integrated Vector Management program in addition to existing innovative control methods like drones.



INTEGRATED VECTOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Finding environmentally friendly mosquito control tools is a priority. Innovative technologies will not replace traditional mosquito control methods but will be another Integrated Vector Management tool used to protect public health.

LEARN HOW THE DIFFERENT TECHNOLOGIES WORK



Self-limiting mosquitoes

Self-limiting mosquitoes are produced in a laboratory and carry two types of genes:

- A self-limiting gene that prevents female mosquito larva from surviving to adulthood.
- A fluorescent marker that glows under a special red light. This allows researchers to identify self-limiting mosquitoes in the wild.

Only male *Aedes* mosquitoes that have a self-limiting gene are released because male mosquitoes don't bite. When they mate with wild females their offspring inherit a copy of the self-limiting gene. This prevents female offspring from surviving to adulthood, ultimately reducing the number of biting female mosquitoes.



Wolbachia

Wolbachia are bacteria naturally found in about 60 percent of insects around the world like butterflies, dragonflies, moths, and beetles. There are different types of *Wolbachia* associated with different types of insects.

Male *Aedes* mosquitoes are raised in a lab with a specific type of *Wolbachia* they don't normally have. These male *Aedes* mosquitoes are released to mate with wild female *Aedes* mosquitoes that have a different type of *Wolbachia* or none at all. During mating, the mismatched *Wolbachia* bacteria causes the eggs not to hatch.



Irradiation

Irradiated mosquitoes are raised in a laboratory where the male mosquitoes are separated from the females. Male mosquitoes are sterilized using the same radiation found in x-rays and Gamma rays. The sterile male mosquitoes are released to mate with wild females. The resulting eggs do not hatch. This can reduce the overall number of mosquitoes over time.



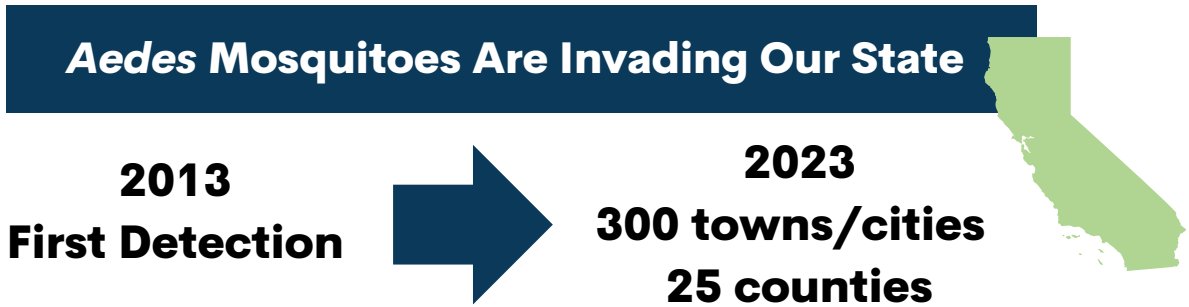
Drones

Drones, small unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), are environmentally safe, cost-effective, and precision-based application tools for mosquito districts. Drones help agencies fight mosquitoes and other vectors in remote locations and are less disruptive in wildlife management areas. Drones limit drift from aerial spray applications, better monitor irrigation, increase mosquito larvae detection, and reduce employee safety risk, noise and fuel emissions and costs of equipment and labor.

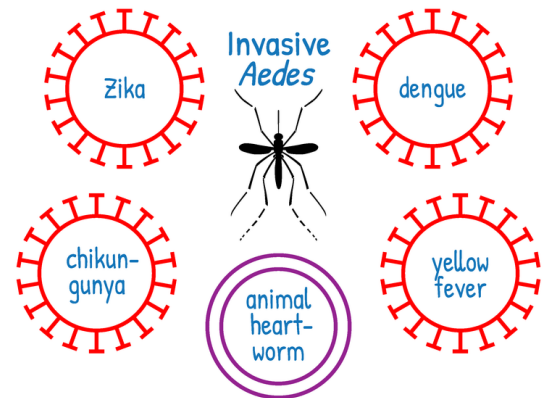


STATE SUPPORT: FUNDING NEEDED TO PROTECT CALIFORNIANS FROM INVASIVE MOSQUITOES

Climate change has created more favorable environments for invasive mosquitoes to develop as they continue to spread throughout the state rapidly. Surveillance and treatment for invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes are very expensive, labor-intensive, and mosquito and vector control districts throughout the state are saddled with skyrocketing costs. In order to protect the health and well-being of Californians, mosquito control districts desperately need state support.



Mosquito districts, with their partners in local health departments, have increased their work to investigate suspected and confirmed cases of people returning to California with dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever, and Zika. Few districts have the ability to augment their operational budgets to compensate for this increase in materials and workload, and many foresee situations where they must treat areas not covered by a mosquito abatement district. **Some MVCAC districts with invasive *Aedes* activity report spending nearly a half million dollars to control the spread of invasive mosquitoes.**



\$5 MILLION ROLLING STATE FUND NEEDED TO REIMBURSE MOSQUITO DISTRICTS WITH EXTRAORDINARY INVASIVE AEADES COSTS



A revolving fund of \$5 million annually administered by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is needed to reimburse mosquito control districts for extraordinary costs associated with invasive *Aedes* abatement. Districts would apply for reimbursement for associated surveillance and abatement activities including costs for temporary personnel, mosquito control products, pesticide application equipment, *Aedes* surveillance traps, and public education and outreach. Districts would be required to report the increase in costs, year over year, due to *Aedes* prevention and response to receive reimbursement.

LOCAL TRANSMISSION OF DENGUE AT CALIFORNIA'S BORDER

- The border state of Sonora, Mexico had more than **9,000 cases with 91 people dying** from dengue in 2022.
- While **750 Floridians** acquired dengue while traveling, 57 people were infected at home because the mosquitoes that can transmit the virus are in their neighborhoods.
- In December 2022 in **Maricopa County, Arizona**, two individuals tested positive for dengue they acquired from a mosquito bite locally.

LONG HISTORY OF STATE SUPPORT FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL

- In 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency due to the increased risk of West Nile Virus (WNV) transmission in California. Following that declaration, the 2007 budget included \$3 million in General Fund support directed to WNV high-risk areas and "hot spots" to supplement local mosquito control efforts. CDPH identified counties with need and provided them with funding to identify places where mosquitoes carrying WNV could breed, and treat those areas. That funding also allowed mosquito control districts to provide an early warning system.
- The WNV funds were distributed through CDPH to counties with the highest risk of WNV transmission. Then, emergency funding applications were sent to all local mosquito control districts as WNV infections were reported statewide.
- In 2017, CDPH provided a pass-through for federal funds to local mosquito control districts for Zika prevention. No state of emergency was declared, but the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded funding through CDPH to enhance surveillance and control for invasive *Aedes* throughout the state.
- Under these grants, local mosquito control districts with increased risks due to invasive *Aedes* infestations were eligible to apply for one-time funding. Applications were prioritized based on the number and extent of *Aedes* infestations, the number of travel-associated cases of mosquito-borne illnesses, the population of the agency jurisdiction, and proximity to the US/Mexico border. Allowable expenditures included temporary personnel, mosquito control products, pesticide application equipment, *Aedes* surveillance traps, and public outreach and education.

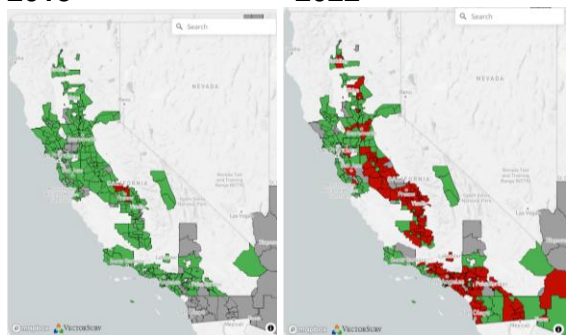
Help Curb the Spread of Mosquito-Borne

Illness: The members of the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) are at the frontlines of controlling risks associated with the rapid spread of invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes. Our members have seen skyrocketing costs associated with the spread of invasive mosquitoes, and we come to the Governor and Legislature with an urgent request to help stabilize district budgets, as the health of millions of Californians is at risk due to the state’s losing battle against the expansion of invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes and the resulting potential for future spread of diseases that have never been transmitted in the state. We respectfully request a \$5 million rolling fund to reimburse districts with extraordinary costs due to invasive *Aedes* abatement.

Background: The invasive *Aedes* species (*aegypti*, *albopictus*, and *notoscriptus*) are not native to California and thrive in tropical and some temperate climates. They are the mosquito species that transmit Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever. In the past 10 years, climate change has created a more favorable environment for invasive mosquitoes. *Aedes aegypti* can withstand temperate California winters, remaining a threat year after year. Drought and wildfires have resulted in the creation of more attractive habitats for mosquitoes to reproduce. Since first being detected in 2013 in the Central Valley, *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes have spread to over 300 towns and cities throughout California and 25 counties, increasing the risk of transmission of viruses that cause dengue, chikungunya, Zika, and yellow fever.

2013

2022



Additionally, invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes reproduce quickly in a wide array of breeding sites, making preventive surveillance and early treatments even more important. Their life cycle, combined with the threat of local transmission (when an infected mosquito bites and infects a human), creates a looming public health crisis. Local transmission of dengue occurred in Puerto Rico, Arizona, and Florida in 2022. The border state of Sonora, Mexico had more than 9,000 cases with 91 people dying from dengue in 2022. While 750 Floridians acquired dengue while traveling, 57 people were infected at home because the mosquitoes that can transmit the virus are in their neighborhoods.

Even closer to California, in December 2022 in Maricopa County, Arizona, two individuals tested positive for dengue they acquired from a mosquito bite locally. As part of the response to curtail spread, their county public health department tested residents of the area and worked to find the source of the viral mosquito. These enhanced activities, performed by local public health and mosquito control districts, will have heavy impacts on those budgets, and without additional response, the spread of disease will have significant health and economic impacts.

Problem: Mosquito control districts in California have worked hard to curb the spread of invasive *Aedes*. Their budgets have already been heavily impacted by the costs associated with the exponential growth of invasive *Aedes* across the state. With local transmission having occurred in Arizona at the end of 2022, we are extremely concerned that local transmission in California is not a matter of if, but when.

Treating invasive *Aedes* is costly and labor-intensive. In a survey of MVCAC districts with invasive *Aedes* activity, some members are spending nearly a half million dollars to control the spread. Districts, with their partners in local health departments, have

increased their work to investigate suspected and confirmed cases of people returning to California with dengue, chikungunya, and Zika. Few districts have the ability to augment their operational budgets to compensate for this increase in materials and workload, and many foresee situations where they must treat areas not covered by a mosquito abatement district.

A History of Support: California has precedent for supporting local mosquito control. In 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency due to the increasing risk of West Nile Virus (WNV) transmission in California. Following that declaration, the 2007 budget included \$3 million in General Fund support directed to WNV high-risk areas and “hot spots” to supplement local mosquito control efforts. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) identified counties with need and provided them with funding to identify places where mosquitoes carrying WNV could breed, and treat those areas. That funding also allowed local vector control agencies to surveil and provide an early warning system.

The WNV funds were distributed through CDPH to counties at highest risk of WNV transmission, and then emergency funding applications were sent to all local mosquito control agencies, as WNV infections were reported statewide.

Then, in 2017, CDPH provided a pass-through for federal funds to local mosquito control agencies for Zika prevention. No state of emergency was declared, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded funding through CDPH to enhance surveillance and control for invasive *Aedes* throughout the state.

Under these grants, local mosquito control agencies with increased risks due to invasive *Aedes* infestations were eligible to apply for one-time funding. Applications were prioritized based on the number and extent of *Aedes* infestations, the number of travel-associated cases of mosquito-borne

illnesses, the population of the agency jurisdiction, and proximity to the US/Mexico border. Allowable expenditures included temporary personnel, mosquito control products, pesticide application equipment, *Aedes* surveillance traps, and public outreach and education.

Solution: California should create a pot of funding that mosquito control districts can access to reimburse extraordinary costs associated with invasive *Aedes* abatement. The WNV funds from 2007 and the Zika funds from 2017 provide a framework for additional funding to local mosquito control districts.

MVCAC proposes a revolving fund of \$5 million annually at CDPH from which districts with invasive *Aedes* can apply for reimbursement for associated surveillance and abatement activities. This number was developed by our survey with MVCAC members, with reports of some districts going above \$500,000 annually for invasive *Aedes* activities. Reimbursements will be awarded for costs and districts can be reimbursed for temporary personnel, mosquito control products, pesticide application equipment, *Aedes* surveillance traps, and public outreach and education. Districts will be required to report the increase in costs, year over year, due to *Aedes* prevention and response to receive reimbursement.

We should not wait for another public health emergency to respond to this growing threat. The presence of invasive *Aedes* has skyrocketed in the last decade and shows no sign of slowing down. We must provide our local mosquito control districts with the additional resources we need to protect Californians from preventable diseases.

For more information, contact our legislative advocates at KP Public Affairs.

Vanessa Cajina – vcajina@ka-pow.com

Edward Manning – emanning@ka-pow.com

Brian White – bwhite@ka-pow.com



Gregg Hart

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 37

ASSEMBLY BILL 557

EMERGENCY BROWN ACT MEETING PROCEDURES

SUMMARY

AB 557 eliminates the January 1, 2024 sunset on the provisions of the Brown Act that provided additional flexibility for local agencies looking to meet remotely during an emergency while still maintaining public access and transparency. This legislation will provide a narrow but important emergency authority, allowing local governing bodies to safely meet and take action during applicable states of emergency declared by the Governor.

BACKGROUND

AB 361 (Rivas, 2021) codified, until Jan 1, 2024, numerous provisions of Governor Newsom’s Executive Orders pertaining to the Brown Act in 2020. The provisions only apply in the event that an emergency situation or public health orders prevent a local agency board from meeting in-person. If the meeting could still be held in-person without endangering local agency board members or personnel, then the local agency would not be permitted to rely on the provisions added to California Government Code section 54953 by AB 361. Local agencies needing to meet remotely pursuant to those provisions are only permitted to do so in concert with an emergency declared by the Governor of California.

PROBLEM

While the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic appears to have subsided, the need to be prepared for future emergencies remains. Recent events in California, including disastrous flooding and devastating wildfires, underscore this point.

AB 361 was extensively used by local agencies to meet during the pandemic and was designed to address all emergency situations where it would be unsafe, or even impossible, to meet in-person.

The flexibility these provisions provide will remain a critical tool for use in other emergencies declared by the Governor even after the COVID-19 state of emergency expires.

In cases where a state of emergency persists, AB 361 required local agencies to renew their emergency remote meeting resolution within 30-days. However, many agencies regularly meet once-per-month (e.g. every third-Tuesday), which is sometimes a span of just over 30 days. This forced agencies to unnecessarily move meetings to days and times less accustomed to the public or to expend unnecessary time and expense to conduct an additional meeting

SOLUTION

By removing the sunset, AB 557 preserves the critical flexibility for local agencies needing to meet remotely to continue providing the public with essential services during a Governor-declared emergency. By adjusting the renewal period for resolutions to 45 days (up from 30 days), AB 557 would provide accommodation for those agencies regularly meeting on a fixed date every month.

SUPPORT

- CA Special Districts Association (Co-Sponsor)
- League of California Cities (Co-Sponsor)
- CA State Association of Counties (Co-Sponsor)

[DISTRICT LOGO]

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Gregg Hart (lenh.voong@asm.ca.gov)
 California State Assembly
 1021 O Street, Suite 6230
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 557 (Hart) – Support [As Introduced]

Dear Assembly Member Hart:

The [DISTRICT NAME] is pleased to inform you of our support for Assembly Bill 557, related to emergency remote meeting procedures under the Ralph M. Brown Act.

The changes made to California Government Code section 54953 by Assembly Bill 361 (R. Rivas, 2021) were of vital importance to local agencies looking to meet during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to continue to conduct the people's business. These changes were necessary in order to permit local agencies to meet during a time that it would have otherwise been impossible to meet in-person safely. Important safeguards were included to ensure transparency and accountability, including the fact that the emergency provisions were only applicable in instances where the California Governor had declared a state of emergency.

While California seeks to transition to a post-COVID era, the threat of additional emergencies remains, as has been made abundantly clear by recent flooding and wildfires. Absent any legislative intervention, the processes established by AB 361 to provide remote meeting flexibility to local agencies in emergency circumstances will expire at the end of this year. To remain best-equipped to address future emergencies and allow local agencies to effectively react and respond, AB 557 would eliminate the sunset on the emergency remote meeting procedures added to California Government Code section 54953. Additionally, AB 557 would adjust the timeframe for the resolutions passed to renew an agency's temporary transition to emergency remote meetings to 45 days, up from the previous number of 30 days. [EXPLAIN HOW THIS LEGISLATION IMPACTS YOUR DISTRICT]

This legislation will preserve an effective tool for local agencies facing emergencies that would otherwise prevent them from conducting the people's business when faced with an emergency. For these reasons, [DISTRICT NAME] is pleased to support Assembly Bill 557. Please feel free to contact me at [SIGNATORY'S EMAIL] or at [SIGNATORY'S EMAIL ADDRESS] if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Insert Signature Here]

[SIGNATORY'S NAME]

[SIGNATORY'S TITLE/POSITION]

CC: Marcus Detwiler, Legislative Representative, California Special Districts Association (advocacy@cdda.net)

[DISTRICT ADDRESS]



AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION FY'22 APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITY STRENGTHENING MOSQUITO ABATEMENT FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT (SMASH ACT)

Background: The Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (SMASH) Act, included as section 607 of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-22) reauthorized Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) resources to be used to address emerging infectious mosquito-borne disease and improve existing control programs for the protection of public health in our nation. Specifically, the measure expands and extends authorization for \$100 million in annual grants for mosquito prevention, control, and response programs. Funding for the provisions of the SMASH Act at the full authorized level are the American Mosquito Control Association's highest priority.

The provisions of the SMASH Act are necessary to ensure mosquito-borne endemics are addressed appropriately every year. COVID-19 demonstrated how resources are shifted from one public health emergency to another, leaving communities across the country—particularly underserved, rural, and minority communities—vulnerable to long-term threats. Funding public health agencies with resources authorized by the SMASH Act will allow local health officials and staff to meet the challenges of lethal mosquito-borne illnesses.

Discussion: The SMASH Act supports the CDC's "National Public Health Framework for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in Humans" mission to protect people from illness, suffering, and death due to vector-borne diseases. Once the national strategy is put into action, local public health officials will need resources for data modernization, disease monitoring, public education, and disease prevention. Without support to the local level, our nation will continue to be reactive in responding to emerging vector-borne diseases, when we should be proactive.

- The SMASH Act authorizes \$100 million annually in grants for mosquito control programs to prevent and control mosquito-borne diseases for FY2021 through FY2023, **subject to congressional appropriation.**
- The SMASH Act directed that coordination grants to states and political subdivisions be expanded to address "emerging, infectious mosquito-borne diseases" and to "improve existing control programs." Specifically, in making grants to political subdivisions of states or consortia of political subdivisions of states, for the operation of control programs, grant preference is now given to those with:
 - An emerging infectious mosquito-borne disease that presents a "serious public health threat or a public health emergency due to the incidence or prevalence of a mosquito-borne disease that presents a serious public health threat."

FUNDING/LANGUAGE REQUEST

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Division of Vector-Borne Diseases funding of \$100 million is requested in support of programs for mosquito-borne and other vector-borne diseases surveillance and control as designated under the Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (SMASH) Act.

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San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District District Manager's Report

Date: April 14, 2023

Meeting of: San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District Board of Trustees:
Legislative Committee

Subject: **Consider Recommendation to File a Letter of Support for Assembly Bill 557**

Exhibit(s): Exhibits 4A, 4B

Background

Assembly Member Gregg Hart (D–37) has introduced Assembly Bill 557, CSDA's 2023 sponsored bill on the Brown Act. This bill follows the successful passage of Assembly Bill 361 (R. Rivas, 2021), which established modified remote meeting procedures within the Brown Act for local agencies meeting during specified emergencies.

The provisions added to the Brown Act by AB 361 regarding remote meeting procedures are set to expire at the end of 2023. To preserve the remote meeting procedures during an emergency, AB 557 would abolish the sunset that would repeal them.

AB 557 also makes one minor change to the timeframe for the renewal resolutions required under the AB 361 framework. Currently, the terms of AB 361 require that an agency looking to rely on its provisions beyond 30 days must pass a resolution recognizing that the state of emergency that prompted the transition to remote meetings remains active, and that conditions persist that prevent the agency from holding meetings safely in-person. AB 557 would change this to 45 days, providing agencies with an additional two weeks and accommodating those agencies that meet monthly on a fixed date that may occasionally fall outside of the original 30-day window provided by AB 361.

District Manager's Recommendation

The District Manager recommends filing a letter of support for Assembly Bill 557 as introduced.

Committee Action Options

- Committee Action Required: If the Committee concurs, following the public discussion by members of this item, the appropriate action is to:
 - Direct staff to draft a letter of support for AB 557.
 - Recommend a letter of support for AB 557 for full board consideration.
- Alternative Committee Action: If after discussion by members of this item, the Committee may choose to deny the recommendation of a letter of support for AB 557.

Submitted by:

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Jason Farned
District Manager

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Gregg Hart

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 37

ASSEMBLY BILL 557

EMERGENCY BROWN ACT MEETING PROCEDURES

SUMMARY

AB 557 eliminates the January 1, 2024 sunset on the provisions of the Brown Act that provided additional flexibility for local agencies looking to meet remotely during an emergency while still maintaining public access and transparency. This legislation will provide a narrow but important emergency authority, allowing local governing bodies to safely meet and take action during applicable states of emergency declared by the Governor.

BACKGROUND

AB 361 (Rivas, 2021) codified, until Jan 1, 2024, numerous provisions of Governor Newsom’s Executive Orders pertaining to the Brown Act in 2020. The provisions only apply in the event that an emergency situation or public health orders prevent a local agency board from meeting in-person. If the meeting could still be held in-person without endangering local agency board members or personnel, then the local agency would not be permitted to rely on the provisions added to California Government Code section 54953 by AB 361. Local agencies needing to meet remotely pursuant to those provisions are only permitted to do so in concert with an emergency declared by the Governor of California.

PROBLEM

While the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic appears to have subsided, the need to be prepared for future emergencies remains. Recent events in California, including disastrous flooding and devastating wildfires, underscore this point.

AB 361 was extensively used by local agencies to meet during the pandemic and was designed to address all emergency situations where it would be unsafe, or even impossible, to meet in-person.

The flexibility these provisions provide will remain a critical tool for use in other emergencies declared by the Governor even after the COVID-19 state of emergency expires.

In cases where a state of emergency persists, AB 361 required local agencies to renew their emergency remote meeting resolution within 30-days. However, many agencies regularly meet once-per-month (e.g. every third-Tuesday), which is sometimes a span of just over 30 days. This forced agencies to unnecessarily move meetings to days and times less accustomed to the public or to expend unnecessary time and expense to conduct an additional meeting

SOLUTION

By removing the sunset, AB 557 preserves the critical flexibility for local agencies needing to meet remotely to continue providing the public with essential services during a Governor-declared emergency. By adjusting the renewal period for resolutions to 45 days (up from 30 days), AB 557 would provide accommodation for those agencies regularly meeting on a fixed date every month.

SUPPORT

- CA Special Districts Association (Co-Sponsor)
- League of California Cities (Co-Sponsor)
- CA State Association of Counties (Co-Sponsor)

[DISTRICT LOGO]

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Gregg Hart (lenh.voong@asm.ca.gov)
 California State Assembly
 1021 O Street, Suite 6230
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 557 (Hart) – Support [As Introduced]

Dear Assembly Member Hart:

The [DISTRICT NAME] is pleased to inform you of our support for Assembly Bill 557, related to emergency remote meeting procedures under the Ralph M. Brown Act.

The changes made to California Government Code section 54953 by Assembly Bill 361 (R. Rivas, 2021) were of vital importance to local agencies looking to meet during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to continue to conduct the people's business. These changes were necessary in order to permit local agencies to meet during a time that it would have otherwise been impossible to meet in-person safely. Important safeguards were included to ensure transparency and accountability, including the fact that the emergency provisions were only applicable in instances where the California Governor had declared a state of emergency.

While California seeks to transition to a post-COVID era, the threat of additional emergencies remains, as has been made abundantly clear by recent flooding and wildfires. Absent any legislative intervention, the processes established by AB 361 to provide remote meeting flexibility to local agencies in emergency circumstances will expire at the end of this year. To remain best-equipped to address future emergencies and allow local agencies to effectively react and respond, AB 557 would eliminate the sunset on the emergency remote meeting procedures added to California Government Code section 54953. Additionally, AB 557 would adjust the timeframe for the resolutions passed to renew an agency's temporary transition to emergency remote meetings to 45 days, up from the previous number of 30 days. [EXPLAIN HOW THIS LEGISLATION IMPACTS YOUR DISTRICT]

This legislation will preserve an effective tool for local agencies facing emergencies that would otherwise prevent them from conducting the people's business when faced with an emergency. For these reasons, [DISTRICT NAME] is pleased to support Assembly Bill 557. Please feel free to contact me at [SIGNATORY'S EMAIL] or at [SIGNATORY'S EMAIL ADDRESS] if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Insert Signature Here]

[SIGNATORY'S NAME]

[SIGNATORY'S TITLE/POSITION]

CC: Marcus Detwiler, Legislative Representative, California Special Districts Association (advocacy@cdda.net)

[DISTRICT ADDRESS]