

San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

For Immediate Release

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San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has identified West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquitoes from the city of Walnut.

West Covina, CA - July 18, 2014

Two samples of mosquitoes collected from traps placed in Creekside Park in the city of Walnut on July 11, 2014 have been tested and found positive for West Nile virus (WNV.) This is the first sign of WNV found in the San Gabriel Valley this year. Vector control officials have already intensified surveillance and control efforts in the foothill communities to prepare for the seasonal emergence of this virus.

Residents should take precautions against mosquito bites by using repellants and wearing long sleeves and long pants if outdoors between dusk and dawn and ensuring windows and doors are properly screened to keep mosquitoes outside.

Warmer temperatures provide ideal conditions for WNV amplification and transmission. Mosquitoes pick up WNV from infected birds and spread it to other birds and humans when they bite again.

[Click here](#) to see WNV transmission cycle.

Although no human cases have been reported yet this year in San Gabriel Valley, eleven human cases have been reported in California as of July 16, 2014, up from one reported case this time last year. The total number of WNV positive mosquito samples is also up state wide at 520 positive samples as compared to 397 this time last year. [Click here](#) for a full chart of West Nile virus activity in California.

It is critical that residents survey their property and remove all standing water to prevent mosquito reproduction. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water sources such as neglected pools, buckets, misc. containers, puddles, and ponds. Eggs can hatch and mature to biting adults in 5-7 days.

Since its introduction in 2003, there have been 4,004 reported infections and 145 deaths from WNV in California. West Nile virus presents a risk to public health every year.

Throughout the summer, basic protective measures should be followed:

- **AVOID** Over-watering and prevent litter, leaves and debris from entering the gutters and streets.
- **DRAIN:** Check properties weekly and remove all sources of standing water. Report green, inoperable pools or other sources of standing water to the District.
- **DAWN AND DUSK:** Wear effective repellents and long sleeves if outdoors when mosquitoes are present (between dawn and dusk.)
- **DEFEND:** Ensure doors and windows are properly screened

The District encourages the public to help identify WNV "hot spots" by reporting dead birds to the WNV Hotline at (877) WNV-BIRD ((877) 968-2473) or online at www.westnile.ca.gov. We also urge our residents to call the District to report any mosquito activity

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