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MEDIA ADVISORY**DATE: March 31, 2005****Pasadena Police, Vector Control Join Forces to
Battle West Nile Virus**

WHAT: The Pasadena Police Department's Special Operations Division has generously offered to assist the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District in their battle to combat West Nile virus. Helicopters will take to the air Tuesday in search of inoperable "green" swimming pools – the number one source of urban mosquitoes capable of spreading West Nile virus.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 5, 2005. Beginning at 9:00 AM (liftoff at 10:00 AM)

WHY: Tremendous rainfall this season has filled inoperable pools with stagnant water. District staff inspect nearly 2400 swimming pools regularly to ensure that they are not breeding mosquitoes. Although most residents maintain their pool properly, a single green pool can produce tens of thousands of mosquitoes. This joint effort between the Pasadena Police Department and the Vector Control District will help find and eliminate new breeding sources and be a critical step in reducing the incidence of human illness this year.

The Pasadena Police Department provides regional helicopter support to the cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Azusa, Covina, Monrovia, and West Covina, known as the Foothill Air Support Team. These Police Departments welcome the opportunity to assist in such a valuable venture and sees this as a natural extension of their commitment to public service.

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WHO: **Kim Raney**, Chief of Police, Covina Police Department
Chair – Board of Governors – Foothill Air Support Team
Steve West, District Manager, San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector
Control District
Lieutenant Mulhall, Pasadena Police Department, Air Operations

WHERE: Pasadena Police Department Heliport
2175 Yucca Lane
Altadena, CA 91001

VISUALS: Staging area for lift off of the Police Departments Bell Jet Helicopters.
Vector Control Personnel will be on board to identify and photograph
problematic sites and report to ground units below for follow-up inspections.

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