

Finding the Right Axis for Access:

Overcoming Property Inspection Barriers in Dengue Control

January 27, 2025

MVCAC Annual Conference 2025

Gilbert Holguin

Director of Operations

San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

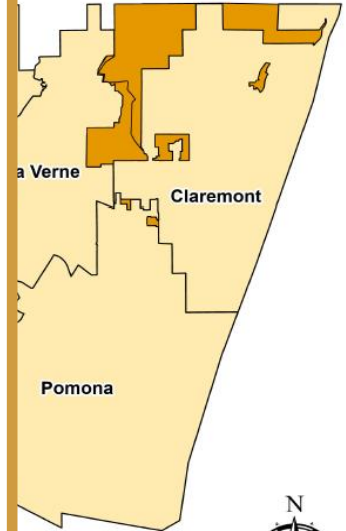


San Gabriel Valley MVCD District

District Area: 287 sq miles



- 287 sq miles
- 26 cities
- Operations
 - 4 VCS I's
 - 8 VCS II's
 - 10 Seasonal Technicians
 - 2 VCS III's



□ District Cities
■ L.A. County Unincorporated



Property Access Challenges

- Contacting someone
- Residents demand privacy
- Gaining trust
- Scheduling
- Financial costs especially for no access properties
 - Multiple attempts
 - Added cost each time we attempt
- Opportunity cost
 - What are we sacrificing to do multiple attempts?



Dengue Activity 2024

September 3	Local
September 4	Travel
September 11	Local
September 11	Local
September 12	Travel
September 30	Local
September 30	Travel
October 2	Travel
October 7	Local
October 7	Travel
October 9	Local
October 11	Travel
October 15	Local

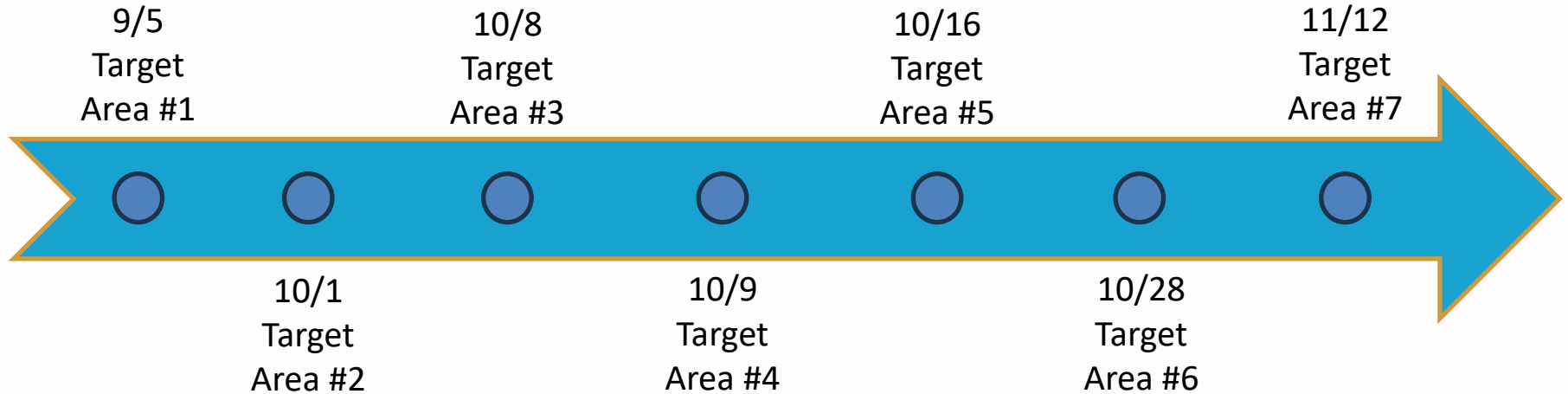
October 15	Local
October 21	Local
October 21	Travel
October 23	Travel
October 23	Travel
October 28	Travel
October 28	Travel
October 28	Travel
October 29	Local
November 4	Travel
November 7	Local
December 5	Travel
December 5	Travel

Dengue Activity 2024

- Travel related
 - District received 27 cases
- Local transmission
 - 11 cases

October 11	Travel		December 5	Travel
October 15	Local		December 5	Travel

Local Cases Timeline 2024



71 Days

Travel Related Cases

- Enhanced Neighborhood Support (ENS)
 - A scalable data driven, focused support for communities with elevated risk of disease.
 - Activated across Operations, Communications, and Surveillance departments
 - 45 properties as describe in ENS SOP



Travel Related Cases (Cont'd)

- Door-to-door campaign
 - Property inspections
 - Door hanger with return date or permission to enter
 - Source reduction
 - Backpack treatments
 - Resident education
 - No further follow-up properties
- Investigate all known sources
- Inspect and treat underground and flood channels



Locally Transmitted Cases

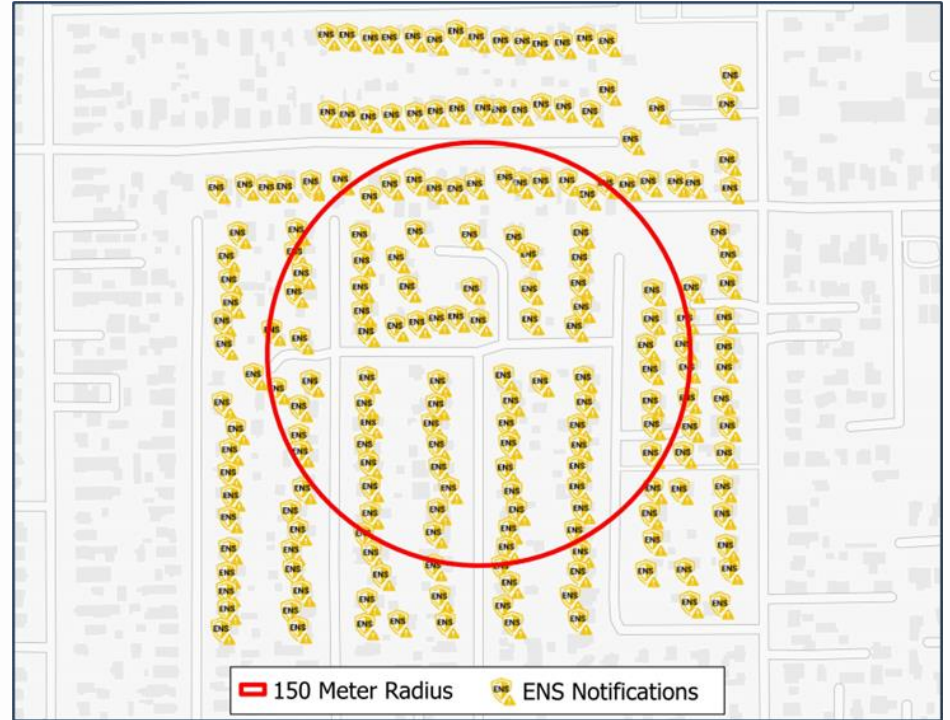
- 150-meter target area (90-200 properties) CDPH's *Aedes* Response Guidelines
- Same day property inspections
- Backpack treatments (MANDATORY)
- Follow-up on “No Access” properties



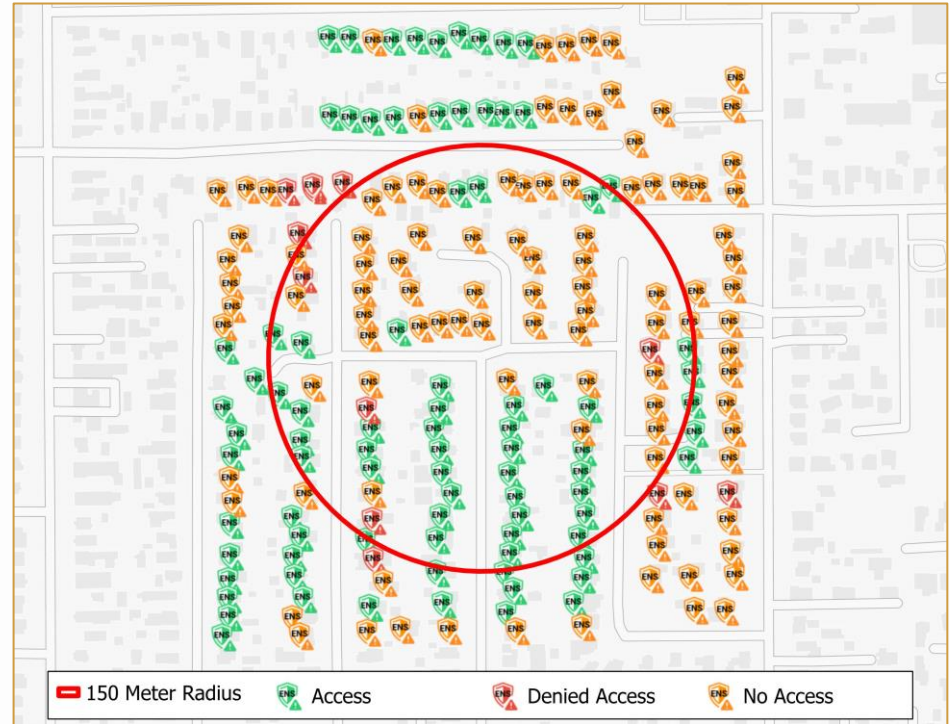
Ok, now let's see how we played!

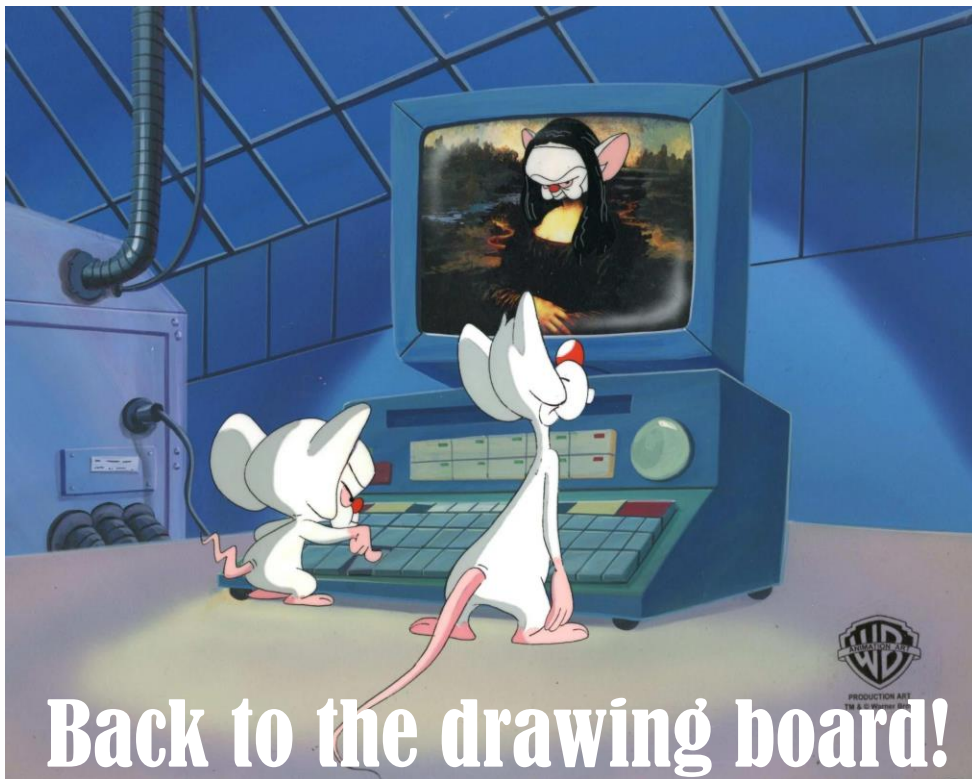


- Target area #1
 - Started on 9/5
 - 203 properties flagged
 - Goal was 100% access



- Target area #1
 - Started on 9/5
 - 203 properties flagged
 - Goal was 100% access
 - On 9/26
 - 8 unscheduled attempts
 - 57% access rate
 - 88 properties left





Back to the drawing board!



San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District
1145 North Azusa Canyon Road West Covina, CA 91790

Public Health Advisory Immediate Action Required

Compliance Deadline: October XX, 20XX

October XX, 20XX

Property Owner
1234 Address
City, State Zip

PLEASE BE ADVISED We have made several attempts to contact you and request access to your property but have not been successful. Due to elevated mosquito activity and the confirmed presence of Dengue in your area, it is crucial that we gain access to perform mosquito control measures. This is our final request for access. **If we do not receive a response within the next five (5) days**, the District will begin the process of obtaining a public health inspection warrant to secure access to your property.

Please call (626) 814-9466, Select Option 4 to schedule an appointment.

Dear Property Owner,

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District is requesting access to your property as part of an ongoing effort to eliminate mosquitoes and reduce the threat of mosquito-borne disease.

On **October XX, 2024**, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health confirmed one case of locally acquired dengue fever in **CITY** residents. Dengue is primarily transmitted through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito. While such cases are rare in our region, the presence of these cases suggests that infected mosquitoes may be present and capable of spreading the virus further.

In response, the District is intensifying mosquito control efforts to reduce the mosquito population quickly. Allowing us access to your backyard will greatly enhance our ability to prevent further spread of the virus, helping to protect your family and your neighbors.

We also strongly encourage residents to take the following precautions:

- Use a mosquito repellent containing an EPA-approved active ingredient such as **DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535**.
- Regularly eliminate standing water and dispose of unused containers to remove mosquito breeding sites.

Dengue fever can cause flu-like symptoms including high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, joint and muscle pain, rash, and mild bleeding. Severe cases can result in shock, severe bleeding and severe organ impairment which require immediate medical attention.

For more information about Dengue, please visit bit.ly/SGV-dengue or contact the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health at 833-540-0473 (8:00 AM - 8:00 PM), publichealth.lacounty.gov.

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District is a public health agency tasked with protecting residents from vector-borne diseases. The District provides enhanced mosquito and vector control services to 26 cities and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County within the San Gabriel Valley. Our services are paid through property taxes and are free of additional costs. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Respectfully,

Gilbert Holguin
Director of Operations



San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District
1145 North Azusa Canyon Road West Covina, CA 91790

Aviso de Salud Pública: Se requiere acción inmediata

Plazo de Cumplimiento: XX de Octubre de 20XX

XX de Octubre de 20XX

Dueño de Propiedad
1234 Address
City, State Zip

AVISO IMPORTANTE: Hemos realizado varios intentos de contactar al residente de esta propiedad sin éxito. Debido a la elevada actividad de los mosquitos y la presencia confirmada de Dengue en su área, es importante que tengamos acceso para realizar medidas de control de mosquitos. Esta es nuestra última solicitud de acceso. **Si no recibimos una respuesta dentro de los próximos cinco (5) días**, el Distrito comenzará el proceso de obtener una orden de inspección de salud pública para asegurar el acceso a su propiedad.

Llame al (626) 814-9466, seleccione opción 4 para programar una cita.

Estimado Propietario,

El Distrito de Control de Mosquitos y Vectores del Valle de San Gabriel está solicitando acceso a su propiedad como parte de un esfuerzo para eliminar los mosquitos y reducir la amenaza de enfermedades transmitidas por mosquitos.

El **XX de Octubre de 20XX**, el Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Los Ángeles confirmó un caso de dengue adquiridos localmente en residentes de **CITY**. El dengue se transmite principalmente a través de la picadura de un mosquito *Aedes* infectado. Aunque estos casos son raros en nuestra región, la presencia de estos casos sugiere que los mosquitos infectados pueden estar presentes y ser capaces de propagar el virus.

En respuesta, el Distrito está intensificando los esfuerzos de control de mosquitos para reducir rápidamente la población de mosquitos. Permitimos el acceso a su patio o jardín mejorará en gran medida nuestra capacidad para prevenir la propagación del virus, ayudando a proteger a su familia y a sus vecinos.

También recomendamos a los residentes que tomen las siguientes precauciones:

- Use un repelente de mosquitos que contenga un ingrediente activo aprobado por la EPA, como **DEET, picaridina, aceite de eucalipto de limón o IR3535**.
- Elimine semanalmente el agua estancada y deseché los recipientes no utilizados para eliminar los criaderos de mosquitos.

La fiebre del dengue puede causar síntomas similares a los de la gripe, como fiebre alta, dolor de cabeza intenso, dolor detrás de los ojos, dolor articular y muscular, sarpullido y sangrado leve. Los casos graves pueden provocar shock, hemorragias graves e impedimento grave de los órganos que requieren atención médica inmediata.

Para obtener más información sobre el dengue, visite bit.ly/SGV-dengue o comuníquese con el Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Los Ángeles al 833-540-0473 (8:00 AM - 8:00 PM), publichealth.lacounty.gov.

El Distrito de Control de Mosquitos y Vectores del Valle de San Gabriel es una agencia de salud pública encargada de proteger a los residentes de las enfermedades transmitidas por vectores. El Distrito proporciona servicios mejorados de control de mosquitos y vectores a 26 ciudades y partes no incorporadas del condado de Los Ángeles en el Valle de San Gabriel. Nuestros servicios son incluidos en sus impuestos de propiedad y no tienen costo adicional. Gracias de antemano por su cooperación.

Respetuosamente,

Gilbert Holguin
Director de Operaciones



San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District
1145 North Azusa Canyon Road West Covina, CA 91790
Public Health Advisory Immediate Action Required

October XX, 20XX

Property Owner
1234 Address
City, State Zip

PLEASE and request access to your property to evaluate mosquito activity and the confirmed presence of Dengue in your area. This is our final request for access. If we do not receive a response within the next five (5) days, the District will begin the process of obtaining a public health inspection warrant to secure access to your property.



San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

1145 North Azusa Canyon Road West Covina, CA 91790

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Compliance Deadline: October XX, 20XX

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City, State Zip

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Dear Property Owner,

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The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District is an ongoing effort to eliminate mosquitoes and reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases.

On October XX, 2024, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health acquired dengue fever in CITY residents. Dengue is a mosquito-borne disease. While such cases are rare in our region, mosquitoes may be present and capable of spreading the disease.

In response, the District is intensifying mosquito control measures. Allowing us access to your backyard will greatly assist in helping to protect your family and your neighborhood.

We also strongly encourage residents to take the following steps to reduce mosquito breeding sites:

- Use a mosquito repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or IR3535.
- Regularly eliminate standing water and other mosquito breeding sites.

Dengue fever can cause flu-like symptoms including high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, joint and muscle pain, rash, and mild bleeding. Severe cases can result in shock, severe bleeding and severe organ impairment which require immediate medical attention.

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Respectfully,

Gilbert Holguin
Director of Operations



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1145 North Azusa Canyon Road West Covina, CA 91790
Public Health Advisory Immediate Action Required

October XX, 20XX

Property Owner
1234 Address
City, State Zip

Dear Property Owner,

Compliance Deadline: October XX, 20XX

PLEASE BE ADVISED We have made several attempts to contact you and request access to your property but have not been successful. Due to elevated mosquito activity in your area, we are initiating a mosquito control process to your property. Please

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District is requesting access to your property as part of an ongoing effort to eliminate mosquitoes and reduce the threat of mosquito-borne disease.

On October XX, 2024, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health confirmed one case of locally acquired dengue fever in **CITY** residents. Dengue is primarily transmitted through the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito. While such cases are rare in our region, the presence of these cases suggests that infected mosquitoes may be present and capable of spreading the virus further.

In response, the District is intensifying mosquito control efforts to reduce the mosquito population quickly. Allowing us access to your backyard will greatly enhance our ability to prevent further spread of the virus, helping to protect your family and your neighbors.

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The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District is requesting access to your property as part of an ongoing effort to eliminate mosquitoes and reduce the threat of mosquito-borne disease. The District is currently conducting mosquito control operations in the 26 cities and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County that are paid through property taxes and are free of charge. We appreciate your cooperation. Respectfully,

Gilbert Holguin
Director of Operations



San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District
 1145 North Azusa Canyon Road West Covina, CA 91790
 Public Health Advisory Immediate Action Required

October XX, 20XX

Property Owner
 1234 Address
 City, State Zip

Dear Property Owner,

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- Regularly eliminate standing water.

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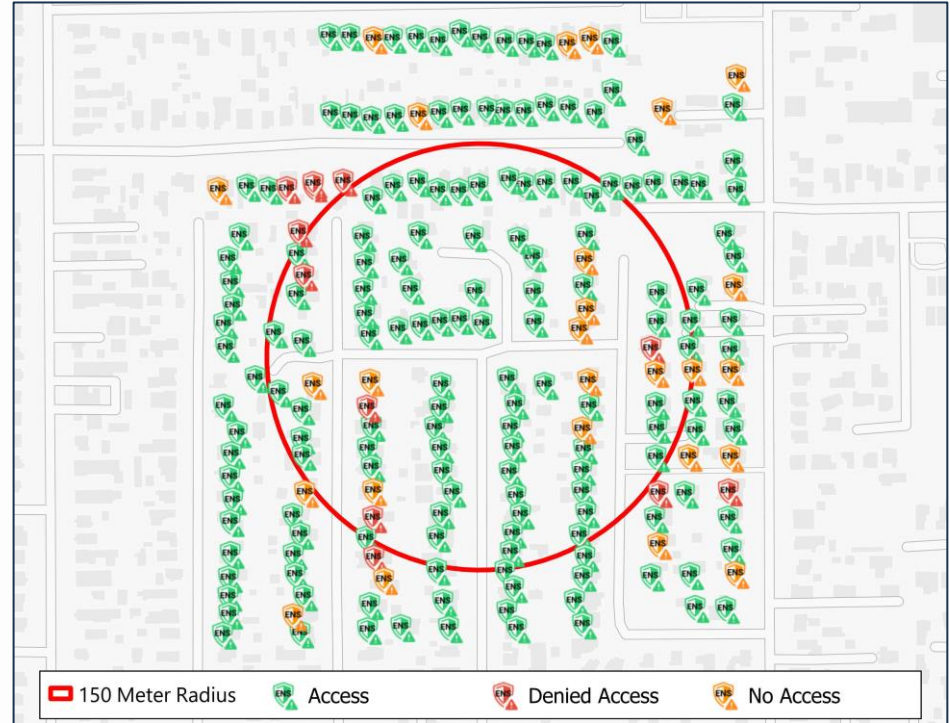
Gilbert Holguin
 Director of Operations

1st Set of Adjustments

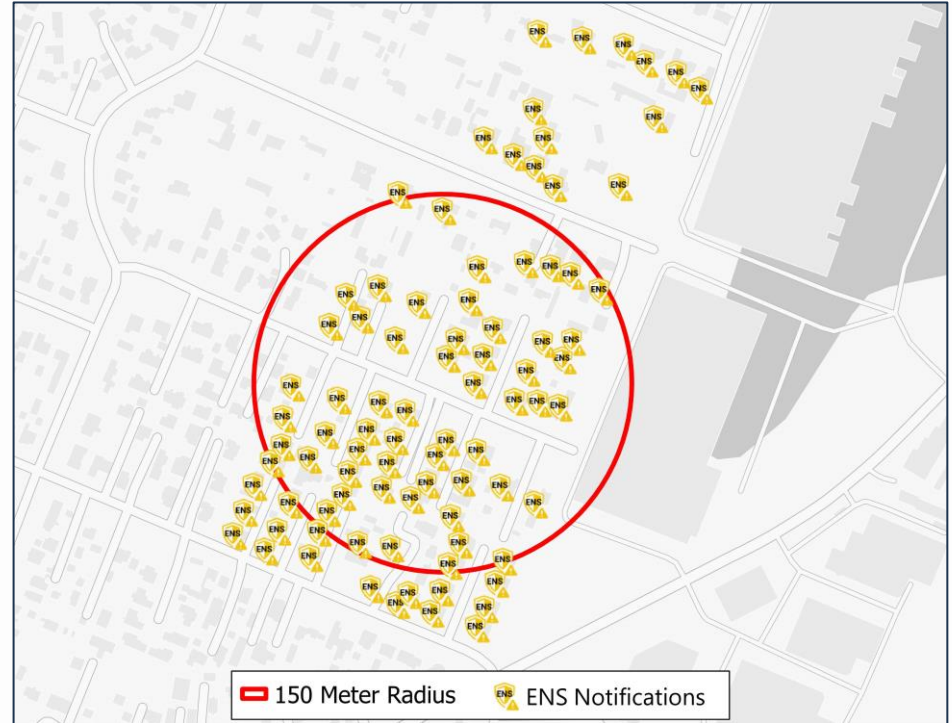
- In preparation for the next case:
 - Inspection letter created
 - Standardized inspection frequency
 - Maximum access with minimum attempts

Let's see these changes in action!

- Target area #1
 - Started on 9/5
 - 203 properties flagged
 - Goal was 100% access
 - On 9/26
 - 8 attempts
 - 57% access rate
 - 88 properties left
 - Sent inspection letter
 - **81% access rate**

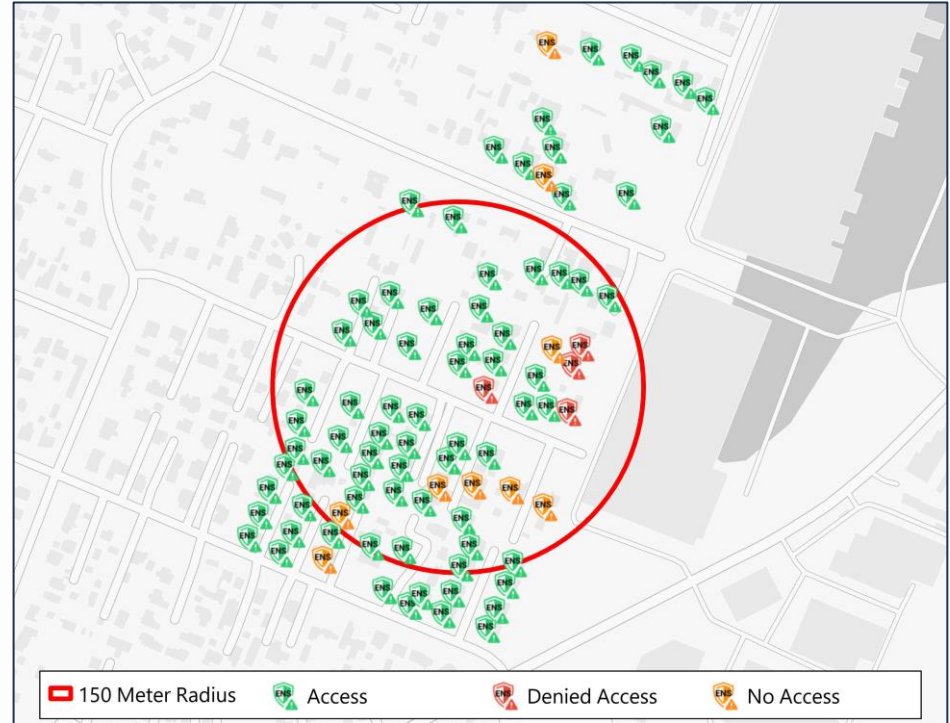


- **Target area #2**
 - 26 days later
 - Started 10/1
 - 87 properties flagged
 - Only 4 attempts

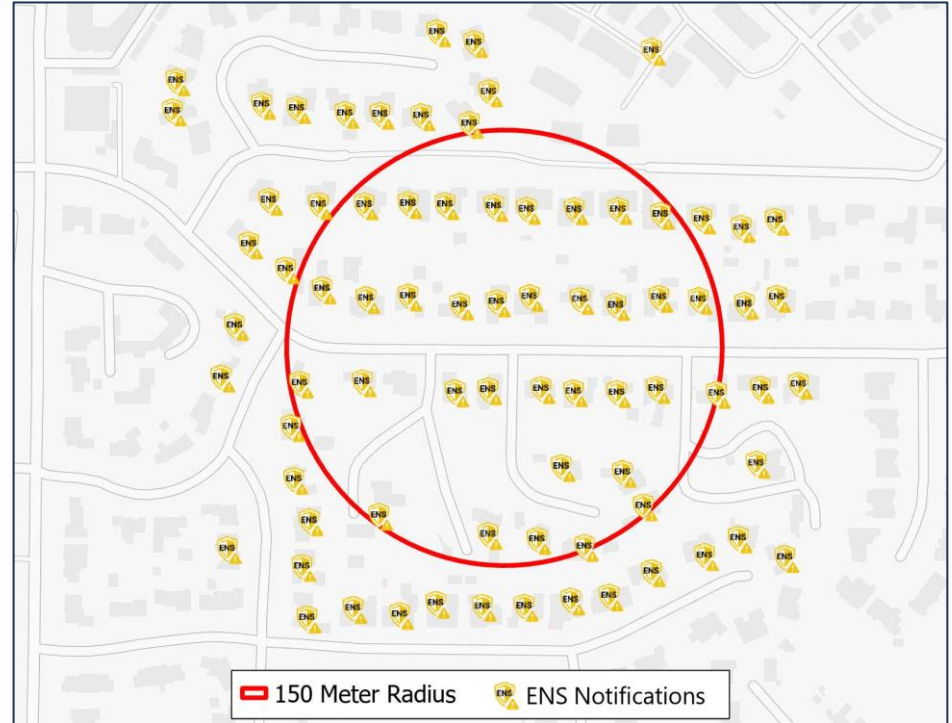


- **Target area #2**

- Started 10/1
- 87 properties flagged
- 21 letters sent
 - 8 responded (38%)
- Accessed 74
- No Access 13
- 85% access rate

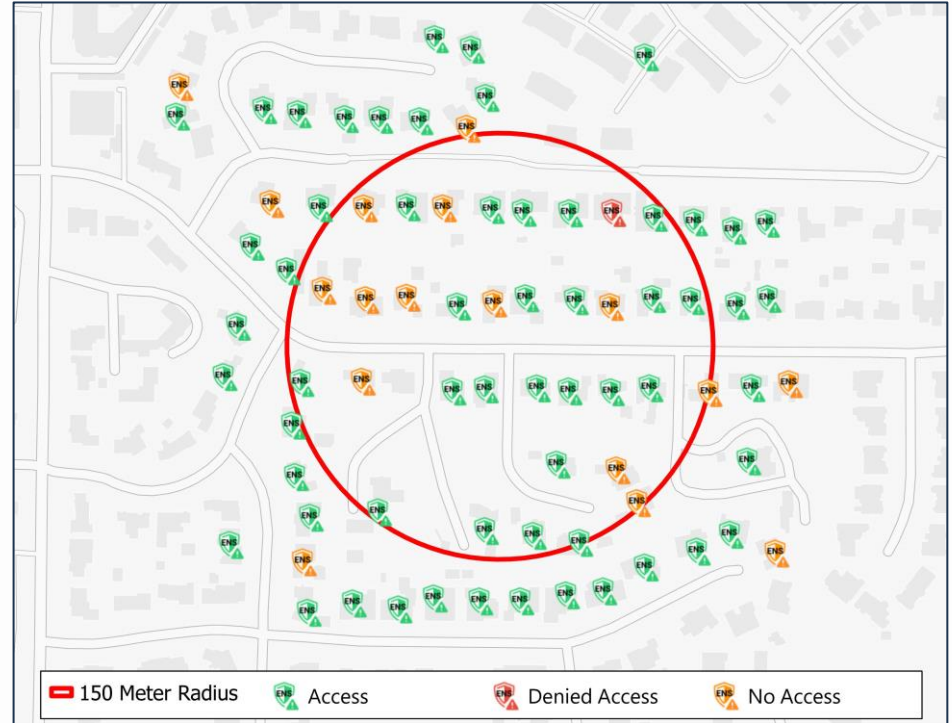


- **Target area #3**
 - 7 days later
 - Started 10/8
 - 77 properties flagged
 - 4 attempts

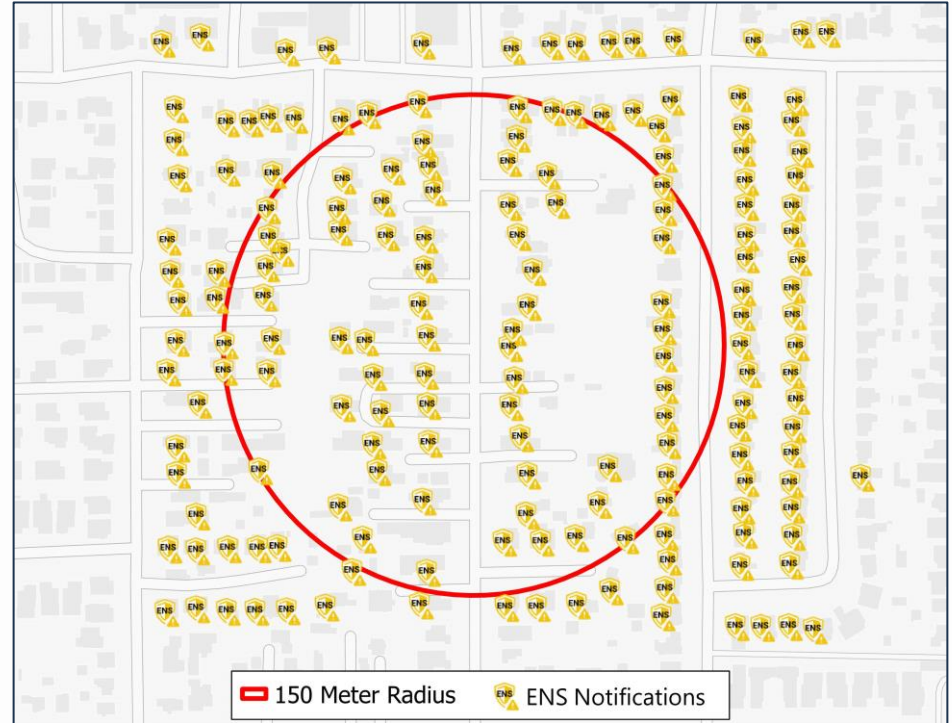


- **Target area #3**

- Started 10/8
- 77 properties flagged
- No letters sent
- Accessed 59
- No Access 18
- 77% access rate

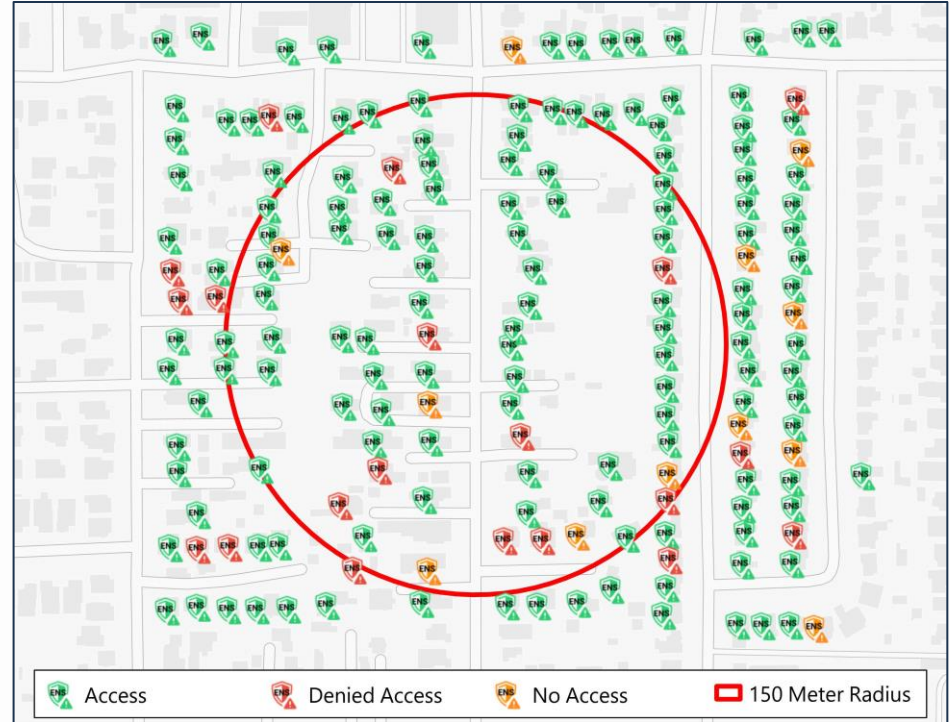


- **Target area #4**
 - 1 day later
 - Started 10/9
 - 174 properties flagged
 - 4 attempts

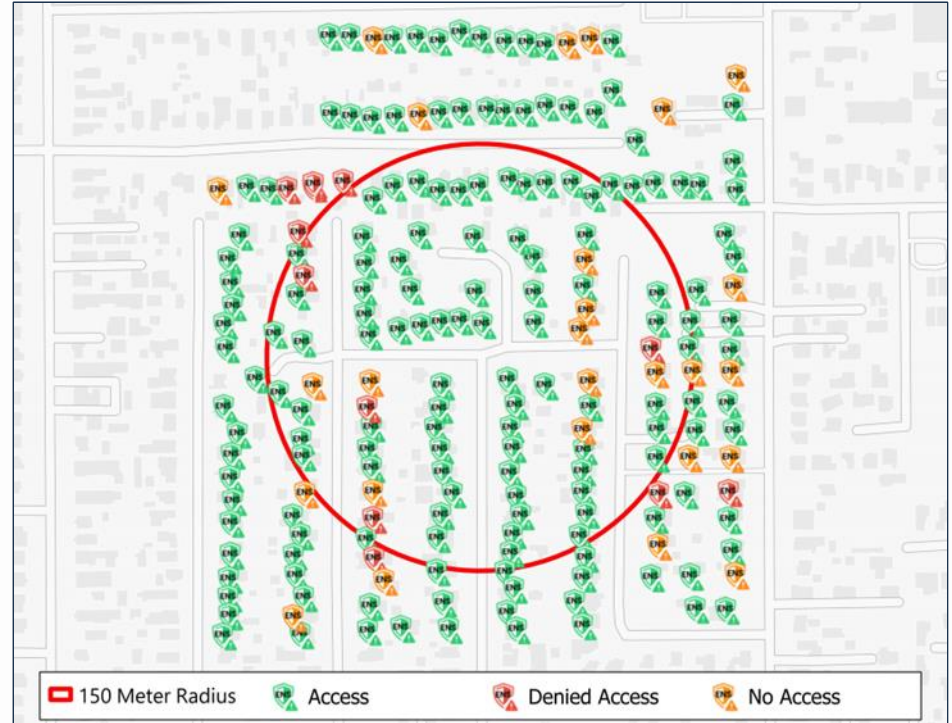


- **Target area #4**

- Started 10/9
- 174 properties flagged
- 47 Letters sent
 - 16 responded (34%)
- Accessed 142
- No Access 32
- 82% access rate

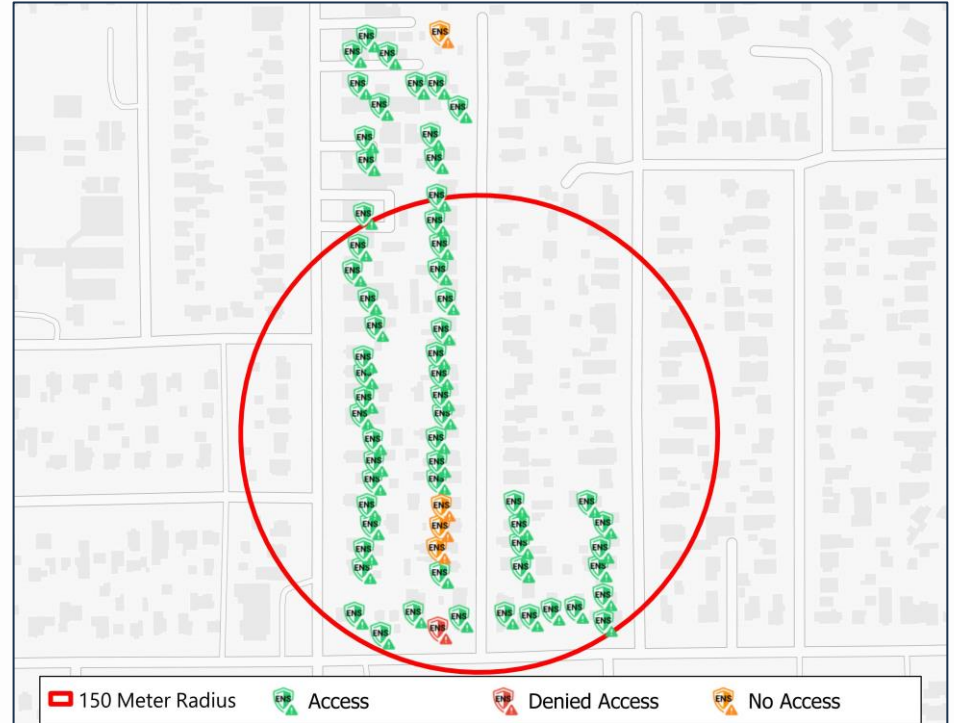


- **Target area #5**
 - 7 days later
 - Started 10/16
 - 65 properties flagged
 - 4 attempts

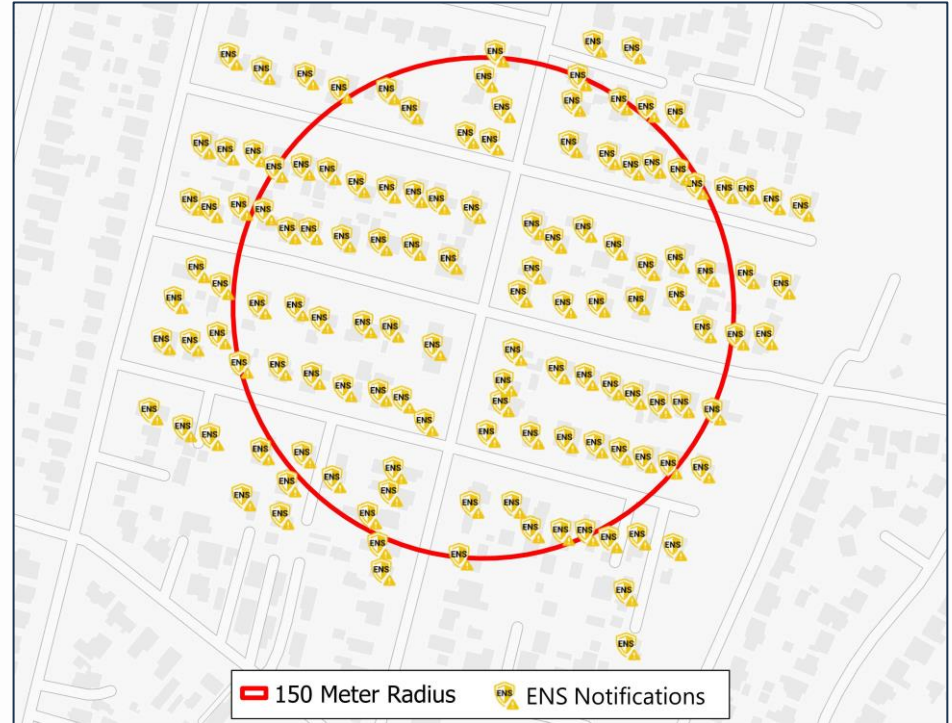


- **Target area #5**

- Started 10/16
- 65 properties flagged
- 17 letters sent
 - 5 responded (29%)
- 60 Access
- 5 No Access
- 92% access rate

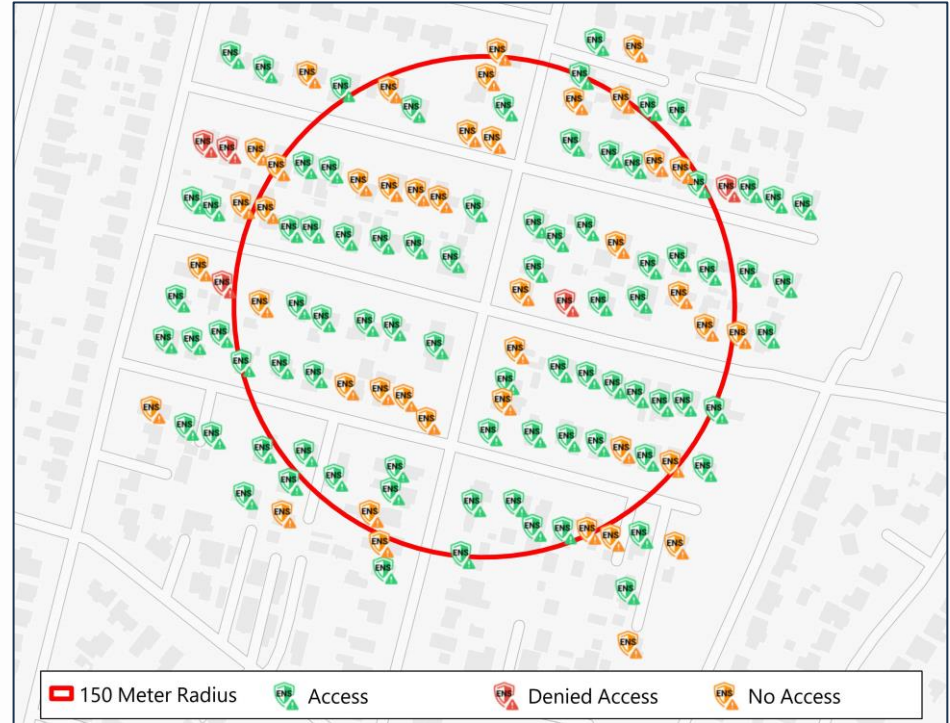


- **Target area #6**
 - 12 days later
 - Started 10/28
 - 129 properties flagged
 - Reduced to 3 attempts



- **Target area #6**

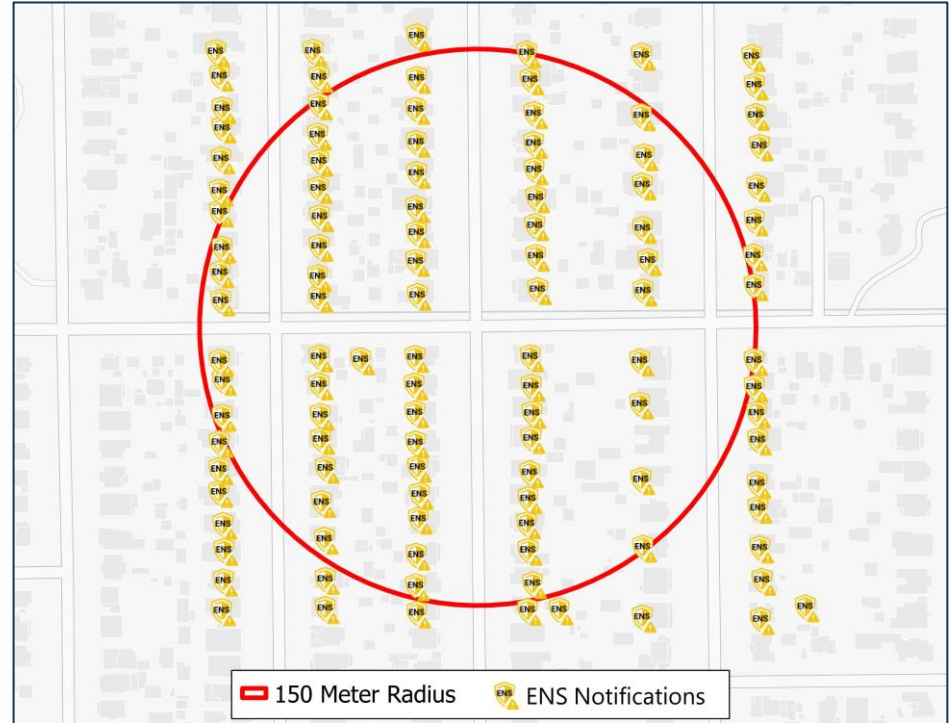
- Started 10/28
- 129 properties flagged
- No letters sent
- Accessed 82
- No Access 47
- 64% access rate



And just when you thought it was over!



- **Target area #7**
 - 15 days later
 - Started 11/12
 - 113 properties flagged
 - 3 attempts

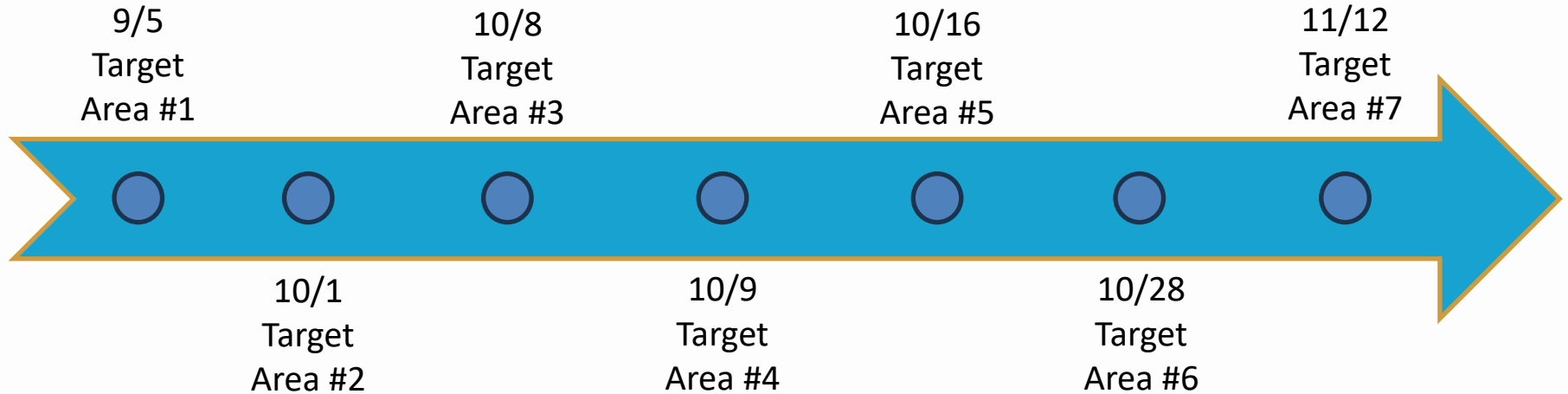


- **Target area #7**

- Started 11/12
- 113 properties flagged
- No letters sent
- Accessed 58
- No Access 55
- 51% access rate

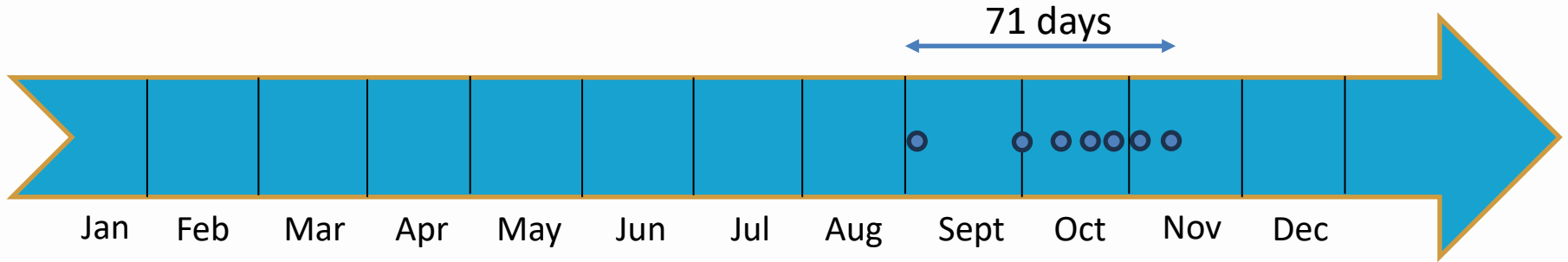


Local Cases Timeline 2024



71 Days

Local Cases Timeline 2024



Tools and Adjustments

- Inspection Request Letters
- Scheduled set number of attempts
- Inspection attempts on day 1
- Door hangers and education literature
- Warrants



Warrant Process

- We redesigned and wrote the warrant affidavit
- Sent it to our legal team to review
- Made the adjustments and requested a warrant for 2 areas of 300 meters each
- We were granted warrants for both target areas



Warrant Process (cont'd)

- Determined what area was most critical
- We reached out to the local police department and animal control for assistance (take them a while to develop a plan)
- It took a couple of weeks to get a call back
- Scheduled 2 different days



Impact of the adjustments?

- Improved access rate while reducing time and resources.
- Able to inspect and treat properties sooner
- Backpack treatments done sooner
- More time for specialists and other tasks
- Cost savings



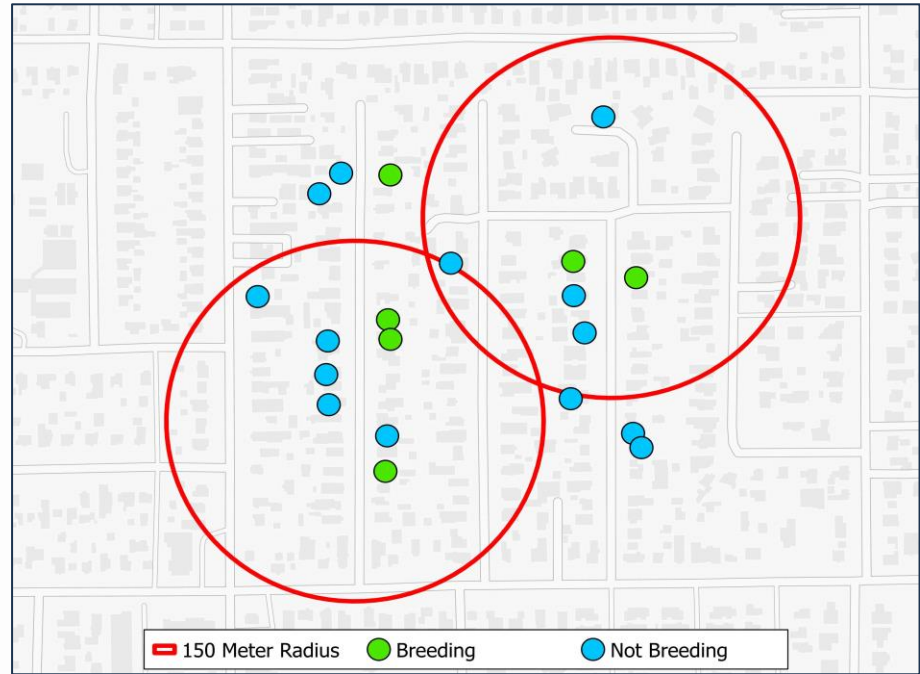
Inspection Letter Analysis

- 173 letters sent
- **97 responded**
- 20 breeding
- Approx 20% breeding



Warrant Analysis

- 29 warrants posted
 - 9 Responded same day
 - Done over 2 days
- **All properties accessed**
- 14 not breeding
- 6 breeding
- Approx 30% were breeding



2024 Operations Dengue Response Costs

Property Details

	Target area #1	Target area #2	Target area #3	Target area #4	Target area #5	Target area #6	Target area #7	Total
Date Started	September 7	October 1	October 8	October 9	October 16	October 28	November 12	-
Properties flagged	203	87	77	174	65	129	113	848
Access	165	74	59	142	60	82	58	640
No Access	38	13	18	32	5	47	55	208
Access Rate	81%	85%	77%	82%	92%	64%	51%	76%
Warrants	15	-	-	-	14	-	-	29

Door to door Response

Labor	\$18,496.80	\$5,780.25	\$5,482.98	\$9,710.82	\$6,275.70	\$7,927.20	\$6,275.70	\$59,949.45
Pesticide	\$21.45	\$33.35	\$6.57	\$60.39	\$19.12	\$29.52	\$12.15	\$182.55
Gas	\$37.89	\$42.63	\$54.74	\$10.00	\$22.89	\$40.26	\$150.00	\$358.41
Total Cost	18,556.14	5,856.23	5,544.29	9,781.21	6,317.71	7,996.98	6,437.85	60,490.41

Dengue Response Analysis

- 10 weeks (71 days)
- 848 properties flagged
- 640 properties accessed
- 208 properties with no access
- 29 warrants (9 called for appt when posted)
- 391 backpack treatments
- 17 truck mounted treatments (Over 4,700 acres)



Response Analysis

Door to door efforts

- 409 backpack treatments
- Labor Cost: \$59,949.45
- Pesticide Cost: \$182.55

Total Cost: \$59,949.41

Truck mounted treatments

- 17 truck mounted treatments
- 4,700 acres
- Labor Cost: \$184.70
- Pesticide Cost: \$39,557.71


Total Cost: \$55,842.94

\$116,333

Our best balance for access

- Standardizing our inspection attempts to 3
- 1 of those inspections on a Saturday
 - This year we will add evening inspections
- Have clear and precise literature
 - D/h, education material, letters
- Send an Inspection Letter after attempt #3
- Warrant



 San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District
1145 North Azusa Canyon Road West Covina, CA 91792
Public Health Advisory Immediate Action Required

Compliance Deadline: October XX, 2024

October XX, 2024
Property Owner
224 Azusa
City, State Z9

PLEASE BE ADVISED: We have made several attempts to contact you and request access to your property but have not been successful. Due to elevated mosquito activity and the confirmed presence of Dengue in your area, it is crucial that we gain access to perform mosquito control measures. This is our final request for access. If we do not receive a response within the next five (5) days, the District will begin the process of obtaining a public health inspection warrant to secure access to your property.
Please call (626) 814-9466, Select Option 4 to schedule an appointment.

Dear Property Owner,

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District is requesting access to your property as part of an ongoing effort to eliminate mosquitoes and reduce the threat of mosquito-borne diseases.

On **October XX, 2024**, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health confirmed one case of locally acquired dengue fever in **CITY** residents. Dengue is primarily transmitted through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito. While such cases are rare in our region, the presence of these cases suggests that infected mosquitoes may be present and capable of spreading the virus further.

In response, the District is intensifying mosquito control efforts to reduce the mosquito population quickly. Allowing us access to your backyard will greatly enhance our ability to prevent further spread of the virus, helping to protect your family and your neighbors.

We also strongly encourage residents to take the following precautions:

- Use a mosquito repellent containing an EPA-approved active ingredient such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535.
- Regularly eliminate standing water and dispose of unused containers to remove mosquito breeding sites.


Dengue fever can cause flu-like symptoms including high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, joint and muscle pain, rash, and mild bleeding. Severe cases can result in shock, severe bleeding and severe organ impairment which require immediate medical attention.

For more information about Dengue, please visit www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/dengue or contact the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health at 833-545-0473 (8 00 AM - 5:00 PM), publichealth@lacity.gov.

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District is a public health agency tasked with protecting residents from vector-borne diseases. The District provides enhanced mosquito and vector control services to 25 cities and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County within the San Gabriel Valley. Our services are paid through property taxes and are free of additional costs. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Respectfully,

Gilbert Holguin
Director of Operations



Recommendations

- Have a response plan ready
- Structure attempt schedule in advance, adjust as necessary
- On Day 1
 - Prepare for an area wide warrant
 - Reach out to local police department
 - Reach out to animal control
- Be flexible and ready to pivot
- Keep staff informed and encouraged



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS





THANK YOU

Gilbert Holguin

Director of Operations

San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and
Vector Control District

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626-814-9466

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