

July 31, 2006
2406 Rivendell Lane
Davis, CA 95616

Davis City Council
23 Russell Blvd.
Davis, CA 95616

Davis City Council:

We wish to present you with over 400 letters from people who oppose spraying of adulticides over urban or environmentally-sensitive areas and support our attached resolution. We ask you to request an opt-out for Davis from adulticiding by the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito Vector Control District for the ostensible reason of reducing the risk of the West Nile virus. We request that you schedule an emergency meeting of the Council to consider our resolution. We also request that you ask for a moratorium on the spraying of adulticides while you consider our resolution.

These letters were collected over the course of a little more than two weeks. We are disappointed that we could not send you video postcards instead, as many citizens are very upset at the spraying and are perplexed at your collective unwillingness to date to try to bring a stop to this very questionable activity, which makes less and less sense to us the more we learn. Those who support the spraying uniformly assume it is effective at slowing the transmission of WNV to humans. When people learn that the District has no evidence to support this, the ultimate question is why they are doing it. We are unable to answer the question, and we are unable to explain why our elected officials do not insist on the best possible protection from WNV in order to help protect us from the proven dangers of these toxic chemicals. These methods include improved and fully-funded larviciding*, an aggressive water-management program, extensive public education, and the full complement of biological controls – a focus that prevents the need for unproven adulticiding and the resulting toxin exposure. While long-term effects of toxin exposure are unknown, there are groups within the population that have known risks in the short term. For instance, according to a document from the California Department of Health Services: “All individuals, especially pregnant women, should take simple precautions to avoid exposure to pesticides, including those used in mosquito control.” This is taken from a document entitled “SAFETY OF PESTICIDES USED TO CONTROL ADULT MOSQUITOES (Pyrethrins, Pyrethroids, and Piperonyl Butoxide).” People with ALS, Parkinson’s and MS are also at risk for negative effects due to toxin exposure.

We also request that our Council ensure that residents are given timely notice of any adulticide spraying to be done in their area. For information on the lack of effectiveness of adulticiding, please visit our web page at <http://www.stopwestnilesprayingnow.org/Evidence.htm>. If you believe you have evidence that shows that adulticiding is effective and safe, please furnish us with citations. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jack Milton
Stop West Nile Spraying Now

* At the Sacramento Environmental Commission meeting in **April 2006** David Brown reported to the Commission that he had not put into place the staff necessary to handle another intense West Nile season using larval control. Yet, he has been predicting an intense year since **Oct 2005** (as reported in “Birds are first line of viral defense,” Brian Joseph, Sacramento Bee, October 2, 2005). So, basically the District has not done its job. Brown is clearly not following the CDC’s guidelines that aerial spraying be used only as a last resort if he has not fully supported larval control. But even though the District has not done its job, that doesn’t mean adulticiding is the right choice now – the right choice is to get on track with larval control, water management, and public education, especially as Brown himself has speculated that aerial control may make the problem worse (“Birds are first line of viral defense,” Brian Joseph, Sacramento Bee, October 2, 2005).