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spray
sacramento**

Stop West Nile Spraying Now
Support Effective Alternatives

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Local Residents Offer Comprehensive Pesticide Education

Davis and Sacramento Residents Present Less-Toxic Alternatives at Vector Board's Open House

Sacramento—Citing the increased awareness about the dangers of pesticides and the need for more effective protections from mosquito-borne diseases, local residents are hosting a supplemental open house at the Vector Board's annual event. Historically, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito Vector Control District has invested in efforts to kill mosquito larvae, educated the public about better protections from mosquito bites, and supported more responsible water management practices. Unfortunately, the District has also developed the practice of large-scale pesticide spraying, without first proving its effectiveness. In fact, the science around exposure to pesticides, like those used in West Nile virus, suggests that these chemicals present threats to human health and the environment. This summer, the District will have the opportunity to invest in more safe and effective biological controls.

“Spraying toxic pesticides to address West Nile virus creates an entirely new public health threat. Vector Control District officials need to take their fingers off the pesticide trigger,” said Eve Bowers of No Spray Sacramento. Both the active and “inert” ingredients of the adulticides being sprayed are known or suspected causes of cancer, nervous system disorders, endocrine disruption, liver and kidney damage, and birth defects.

“The spraying of pesticides to address West Nile virus has not been proven safe or effective. Pesticide spraying to control West Nile virus should not be a part of a control plan until its benefits have been proven to outweigh its costs,” said Paul Schramski, Director of Pesticide Watch.

WHAT: Comprehensive Open House at Sacramento/Yolo Mosquito Vector Control District Open House

WHERE: Sacramento/Yolo Mosquito Vector Control District office, 8631 Bond Rd, Elk Grove

WHEN: Saturday, June 23rd, 12:30-2pm

WHO: Residents from No Spray Sacramento and Stop West Nile Spraying Now (Davis)

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Concerns from Sacramento and Davis Residents

- Adulticide spraying to prevent West Nile disease is of questionable effectiveness.
- There is serious concern about short-term danger of the spray for certain groups of people and long-term danger for all people.
- The adulticides are increasing the risks from toxic chemicals already in the environment.
- Much more effective and perfectly safe alternatives exist.
- Various locales across the country have done as well with control without using adulticides.
- The disease is a rare one even in peak infection years, and less than 1% of the few who do become infected with the virus experience serious symptoms.
- Officials and the media have sensationalized the issue.
- Vector control and public health officials are seen to be doing something if they spray adulticides; unfortunately, all they are doing for sure is adding poison to our environment.
- The District sprayed Davis and Woodland last year on August 8 and 9, after the supposedly sacrosanct counts the prior weekend showed *zero* infected mosquitoes and a precipitous drop in the total mosquito population – down 92% since the week of July 16.
- Continuing to rely on adulticides in lieu of safe and effective biological controls hampers our ability to control serious outbreaks of other insect-borne diseases in the future.

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