

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



California
Department of
Health Services

Sandra Shewry
Director



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

August 22, 2006

Jim Northup
1204 Snyder Drive
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Mr. Northup:

Thank you for communicating your concerns regarding the aerial treatment of mosquitoes to reduce the risk of West Nile virus (WNV) transmission. This type of treatment is viewed as a "last resort" when other methods, such as treating the larvae, public education, and habitat manipulation, are insufficient to break the disease transmission cycle. Given the rapid increase in WNV activity in Yolo County, the actions proposed by the local mosquito and vector control agency are warranted and are in accordance with the state's "Mosquito-borne Virus Surveillance and Response Plan" (see www.westnile.ca.gov).

The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) supports the use of biological control agents to reduce immature mosquito populations. The use of Bti, *Bacillus sphaericus*, and mosquitofish has increased substantially over the last few decades. Unfortunately, despite extensive research and field trials, *Lagenidium* and *Romanomermis culicivorax* have not proven to be operationally viable options for mosquito control.

CDHS will continue to work with local agencies to ensure that California residents and visitors are protected from WNV to the fullest extent possible.

Sincerely,

Vicki L. Kramer, Ph.D., Chief
Vector-Borne Disease Section