

Table of Contents

District Boundary Map.....	Page 2
History.....	Page 3
District Organization.....	Page 3
District Activity.....	Page 4
Results of District Activity.....	Page 8
Professional Affiliations.....	Page 8
West Nile Virus Overview.....	Page 8
West Nile Virus Taskforce.....	Page 9
Public Information Activities.....	Page 9
Service Requests.....	Page 11
Adult Mosquito Light Trap Program...	Page 11
Weather Monitoring.....	Page 12
Encephalitis Surveillance Program.....	Page 13
Sentinel Chicken Flocks.....	Page 13
Live Mosquito Samples.....	Page 13
Dead Bird Surveillance.....	Page 13
Biological Control.....	Page 14
Chemical Control.....	Page 14
Physical Control.....	Page 16
Source Prevention Input.....	Page 16

Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District District Boundaries at July 1, 2007

**District
Map Goes
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SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

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HISTORY

The first local mosquito control district was formed in 1919 in the Redding area and formation of other districts in the Anderson and Cottonwood areas followed in the 1920's. These districts were formed to combat the terrible mosquito problems that plagued the area at that time. Malaria (a disease transmitted by mosquitoes) was widespread when the districts were formed. The Anderson, Cottonwood, and Redding areas had some of the highest malaria rates in the continental United States. Malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases are still a threat in the District today, and the mosquitoes that transmit these diseases are still abundant in this area and the potential for serious human health diseases transmitted by mosquitoes still exists. In the mid 1950's the districts consolidated into one district and annexations to the district occurred over the years as more and more people moved into areas where heavy mosquito populations occurred.



Early Mosquito Control

DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District is a special district type of government agency operating within the boundaries of Shasta County. Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District does not serve all of Shasta County. Two other districts, the Burney Basin Mosquito Abatement District and the Pine Grove Mosquito Abatement District serve areas of northeastern Shasta County, and many other areas of Shasta County are not served by any organized mosquito control agency. When West Nile virus (WNV) arrived in California in 2003 the District was concerned that the lack of mosquito control in unserved areas could lead to the establishment of WNV near the District and posed a health threat to District residents. For that reason, the District did limited mosquito-borne disease surveillance and emergency adult mosquito control in areas near, but outside the District from 2003 through 2006.

Some of the money to pay for those activities came from funds paid to the District out of the budget of Shasta County Public Health through a contract to provide emergency mosquito control services. Other money for this purpose came in the form of one-time grants from the the State of California to provide emergency control of mosquitoes to slow the spread of WNV. Residents outside the District do not pay for District services, Shasta county Public Health has other commitments for the money they have been paying to the District, one-time grants do not provide a stable funding source and WNV is expected to be a long-term problem in California, therefore, the District decided that residents outside of District Boundaries needed an opportunity to vote on whether they wanted to be included in the District and pay for our services. A survey conducted in 2006 indicated that there was strong support for annexation in areas west and north of the District and out Highway 44 to the east. An area to the northeast, including Oak Run, Round Mountain and Montgomery Creek did not show strong support for

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

annexation, so the District excluded this area from the annexation process.

In 2007 an election was held in the areas supporting annexation, following Proposition 218 guidelines, and new areas adjoining the old District Boundaries were annexed to the District. The landowners in those areas voted for a benefit assessment to pay for the District's services. Communities added to the district by the annexation include Igo, Ono, French Gulch, Lakehead, Sweetbriar, Castella, Shingletown and Viola. The annexation increased the size of the District from approximately 384 square miles to about 1086 square miles.

The District boundaries extend from Castella on the north to Cottonwood Creek on the south and from the town of French Gulch on the west to Viola on the east. A five member Board of Trustees governs the District. One Board member is appointed by the city council of each of the incorporated cities within the District: Anderson, Redding and the City of Shasta Lake. Additionally, two Board members are appointed by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors. The Board establishes District policy and is responsible for the expenditures of the District. The District is financed by a share of property taxes and from mosquito and vector surveillance and control benefit assessment charges. The benefit assessment amounts, which vary for different parcels, and are determined by land use and size, are collected on Shasta County property tax bills. Only the people within the District pay the benefit assessment charges. The District does not normally receive any share of sales tax, cigarette tax, motel occupancy tax, gasoline tax, state grants, or other allocations. In the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the District's total revenue was approximately \$2.2 million; approximately 42% derived from property taxes and 44% from the benefit assessment charges. An additional \$150,000 in one-time grant money from the State of California was awarded to the District to help with unbudgeted expenses for mosquito control products related to the control of West Nile virus in the District in 2007. Another \$18,442.05 in one-time grant money was also awarded to the District by the State for mosquito surveillance and lab equipment as well as expenses associated with the collection and processing of additional live-mosquito samples. In all, 7% of the District's income came from one-time monies from the State of California for emergency mosquito control related to West Nile virus protection. The remainder of the District's income came from miscellaneous sources such as charges to agencies, businesses and individuals receiving services that are beyond routine District functions. In 2007, the District employed twelve full-time people, one part-time person, and two seasonal people.

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

The District performs mosquito control activities and vector information services to protect the public from diseases and nuisance caused by mosquitoes and other vectors. Vectors are defined as small animals or arthropods that spread disease causing organisms or cause discomfort to humans and domestic animals. Examples of vectors are mosquitoes, flies, fleas, ticks, spiders and stinging insects, such as yellowjackets. Examples of some diseases transmitted by vectors other than mosquitoes are Lyme disease transmitted by ticks and plague transmitted by fleas.

Adult mosquitoes are flying insects that, after taking a blood meal, lay their eggs in water. The mosquito eggs need water to develop into larvae and then into adult mosquitoes. The life cycle of mosquito development repeats itself and, unabated, staggering numbers of mosquitoes are

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

produced and transmission of disease occurs. Examples of water sources where mosquitoes lay their eggs and develop are: ornamental ponds, industrial and agricultural water, lakes, river isolations, wetlands, sewer ponds, buckets, cans, and holes in trees. Anything that holds water can and often does produce or breed adult mosquitoes. Mosquitoes that transmit the human diseases malaria, western equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis and West Nile virus are common within the District. Heartworm, a non-human disease, is an often-fatal disease of dogs and cats transmitted by mosquitoes that breed in the oak treeholes that are abundant within the District. In the spring the District devotes a great deal of time to the control of these mosquitoes, which are a serious biting pest of humans.

In addition to these diseases, there are new, emerging diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, which can become a serious human health problem within the District. The West Nile virus (WNV), which first appeared in the United States in New York in 1999, and has killed over one thousand people, countless wild birds, and thousands of horses throughout the U.S. since its arrival, is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes. Since the first detection of WNV within the District in 2004, WNV has been present every year. Since 2004 the District has



Mosquito Larvae

stepped up surveillance and control efforts aimed at protecting public health from this disease. In 2007 WNV was detected in 48 dead wild birds, seventeen live mosquito samples, seven sentinel chicken blood samples, three horses (two died), and nine humans within the District. Although this is the largest number of human WNV cases that has ever been confirmed within the District in a single year, there were no WNV human fatalities in the District in 2007. A single human case in 2006 represents the only confirmed human fatality from WNV in Shasta County to date. More detailed information about surveillance and control of WNV within and near the District can be found in later portions of this report. West Nile virus is an example of the ever-present human health risk from new, emerging human diseases transmitted by mosquitoes. The type of mosquito that transmits the West Nile virus disease is the most abundant species of mosquito found in the District.

The District uses public health pesticides to reduce mosquito populations under a comprehensive control program, which uses state of the art equipment, techniques and products to control mosquitoes and protect the public's health and well-being. District employees are licensed in mosquito control and receive on-going training and continuing education to keep licenses current. Aerial photographs of the District are utilized and all known mosquito-breeding sources within the District are mapped. District personnel survey these sources for mosquito breeding on a regular basis and perform control activities when necessary. Control activities to kill mosquito larvae in water sources include the use of mosquito-eating fish, drainage, reduction, or elimination of mosquito breeding sources and/or chemical control.



Larviciding at a Vernal Pool

The District's pesticide program focuses on killing mosquito larvae in the water (larviciding) before larvae become biting adult mosquitoes. The District's larviciding chemical control program

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

includes the use of relatively new types of chemicals that are effective in killing mosquito larvae but are safe for non-target organisms. Most larviciding chemicals used by the District are by-products of bacteria or chemicals that are mosquito growth regulators. These chemicals are often very specific to mosquito larvae. To be effective they often must be applied to specific species of mosquitoes and at specific developmental stages of the mosquito's life cycle. District technicians must be well-trained and knowledgeable in order for these types of chemicals to be effective in killing mosquito larvae. These products are considerably more expensive than more conventional pesticides. They are only applied directly to standing water sources where the presence of mosquito larvae has been confirmed. These products quickly biodegrade and do not spread elsewhere in the environment. Other larviciding products are highly refined oil-based products that float on the water, which suffocate mosquitoes by creating a barrier that prevents the developing mosquitoes from breathing oxygen at the surface of the water. These products dissipate after a few days.

The District performs adult mosquito control (adulticiding) to augment its larval control program when large numbers of adult mosquitoes create severe pest problems or when an increased risk to human health from diseases carried by mosquitoes is present. Adult mosquito control is performed when larval control would not be feasible or effective. Adulticiding is the only way to quickly eliminate infected adult mosquitoes in the environment. Adulticide chemicals are applied in ultra low volume amounts and the pesticides used in these applications are not harmful to non-target organisms at the rates used for adult mosquito control. The adulticide applications are performed in the early morning or late evening. Most adulticides used by the District are pyrethroid products similar to products used in homes and on pets to control insect pests. Adulticiding products are dispensed by highly specialized, truck-mounted equipment. The equipment dispenses very small volumes (about two tablespoons per acre) of adulticide in extremely small droplets that are intended to migrate through an area rather than deposit on plants, water or other surfaces. These products quickly dissipate and are broken down by sunlight.

Chemical herbicides are also used for vegetation control work around the margins of certain water sources. Weeds may protect mosquito larvae from natural predators like mosquitofish and prevent mosquito larvicides from reaching sources. Vegetation control chemicals are also used to maintain access to mosquito breeding sources.

All pesticide work is done through cooperative agreements with the California Department of Health Services in cooperation with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. All pesticide use is reported to these agencies on a monthly basis.

The District monitors the effectiveness of its mosquito control program by placing mosquito-collection traps throughout the District. Contents of these traps are collected weekly and mosquitoes are identified and tabulated as to species and numbers of mosquitoes. (See "Adult Mosquito Monitoring Program" later in this report). This information is also added to a statewide surveillance database of mosquito population statistics.

The District performs physical control to reduce or eliminate mosquito-breeding areas. A District-owned backhoe is used to maintain and clean certain drainages to reduce mosquito breeding areas, as well as doing trail access work to improve access to mosquito breeding sources. The District utilizes the California Department of Forestry Conservation Crews from Sugar Pine

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Conservation Camp to perform hand brush cutting activities to maintain access trails to mosquito breeding sources.

The District gives input to the planning departments of Shasta County and the cities of Anderson, Redding and Shasta Lake on proposed developments, etc. to reduce or prevent the creation of new mosquito breeding sources, assure adequate drainage and access to mosquito breeding sources.

The District maintains a high level of mosquito control in public areas of the District, but can do little to directly control mosquitoes breeding in residents' yards. Therefore, the District has taken the additional step of paying for public service ads to provide information on mosquito prevention around the home. The information focuses on minimizing or eliminating mosquito breeding sources, particularly residential sources, such as standing water in buckets, tires, birdbaths, etc. Public information and education is an important part of the control process. The District provides information on its activities by talking to schools and organizations and distributing literature. For many years the District has exhibited and provided information at the Shasta District Fair in mid-June. In 2007 the District also provided an exhibit at the Spring Home and Garden Show at the Shasta District Fairgrounds in March. Educational materials relating to District activities are also provided to the public in static displays at the Turtle Bay museums.

The bulk of the District's control activities are based upon routine inspection and treatment of more than 3,000 mosquito-breeding standing water sources that have been identified and mapped throughout the District's 89-year history. Generally these efforts are sufficient to keep mosquito populations below thresholds that would present a public health risk from mosquito-transmitted diseases. Additionally the District responds to calls from the public for service by having a technician visit, survey, and discuss mosquito problems with the callers. When possible and necessary, additional mosquito control is performed to respond to mosquito problems identified through these service requests.

In addition to the District's mosquito control program, the District has a vector control program, which involves answering calls and providing information regarding vectors. Information on diseases caused by non-mosquito vectors such as Lyme Disease transmitted by ticks and plague transmitted by fleas, is also disseminated. The District provides literature, advises people on what they can do and/or recommends help from a non-specific private pest control agency.

An encephalitis surveillance program to monitor the human health risk from mosquito-transmitted diseases (See Encephalitis Surveillance Program in this report) is an integral part of the District's mosquito-transmitted disease control program. This program uses sentinel chicken flocks placed throughout the District. District personnel take blood samples from these chickens throughout the mosquito season. The California Department of Health Services Viral and Rickettsial Disease Lab tests these blood samples for the presence of encephalitis antibodies. Live adult mosquitoes are also collected by the use of special traps. These mosquitoes are collected, sorted, grouped by species, sent to the University of California at Davis and tested for the presence of encephalitis virus. The results of the chicken blood tests and live adult mosquito virus tests are used by the District to determine the risk for transmission of western equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, and West Nile virus to humans. Should the program indicate an increased risk for mosquito-transmitted disease, the District's adult mosquito control

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

program could be increased to protect the public's health. The District also collects and tests dead wild birds for the presence of West Nile virus.

RESULTS OF DISTRICT ACTIVITY

Shasta Mosquito & Vector Control District provides a high level of mosquito control, which protects the public's health and comfort from diseases and nuisance caused by mosquitoes through the use of environmentally compatible, state of the art products and techniques. Adult mosquito control programs are conducted early in the morning or late in the evening when public outdoor activity level is lowest. Much of the District's other control activities take place in remote inaccessible areas out of public view. Therefore many citizens may not realize that the lack of mosquito problems and diseases caused by mosquitoes within the District is the result of efficient, effective on-going mosquito control. Potential human health problems from diseases caused by mosquitoes such as Malaria, Western Encephalitis and St. Louis encephalitis as well as Dog Heartworm in pets are an ever-present risk. New emerging diseases, such as West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases present on-going challenges for mosquito control. An on-going challenge for the District is to provide information to the public on the District's activities and resulting public benefit.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Vector Control Joint Powers Agency provides for various insurance needs of the District while providing a substantial cost savings to the District. The District also belongs to the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California for benefits such as the continuing education of mosquito control technicians, legislative representation, funding for mosquito research through the MVCAC Research Foundation, and the gaining and sharing of information on the effective operation and management of mosquito and vector control districts. These affiliations have been useful in developing a unified statewide approach to dealing with issues of mutual concern, such as the arrival of West Nile virus and legislative efforts to protect and provide funding for mosquito control in California. The District is a supporting member of the Turtle Bay Museums and Arboretum. This has given district personnel a new venue for the distribution of information on the methods and importance of mosquito and vector control in northern California

WEST NILE VIRUS OVERVIEW

West Nile virus (WNV) is a type of mosquito-transmitted virus that has contributed significantly to the workload of Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District since before its detection within the District in July of 2004. Prior to 1999 the disease was limited to Africa, West Asia, and the Middle East. In 1999 an outbreak of West Nile virus was reported in New York City. Since that time it has spread to all states except Alaska, and Hawaii. In the United States 3,510 people were diagnosed with and 109 people died from West Nile virus in 2007. Colorado led the nation in human WNV cases with 555 in 2007, which is a 32% increase over the level there in 2005. California was second with 379 cases, a 57% increase over 2006. Colorado and California have had WNV since 2002 and 2003 respectively, but neither state is showing a decline in human WNV cases per year yet, as some had predicted would happen naturally after a few years. Most experts believe that WNV will remain a public health problem to some degree every summer and

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

fall from now on. An ongoing, effective, organized and integrated mosquito control program is the best defense that the public has against this potentially debilitating and deadly disease. This disease is particularly devastating to horses and birds where obvious neurological symptoms and death are common. WNV activity was found throughout Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District in 2007.

Like Western Equine encephalitis and St. Louis encephalitis, mosquitoes transmit West Nile virus and the reservoir hosts are usually birds. Unlike these other encephalitis diseases West Nile virus often makes the birds sick and is especially fatal to birds in the Corvid family (crows, jays, ravens and magpies). West Nile virus has also been found in many other species unaffected by other types of encephalitis, such as squirrels, seals, and alligators.

Most people infected with WNV do not show symptoms. Some people develop mild symptoms that include fever, headache, body aches, skin rash and swollen lymph glands. More severe symptoms include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control estimates that 1 in 150 persons infected with the West Nile virus will develop a more severe form of disease. West Nile virus was first detected in California in mosquito pools in the Salton Sea area in July of 2003. Further information about the detection of WNV within the District in 2007 can be found in the sections on surveillance later in this report.

West Nile virus Task Force: In 2003, Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District joined with thirteen other agencies and organizations with interests in health, the environment, animal control and wildlife issues to form a countywide task force to develop a Shasta County West Nile virus Action Plan. The action plan outlines the roles of the specific agencies and organizations based upon different surveillance indicators of the presence or absence of WNV in or near Shasta County. The group also provided an effective way of disseminating new information about the West Nile virus issue to and from various groups that previously had little contact with one another prior to the introduction of WNV into the United States. Answers to common questions and talking points to be used by the different groups were developed to assure the public that members of the task force were all educated, united, and prepared to deal with the WNV issue within Shasta County. Draft press releases were prepared, reviewed, and approved by the group. Also an email list was put in place to assure that all future contacts from members of the task force were mutually acceptable and agreed with the best information available to the group. In 2007 the task force proved to be a very useful tool, particularly in the dissemination of information to affected agencies and the public. In particular, efforts by Shasta County Public Health to provide materials, information and support in the area of public information took a tremendous load off of the District. This freed up time for the District to conduct more intensive surveillance activities.

PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

Effective public health protection through mosquito and vector control depends largely on the efforts of informed citizens to prevent and control these pests around their homes and properties. Everyone needs to know how to avoid exposure to vector-borne disease in environments where pests of public health importance may be found. Since the beginning of mosquito control efforts in California in the early 1900s major emphasis has been put on

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

educating the public about protecting themselves against health threats posed by mosquitoes and other vectors. Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District's comprehensive pest management strategy includes an active program of public health education. The District provides over forty-five brochures on a wide variety of topics related to mosquitoes as well as other vectors and the diseases they spread. In the course of their work, all District personnel answer questions from the public based upon years of training and experience in all phases of disease and vector issues. The District provides answers to questions by phone, email or in person on any topic related to vectors, diseases, insects in general and pest management that may require additional special expertise. The District also gives talks to classrooms, civic groups or any club, organization or agency with an interest in the type of work we do, as well as interviews with the press and broadcast media. Topics covered range from mosquito biology and personal protection against vectors to careers in biology and vector control.

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District Annual Report is provided to local government officials and other stakeholders to educate them about the activities of the District. On request, the District will give presentations in person to local government or private businesses, agencies and governing bodies to inform them about mosquito control issues and District activities. Presentations about District activities were given to government agencies including the Shasta County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of Anderson, Redding, and the City of Shasta Lake.. Additionally, interviews were given with, KNVN Channel 24, KHSL Channel 12, KRCR Channel 7, and KQMS Radio as well as the Valley Post and Record Searchlight newspapers throughout 2007. Most interviews were brief pieces about the developing West Nile virus issue within the District. A half-hour television show to educate the public about West Nile virus was made and aired on the cable public access channel through the middle of summer. It contained an interview with the District Biologist and the Shasta County Deputy Public Health Officer. The program was also made into a DVD to distribute for educational purposes and is available on the Worldwide Web as a podcast.

The Shasta District Fair was held from June 13 through 19. The District manned a fair booth this year twenty-feet (two booth spaces) wide as it has for the past several years. The booth was shifted over one space closer to the front entrance, which was a spot that the District has requested for the past eight years or so. This new location allowed more display area on the west side of the booth and better visibility to the public entering the exhibition hall. Topics in the display included District activities such as biological, physical and chemical control of mosquitoes. Live specimens included mosquito eggs, larvae, pupae and adults as well as mosquito fish. The booth was manned full-time with at least one District employee present at all times. During peak activity there were three employees at the booth. A substantial amount of high quality materials related to West Nile Virus information (brochures, information cards, checklists, etc.) were provided by Shasta County Public Health for the District to distribute at the booth. Despite the more favorable booth location, generally low attendance at the fair led to a conspicuous reduction in the amount of people stopping at the booth, and the distribution of handouts was down considerably from previous years. The District exhibited and provided information at a new venue, the Spring Home and Garden Show, at the Shasta District Fairgrounds in March. Visitors to this show displayed an extremely high interest in materials available to the public at the booth.

Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District has a web site with a wealth of information and links

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

related to mosquito and vector control, and District activities. The site allows the public to access information about meetings of the District's Board of Trustees. Forms on the website allow the public to ask biologists questions via email or submit service requests online. The District web site provides real-time weather updates from the Districts weather station every five minutes. In addition to being an educational tool for the public, this has enabled District personnel to assess weather conditions from home prior to the beginning of the workday. This information is useful in helping to make decisions about whether to proceed with planned treatments for adult mosquitoes that are dependent upon very specific weather conditions.

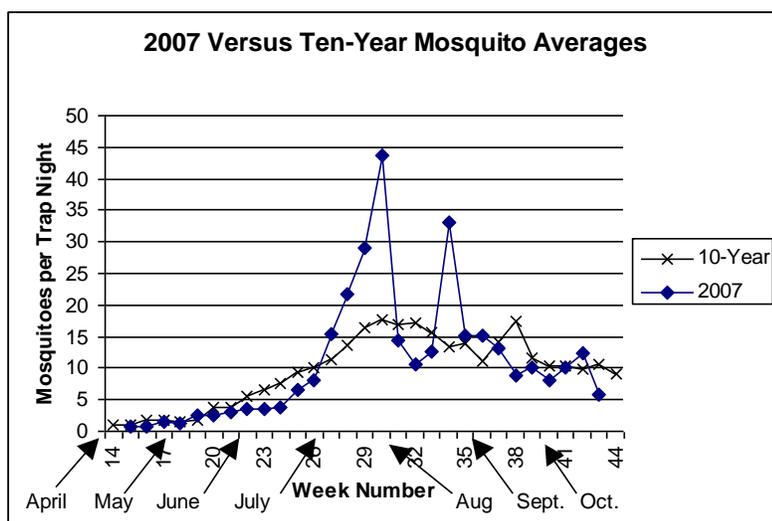
SERVICE REQUESTS

District personnel personally respond to all requests for service by members of the public within the District. Types of services performed include providing information, distributing mosquitofish, and performing various types of mosquito control as needed.

Total Service Requests:	823 (some requests have multiple causes)
Mosquito Complaints	362
Requests for Fish	428
Other	99
Outside District	32

ADULT MOSQUITO LIGHT TRAP PROGRAM

Adult mosquito-collection traps are used by the District to monitor adult mosquito population trends. Traps are placed strategically throughout the entire district to attract and capture mosquitoes over long periods of time. Mosquitoes from the traps are sorted and counted weekly to provide statistics used by the District to set mosquito control priorities. A total of twenty traps comprised the adult mosquito surveillance program, which was operated from April through October 2007. Per night tallies of mosquito numbers from all operational traps were reported to the California Department of Health Services as part of an integrated statewide surveillance program.



Adult Mosquito Light Trap Counts

Mosquitoes achieved peak populations of 43.6 mosquitoes per trap night on about July 28. High temperatures contributed to the high mosquito populations at that time. Daytime temperatures for the month of July averaged over 102°. The common species observed in the traps throughout the season was *Culex pipiens*, a species that has been implicated in the spread of West Nile virus. The District's mosquito

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SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

populations remained close to seasonal averages, except for spikes in mosquito populations occurring in July and August. The average number of mosquitoes per trap night in 2007 was up 80.8% and 120% compared to the years 2006 and 2005 respectively. Despite District control activities keeping mosquito populations low throughout most of the District, certain industrial areas create significant mosquito breeding problems for the District. The predominant species of mosquito produced at these locations is a known vector of West Nile virus. The District devotes substantial effort every year to trying new techniques and products to control mosquitoes in industrial settings. Owners of these industrial properties provide substantial cooperation and support to the District for mosquito control efforts in industrial mosquito breeding areas. Additional time has also been spent controlling mosquito breeding in urban water sources, such as catch basins, that were less of a threat to carry disease prior to the arrival of WNV.

WEATHER MONITORING

Weather has significant effects on mosquito activity as well as the District's ability to perform chemical mosquito control. For this reason four weather monitoring towers are located throughout the District to provide real-time information to District personnel. This information is vital to help guide mosquito control efforts.

Increased temperatures speed up the rate at which mosquitoes reproduce. Increases in precipitation increase areas of standing water in which mosquitoes can breed. Other factors such as unseasonably cold temperatures, low humidity and high wind decrease the level of mosquito activity. For this reason, the weather station located at the District office provides continuous data on temperature, humidity, wind speed and precipitation, which is stored on a computer where the information can be used for data analysis useful to District personnel and researchers.

Proper weather conditions are vitally important to assure the safety and efficacy of products applied for adult mosquito control. These products are put out by highly specialized application equipment that applies very low doses of concentrated mosquito control products in the form of extremely fine droplets over large areas. To be effective these products must drift through an area and stay low to the ground where the mosquitoes are flying or resting. The weather condition that allows this to occur is called a temperature inversion. This means that cold air near the ground is capped by a layer of warmer air above. This keeps the air near the ground from rising, and carrying the mosquito control product out of the target area. The four weather stations within the District take temperature readings at eight feet and thirty feet above the ground to ascertain whether a temperature inversion is present. Adult mosquito control is not performed unless the presence of an inversion assures that safe and effective use of these products is possible.

ENCEPHALITIS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

Mosquito-borne encephalitis diseases are viral diseases transmitted to birds, humans and horses by mosquitoes. In California these diseases include western equine encephalomyelitis, Saint

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Louis encephalitis and West Nile virus. These viruses are found naturally in birds where they usually cause no obvious physical symptoms (except for West Nile virus), but can be transported long distances by bird migration. Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District is part of a statewide, integrated program for the detection of mosquito-borne virus diseases. Evidence of WNV was found throughout Shasta County by every method of surveillance used by the District and other agencies for detection of this mosquito-borne disease in 2007.

Sentinel Chicken Flocks: Mosquito-borne viruses in California have birds as their natural reservoir hosts. For this reason Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District maintained chicken flocks to check for the presence of mosquito-borne diseases in the bird population that are transmissible to humans and horses. Cooperating landowners within the district allowed their properties to be used by the District as sentinel chicken locations. There were five sites with eleven chickens per flock within the District. Blood samples were taken from the chickens every two weeks from April 3 through October 3, for a total of 660 blood samples, which were submitted to the California Department of Health Services (DHS) for analysis in 2006. Seven chickens in five flocks within the District were found positive for West Nile Virus in 2006. This is the first year that all five of the District's flocks had at least one WNV positive bird. This is an indication that a high level of WNV activity was widespread throughout the District in 2007. The affected flocks were located in the Olinda, north Redding, north Anderson, Millville and east Cottonwood areas of Shasta County.

Live Mosquito Samples: In areas of high mosquito occurrence, samples of live adult mosquitoes were collected, sorted, grouped by species, placed into vials, and tested for the presence of encephalitis viruses. A total of 434 samples of live mosquitoes, generally 12 to fifty mosquitoes per sample, were tested at the U.C. Davis Arboviral Research Unit. Seventeen of the samples submitted to Davis in 2007 were found positive for WNV. No other evidence of any type of mosquito-transmitted disease was found in mosquitoes within the District in 2007. Three different species of mosquitoes in Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District have been found infected with WNV since its arrival in the District in 2004.

Dead Bird Surveillance: The spread of West Nile virus on the east coast has been characterized by conspicuous die-offs of birds – particularly in the crow family. The California Department of Health Services has instituted a program to receive and test dead birds submitted by mosquito districts for the detection of West Nile virus. When someone finds a dead bird they are encouraged to call the state West Nile virus Hotline, 1-877-WNV-BIRD. Depending on workload and the prevalence of WNV in a particular area, Districts may collect dead birds to test for the presence of WNV or merely track the locations of dead birds as a statistical indicator of the level of WNV activity in affected areas. Forty-five of 153 dead birds collected within the District were tested and found positive for WNV in 2007. Due to large numbers of dead birds found positive and their wide geographical distribution, the District almost completely curtailed dead bird

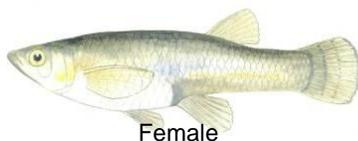


Technician Collects a Dead Magpie

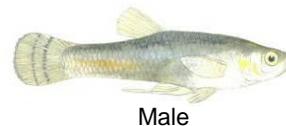
SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

collection and testing during the months of August and September, though dead bird locations continued to be recorded to help the District focus their efforts on potential WNV hotspots. In all 747 dead birds were reported from within the District in 2007.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL



The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District uses the mosquito-eating fish (*Gambusia affinis*) to control mosquito larvae within the district. Mosquito-eating

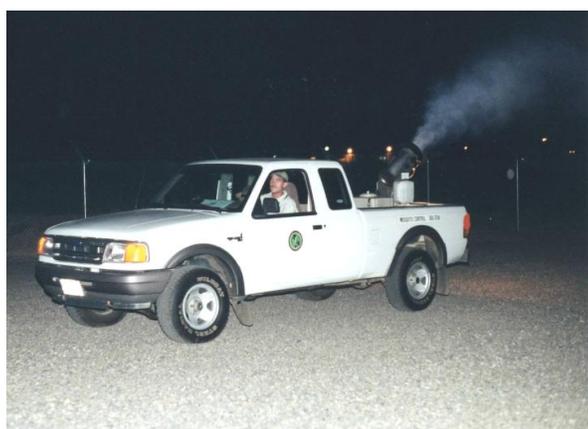


fish are maintained in holding ponds, and transferred to holding tanks at the district office. In addition to stocking natural areas throughout the District by mosquito control technicians, mosquito-eating fish are distributed free-of-charge to residents within the district for use on their properties. Fish can either be delivered to residents by District Personnel or picked up by District residents at the District office for use in permanent water sources anywhere within the District. The following is a summary of District activities related to the distribution of *Gambusia affinis* in 2007:

Fish Retrieving:	56.75 Hours Retrieving
Fish Transferring:	11.00 Hours Transferring
Fish Stocking:	61.17 Hours Stocking
Fisheries Maintenance	<u>178.50</u> Hours
Total Biological Control	307.42 Hours

CHEMICAL CONTROL

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District uses a variety of chemical control techniques in



Adult Mosquito Control

circumstances where other methods are ineffective or impractical. Larvicides are applied to standing water to control mosquito larvae in areas that cannot be controlled by mosquito-eating fish due to their inaccessibility, transient nature, or other factors. Very sophisticated chemicals are used for larvicide work that do not adversely affect the environment due to their highly specific nature and the very low doses which can be used for mosquito control work. These products provide a high level of control, but are more expensive and require more training and continuing education for the mosquito control technicians.

The presence of large numbers of adult mosquitoes, or the detection of mosquito-transmitted diseases within the District triggers application of adulticides in areas of concern to eliminate infected adult mosquitoes. Adulticides are applied at ultra-low volumes (ULV) as aerosols over large areas. Pesticides used in these applications are not harmful to non-target organisms at the rates used for adult mosquito control. The applications are

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

generally made before dawn under very stringent weather guidelines to provide maximum effectiveness while minimizing human exposure.

Vegetation control products are used by the District to eliminate cover around the edges of water sources that may provide protection to developing mosquito larvae and/or prevent mosquito sprays from getting to the water surface. Vegetation control products are also used to help keep trails open and maintain access to mosquito sources. All pesticide work is done through cooperative agreements with the California Department of Health and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. All pesticide use is reported to these agencies on a monthly basis.

<u>Adulticiding:</u>	692.25 Hours
Total Acres	251,556 Acres Treated

<u>Larviciding:</u>		
Agricultural Sources	256.83 Hours	19.91%
Industrial Sources	146.25 Hours	11.34%
Natural Sources	749.00 Hours	58.07%
Residential Sources	<u>137.83 Hours</u>	<u>10.68%</u>
Total Larviciding	1289.92 Hours	100.00%
Total Larviciding Acres:	1338.93 Acres Treated	

<u>Chemical Vegetation Control</u>	374.83 Hours
Total Acres	184.10 Acres Treated

PHYSICAL CONTROL:

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District has a program to reduce or eliminate mosquito breeding areas by managing the water sources where mosquitoes breed. Such physical control includes clearing vegetation around pond or stream banks, improving drainage, and providing access for other types of control work. The District works in cooperation with the local California Department of Fish and Game on its physical control projects.



Backhoe Source Reduction

Equipment:

Total Bulldozer Time	0.33 Hrs.
Total Backhoe Time	411.5 Hrs.

SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Helper Time 184.33 Hrs.

Total Equipment Time 596.16 Hrs.

Physical Control By Hand

Brushing 177.25 Hours

Brushing by Sugar Pine 435.50 SMVCD Hours

Burning 214.75 Hours

Empty Containers 0.50 Hours

Beaver Dam Removal 4.50 Hours

Total Physical Control by Hand 832.50 Hours

SOURCE PREVENTION INPUT

With the cooperation of the planning departments of Shasta County and the cities of Anderson, Redding and Shasta Lake, the District reviews proposed development, such as subdivisions, commercial developments, and lot splits, in an attempt to reduce and prevent the creation of new mosquito breeding sources, to ensure adequate drainage, and District access to mosquito breeding sources.

2007 Annual Report

SHASTA MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

A detailed black and white line drawing of a mosquito, shown from a side profile, facing right. It has long, thin legs, a segmented abdomen, and two large, patterned wings. The drawing is positioned to the left of the main title text.

William C. Hazeleur, District Manager

John Albright, District Biologist

Audie Butcher, Operations Supervisor

District Board of Trustees

President Bob Michiels, City of Redding

Vice President Henry Hurlhey, City of Shasta Lake

Secretary Marvin Bennett, City of Anderson

Gary Hergert, Shasta County

C. Bruce Wade, Shasta County (Deceased 2/18/2007)

Jim Salini, Shasta County (5/1/2007)

Board of Trustees Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the District Office:

19200 Latona Road
Anderson, CA

Agendas are available online at shastamosquito.org/Agendas/current_agenda.html