


TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: BRUCE BUEL 
DATE: MAY 22, 2009

**AGENDA ITEM
E-3
MAY 27, 2009**

VECTOR CONTROL BALLOT

ITEM

Determine vote position on County Vector Control Assessment and authorize submittal [RECOMMEND APPROVAL]

BACKGROUND

Attached is the assessment ballot from San Luis Obispo County and an informational brochure. As set forth in the ballot, NCSD total annual cost would be \$7.78.

FISCAL IMPACT

Passage of the measure would result in an annual cost to NCSD of \$7.78.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board establish a YES vote position and authorize staff to submit the ballot.

ATTACHMENTS

- Ballot
- Information

t:\documents\board matters\board meetings\board letter 2009\Vector Control Ballot.doc

Who May Complete This Official Assessment Ballot

1. If the property is owned by an individual, the individual may sign.
2. If a property is held by a husband and wife, either may sign for both.
3. If two or more persons own the property as tenants-in-common or as joint tenants, any one tenant-in-common, or joint tenant, may sign for all.
4. If the property is owned by a corporation, the assessment ballot may be signed for the corporation by an officer or officers authorized to make contracts or by resolution of the corporation's Board of Directors.
5. If the property is owned by another legal entity, the assessment ballot may be signed by any person authorized by law to make contracts for the entity.
6. If the property is owned by a public agency, the assessment ballot may be signed by any person authorized by law to make contracts for the agency or by resolution of the agency's Governing Board.

Please see other side to complete this assessment ballot.

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NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
PO BOX 326
NIPOMO CA 93444-0326



Steps for Completing the Official Assessment Ballot

1. Verify that the owner name, addresses, and parcel number(s) listed on the assessment ballot are correct. If they are not correct, please call (805) 781-5544.
2. Fill in or clearly mark the oval next to the word "YES" or "NO" to approve or disapprove of the proposed assessment. You may use a pencil or pen.
3. Sign and date the ballot. Only official assessment ballots which are signed and marked with the property owner's support or opposition will be counted. **After marking your vote, simply FOLD the assessment ballot so that your vote is on the inside of the fold. Then place the assessment ballot in the return envelope provided.** No postage is necessary to mail back your assessment ballot.
4. If you make a mistake in completing your ballot or wish to change or withdraw your ballot, please call (805)-781-5544.

(See enclosed notice for further information)

PARCEL NUMBER	PROPOSED ASSESSMENT
092152030	\$3.43
090271025	\$2.55
090271026	\$1.69
091232016	\$0.11
090142006	\$0.00
090441020	\$0.00
091240004	\$0.00
091371022	\$0.00
092231016	\$0.00

FOLD HERE (this side should be on outside after fold)

Mosquito Facts:

Disease Transmission: Mosquitoes infected with a disease can spread that disease to other humans or animals when they bite and suck blood.

Why Do Mosquito Bites Itch? When a mosquito bites, it injects chemicals to prevent the blood from clotting. These chemicals cause irritation that makes you itch.

Do All Mosquitoes Suck Blood? Only the female mosquitoes feed on blood; male mosquitoes feed on plant nectar and juices.

Mosquito Breeding Sources: Mosquitoes lay eggs in stagnant, standing water. These eggs turn into larvae that live in the water until they hatch into adult mosquitoes. By eliminating standing water, we can eliminate the sources of mosquitoes.

Mosquito Breeding Potential: A small household bucket filled with stagnant water can produce thousands of mosquitoes per day.

Lifespan: About 14 days for females; 7 days for males.

Eggs: One female can lay as many as 600 eggs in its lifetime.

Wing Speed: Moves more than 1,000 times a second; that is the buzzing sound we hear.

Public Information Meetings

For additional information you may attend the following Public Information Meetings the Program will be holding:

North County Presentation on June 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Centennial Park-Oak Room, 600 Nickerson Drive, Paso Robles, Ca 93446

Central County Presentation on May 20, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Agricultural Auditorium, 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

South County Presentation on May 21, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Arroyo Grande Regional Center, 800 West Branch Street, Arroyo Grande, Ca 93420

OFFICIAL NOTICE AND ASSESSMENT BALLOT INFORMATION GUIDE

For the Proposed

MOSQUITO, VECTOR AND DISEASE CONTROL ASSESSMENT



for the

San Luis Obispo County Mosquito and Vector Control Program

Why Did You Receive This Assessment Ballot?

Currently the San Luis Obispo County Mosquito and Vector Control Program ("Program") provides limited mosquito and vector control services within the County. The Program's current level of funding is not sufficient to provide comprehensive year-round mosquito and disease control services throughout the County. Moreover, due to the County's budget crisis, the limited funding received by the Vector Control Program is likely to be cut, which would further reduce the level of mosquito and disease control services in the County.

This ballot allows property owners in the County to decide if comprehensive services should be provided to reduce mosquito populations throughout the County on a year-round basis and to prevent mosquito-borne disease outbreaks in humans, animals and pets. If this measure is approved, other disease carrying insects and rodents, such as ticks and rats, would also be monitored and regularly tested for the presence of harmful diseases.

RECEIVED

MAY 11 2009

NIPOMO COMMUNITY
SERVICES DISTRICT

When mosquitoes bite humans or animals, they can transmit diseases and viruses. The proposed assessment would reduce adult mosquito populations in the County.



SUMMARY OF PROPOSED SERVICES:

Mosquito Control - Year round control of mosquitoes before they hatch using environmentally sensitive methods. Inspection and control of mosquitoes in residential, commercial, and agricultural areas. Monitoring of mosquito breeding sources and identification and control of new breeding sources. Control of mosquito larvae before they emerge and begin biting people and animals. Mosquito-eating fish would be provided to the public free of charge.

West Nile Virus Disease Prevention - Year round testing for West Nile virus and other diseases carried by mosquitoes and disease prevention services in locations in which disease is found.

Response to Service Requests - Property owners and residents could call the Program for a service request in the area of their property. A service technician would respond directly to the caller's problem, free of charge.

Disease Surveillance/Prevention - A disease surveillance system would be used to proactively and routinely identify the presence, location, types and quantities of mosquitoes and other vectors. Expanded testing and monitoring for diseases carried by mosquitoes, such as encephalitis, canine heartworm, malaria and other emerging pathogens.

Surveillance of Ticks and Other Vectors - Surveillance and testing of ticks, rodents, and other vectors and the diseases they carry such as Lyme disease, relapsing fever, plague, and hantavirus.

Emergency Response - Respond to new vector-borne disease quickly and effectively to prevent human disease transmission. If diseases are discovered the Program would take immediate actions to help prevent a disease outbreak.

Community Education - Provide information to the public about protecting themselves, their livestock and pets from diseases carried by mosquitoes and other vectors and how to prevent mosquito breeding.

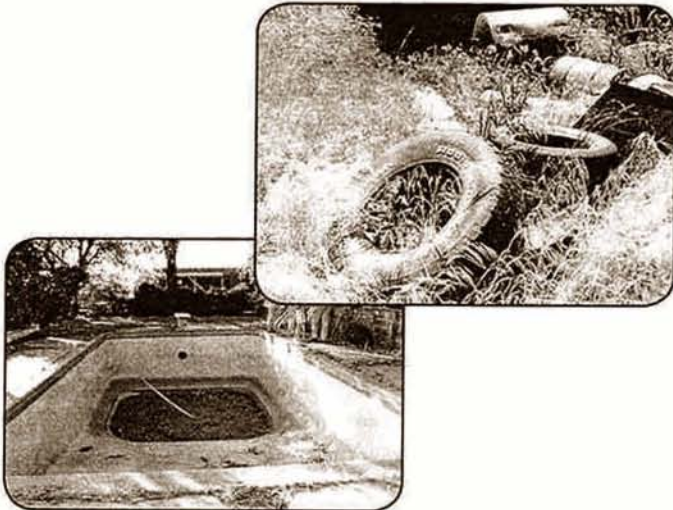
How Does the Program Control Mosquitoes?

The Program's mosquito, vector and disease control services will involve the use of environmentally friendly methods to reduce mosquito populations. The Program's mosquito and disease control efforts will focus on reducing the sources of mosquitoes before they emerge and begin biting people and animals.

This approach starts with identifying the sources of problem mosquitoes. Removable sources, such as standing, stagnant water in containers, old tires, etc, are eliminated or removed as soon as possible. For other sources such as underground drainage systems, ditches, marshes and unmaintained swimming pools, the Program would use environmentally sensitive methods such as mosquito fish and products derived from naturally occurring substances that selectively target mosquito larvae before they transform into flying, biting adult mosquitoes. The Program would also respond to requests from property owners to control local mosquitoes.

This mosquito control approach has been found to be environmentally safe and is endorsed by the Environmental Protection Agency, the University of California and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Examples of common mosquito sources include old tires and abandoned pools.



More About the Mosquito and Vector Control Program

The County of San Luis Obispo (the "County") covers an area of approximately 3,304 square miles. Within the County there are 4,500 miles of streams, 24 square miles of lakes, 119 miles of coastline and many other marshes and ponds. Many of these water locations are mosquito breeding spots. In addition, there are hundreds of other mosquito breeding locations throughout the County, including storm drainage systems in urban areas, ditches, standing water from over-watered landscaping and agriculture, and containers that hold water such as buckets, old tires and even the small flower containers in cemeteries.

Mosquitoes that breed in these source locations can be effectively controlled by regular mosquito abatement services that focus on controlling mosquito larvae before they hatch. In fact, most other populated areas in the State already have full mosquito abatement programs that have proven to be able to effectively control mosquito populations and to help prevent the diseases they transmit.

The Program is the sole provider of mosquito and vector control services in San Luis Obispo County, but due to its limited funding, the Program currently provides limited disease surveillance, and mosquito and vector control services. This mailed assessment ballot allows property owners in the County to decide if improved, comprehensive, year round mosquito control and vector-borne disease prevention services should be provided in the County.

What Are the Public Accountability Safeguards?

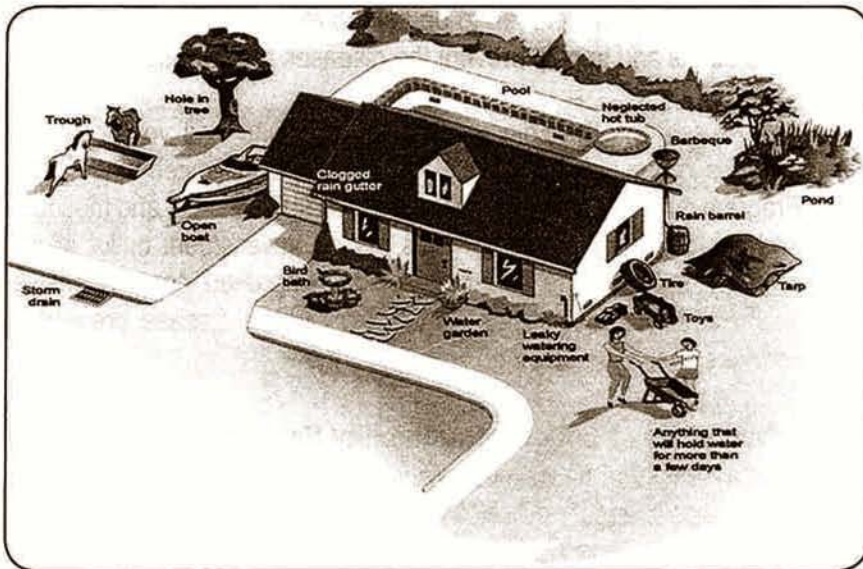
This assessment ballot measure will include several layers of fiscal safeguards to ensure that all funds are expended appropriately. First, the funds raised can only be spent on mosquito, vector and disease control within San Luis Obispo County. Second, the funds will be overseen by the County Board of Supervisors with annual audits to ensure that all funds are expended appropriately. And third, the budget for the services proposed for each year will be presented annually to the public at a noticed public hearing as required by law.

What Is a Vector?

"Vector" means any animal capable of transmitting the causative agent of human disease or capable of producing human discomfort or injury, including, but not limited to, mosquitoes, flies, mites, ticks, other arthropods, and rodents and other vertebrates (California Health and Safety Code Section 2002(k)).

What Areas Receive Services?

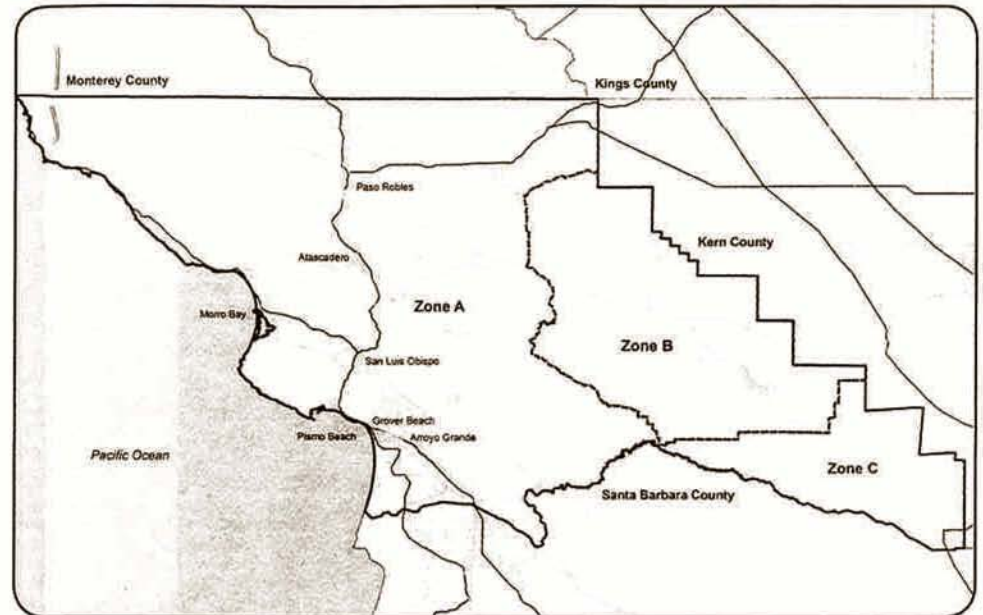
If approved, the assessments would be used to expand mosquito and vector control and disease prevention services throughout San Luis Obispo County, including cities, urbanized areas and rural areas. The proposed assessment rate in each Zone is based on the relative cost of services to be provided in each Zone.



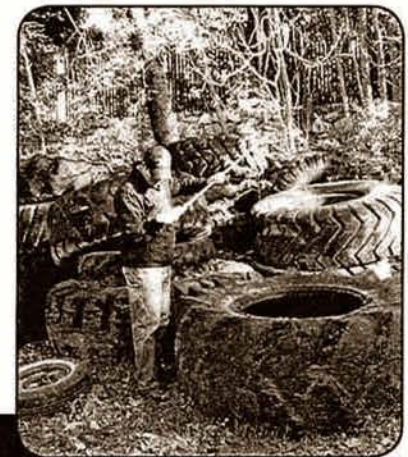
Service Examples

These photos depict some of the types of services and approaches the Program uses to monitor and control mosquitoes and other vectors to help prevent diseases they transmit. The common backyard breeding sources are also depicted above.

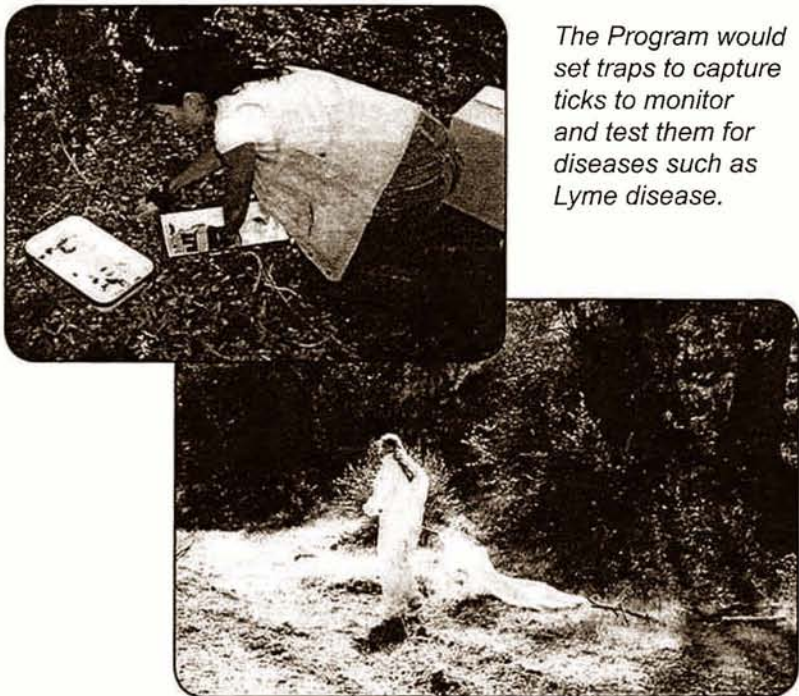
San Luis Obispo County Vector Control Program Boundaries



Inspecting for mosquito breeding in stagnant water areas.



Mosquito-eating fish are placed in ponds and other mosquito sources, and may be provided to property owners free of charge.



The Program would set traps to capture ticks to monitor and test them for diseases such as Lyme disease.

How Does the Program Test for Diseases?

In order to test for mosquito-borne viruses such as Western Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus, the Program would use proven disease surveillance approaches, such as mosquito traps. Mosquitoes are trapped, collected, identified and tested for disease. If disease is discovered, the Program implements a response plan that could include focused control efforts, public education and other services as warranted.

How Are Diseases Prevented By Mosquito Control Services?

First, by reducing mosquito populations, the transmission of vector-borne diseases is minimized. Second, through the regular testing of mosquitoes and other insects for the presence of disease, emerging disease threats can be discovered and the proper steps can be taken to protect the public health. By providing funds to expand the testing of local vectors such as mosquitoes, the assessment would allow the Program to better prevent outbreaks of mosquito-borne diseases.

How Much Is the Proposed Assessment?

The proposed assessment for your property for fiscal year 2009-10 is printed on the Official Assessment Ballot included with this notice and information item. For single family homes on one acre or less, the proposed annual assessment is \$9.80 if the parcel is in Zone A, \$4.84 if in Zone B, and \$4.50 if in Zone C (see map in page 6), while other residential property types are assessed according to the number of dwelling units and size. Properties in Zones B and C have a reduced rate because these areas are more remote and will receive a lower level of mosquito and disease control services. Commercial, industrial and agricultural properties are assessed according to their parcel size and property type. The total amount that would be raised by the proposed assessments for fiscal year 2009-10 is approximately \$1,104,000.

Will This Assessment Increase in Future Years?

If approved, the assessment will continue in future years and cannot be increased without approval from property owners in another assessment ballot proceeding, except for an annual adjustment tied to the change in the Los Angeles Area Consumer Price Index, not to exceed 3% per year.

How Was the Assessment Determined?

The total cost of the mosquito, vector and disease control services that will be funded by the assessments is allocated to each property based on the estimated special benefit received. The method of benefit determination is based on the type of property, the number of dwelling units, and its size. The types of special benefit include: reduced mosquito and vector populations on property and enhanced desirability, utility, usability and functionality of property; increased safety of property; reductions in the risk of new diseases and infections; protection of economic activity; protection of agriculture, tourism and business industries; reduced risk of nuisance and liability; and improved marketability of property. An engineer's report describing the proposed services, method of assessment, budget, and proposed assessments for each parcel is available for review at the San Luis Obispo County Mosquito and Vector Control Program, located at 2156 Sierra Way San Luis Obispo, California or on our website at <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov>.

Method of Voting

To complete the enclosed official ballot, mark the oval next to either Yes or No, sign the ballot, place it in the provided postage paid return envelope and mail or hand deliver it. Only official ballots which are signed and marked with the property owner's support or opposition and are received before the end of the public input portion of the public hearing on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 will be counted. The California Government Code requires that the assessment ballots be signed by property owners. If you have questions about the Program or the proposed services, lose your ballot, require a replacement ballot, need a proportional ballot or want to change your vote, call the San Luis Obispo County Mosquito and Vector Control Program at (805)-781-5544.

See the enclosed ballot for additional instructions. Ballots are weighted by the proposed amount of assessment and will be tabulated accordingly. The assessment shall not be imposed if, upon the conclusion of the public hearing, weighted ballots submitted in opposition to the assessment exceed the weighted ballots submitted in favor of the assessment. If a majority of weighted ballots returned are in support, the assessment may be levied for fiscal year 2009-10 and may be continued in future years to fund ongoing mosquito, vector and disease control services.

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. before the Board of Supervisors at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, located at the County Government Center at 1055 Monterey Street, Room D-170, San Luis Obispo, California. You are invited to attend the public hearing. Tabulation of the returned ballots will commence after the close of the public input portion of the hearing, and the results of the tabulation will be announced at the continuation of the public hearing scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on July 14, 2009 at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, located at the County Government Center at 1055 Monterey Street, Room D-170, San Luis Obispo, California.

Additional Information

For additional information concerning the Program, its services, the proposed assessment, or this ballot proceeding, please call the San Luis Obispo County Mosquito and Vector Control Program at (805)-781-5544.

West Nile Virus Information

West Nile virus is transmitted by some of the most common mosquitoes in San Luis Obispo County. When people are infected by a mosquito, they may develop illness ranging from mild to severe flu-like symptoms to fatal central nervous system disorders. Originally from Africa, the virus first appeared in the United States in 1999 (in New York City). Since then, the virus has spread rapidly throughout most of North America. The virus can infect people, horses, livestock, and birds. The most serious manifestations of infection are encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), polio-like paralysis, and death.

West Nile virus can also be deadly to birds and animals. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have reported that over 200 species of birds can be killed by West Nile virus. Over 1,000,000 birds are estimated to have been killed to date by West Nile virus. This funding measure is being proposed in part to continue to help prevent this threat to public health and wildlife.

The first human case of West Nile virus in California was discovered in 2002. To date there have been 2,765 human cases and 76 deaths in California (www.westnile.ca.gov). Also to date 1,115 horses have tested positive for West Nile virus in California. Last year, Kern County experienced an outbreak of West Nile Virus.

Additional resources related to West Nile virus:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

<http://www.westnile.ca.gov>