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DATE: July 31, 2024

East Side MAD: Dr. Wakoli Wekesa
Phone: (209) 522-4098

Community Aerial Mosquito Control Applications Planned for North East of Modesto

Modesto, CA: East Side Mosquito Abatement District has scheduled aerial mosquito control applications for approximately 6,300 acres over the northeast communities of Modesto, California, to reduce the number of mosquitoes and limit the risk of local transmission of mosquito-borne viruses, including West Nile virus. The aerial treatments are planned for Thursday, August 1, 2024, between 9:00 pm and 11:00 pm, and be rescheduled for the same time on Friday, August 2, 2024, in case of inclement weather.

The aerial application is being conducted in response to surveillance findings that indicate increased mosquito populations of both West Nile virus-transmitting mosquito and invasive mosquito species *Aedes aegypti. The attempt is to "hit two birds with one stone," reducing the high number of adult Culex mosquitoes currently contributing to the transmission of West Nile virus and Ae. aegypti*, first found in Modesto in 2019, that can transmit harmful viruses such as dengue, chikungunya, and Zika. While the latter viruses are not currently transmitted locally, two residents of Los Angeles County acquired dengue infection through suspected local transmission in 2023.

The aerial adult mosquito control application will use Dibrom® applied at a rate of 0.75 fluid ounces per acre, targeting adult mosquitoes. Vector Disease Control, Inc. (VDCI), a mosquito control company operating out of Sacramento, CA, shall conduct the applications. "Unlike our single-engine aircraft at East Side Mosquito Abatement District, VDCI operates a fleet of twin-engine aircraft permitted to fly over residential neighborhoods such as Modesto to conduct this application," said District Manager Wakoli Wekesa.

Residents in the targeted areas of the northeast of Modesto should take the necessary precaution of keeping their windows closed and, if possible, staying indoors once the aircraft fly over their neighborhood for a few minutes (see attached map). Any impacts are temporary, and transient clearing occurs in a few minutes. Additional information and the intended spray area can be found on the District website; also, please call the District at (209) 522-4098 or visit www.eastsidemosquito.com.

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How residents can help reduce mosquitoes:

- Dump and Drain Standing Water: Mosquitoes lay eggs in and near standing water. Mosquitoes only need a tablespoon of water to lay eggs. Potted plant saucers are the leading breeding source for the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Limit the number of places mosquitoes can breed by dumping and draining items that hold water.

Prevent mosquito bites:

- Wear insect repellent. EPA-registered ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 (as directed on the product label).
- Check window and door screens to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

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