

Community Aerial Mosquito Control Applications Planned for West Rural and Southwest of Modesto, Empire, and Waterford

Modesto, CA: East Side Mosquito Abatement District has scheduled additional aerial mosquito control applications for approximately 9,268 acres over several communities in West rural and Southwest of Modesto, Empire, and Waterford. The application is primarily focused on reducing the number of mosquitoes and limit the risk of local transmission of mosquito-borne viruses including West Nile virus. The treatments are planned for Thursday, October 3, 2024 between 8:30 pm and 10:30 pm, and may be rescheduled for the same time for Friday, October 4, 2024 in case of inclement weather.

The aerial adult mosquito control application will use Dibrom® applied at rate of 0.75 fluid ounces per acre targeting adult mosquitoes. Vector Disease Control, Inc (VDCI), a mosquito control company operating out of Sacramento, California shall conduct the applications. According to District Manager Wakoli Wekesa, “the District is focused on maintaining the critical gains made in controlling West Nile virus in our communities this season to the end, especially at this time when human cases mostly spike so we are taking the necessary precautions.”

Residents in the targeted areas of West rural and West of Modesto, Empire, and Waterford (see attached map) should take the necessary precaution of keeping windows closed and, if possible, staying indoors once the aircrafts fly over their neighborhood for a few minutes. Homeowners are urged to keep children indoors, same with pets, and cover backyard fishponds as a precaution during and a couple of hours after spray time. 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 if you have additional questions.

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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