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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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MOSQUITO DISTRICT URGES RESIDENTS TO USE MOSQUITO REPELLENTS

– One person, more dead birds and mosquitoes test positive for the virus –

CONCORD, CALIFORNIA - - The Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District is reporting five dead birds and two groups of mosquitoes that have tested positive for West Nile virus this past week. Three of the five birds were from Antioch, one was from Brentwood and one was from Oakley. One of the two groups of mosquitoes was from Oakley and one group was from Knightsen. Antioch and Brentwood remain high risk areas for West Nile virus infection in Contra Costa County.

In Contra Costa County to date this year, one person, 51 dead birds, 23 groups of mosquitoes, and five squirrels have tested positive for West Nile virus. **The person, a 56-year-old woman resides in Antioch.** Thirty-eight of those birds, 15 of the mosquito samples and all five squirrels have been from Antioch.

“As people enjoy the last bit of summer outdoors, they need to take precautions against mosquito bites,” said Deborah Bass, public affairs manager with the District. “Wearing mosquito repellent at this time of year is like wearing your seatbelt at the Indianapolis 500 car race. You just do it.”

The District is urging all residents to maintain water features in their yards and to report abandoned or neglected swimming pools. Abandoned or neglected swimming pools are a significant source of mosquitoes in Contra Costa County and each one can produce hundreds of thousands of mosquitoes and affect residents up to a five-mile radius. Infected mosquitoes can transmit West Nile virus, a debilitating and potentially fatal disease.

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District is located at 155 Mason Circle in Concord. Call the District to report mosquito problems at (925) 771-6195, or visit their office between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to get FREE mosquitofish for ornamental ponds or horse troughs. Mosquitofish are also available at City of Antioch Corporation Yard, 1201 W. 4th Street, Antioch, CA, Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

People wishing to be notified about adult mosquito fogging or spraying have several options. They may visit the District’s Web site at www.ccmvcd.dst.ca.us and opt to receive the notifications automatically by email, they can view information on the District Web site, or they may phone the District for a recorded message at (925) 771-6195.

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For information concerning human West Nile virus symptoms, prevention, or testing, please call the Contra Costa Health Services department at (888) 959-9911 or visit their website at www.ccpublichealth.org. Human West Nile virus cases can be found at <http://westnile.ca.gov/> . For detailed information, please select WNV Reports link to the right of your screen.

For information concerning West Nile virus and horses, please visit the California Department of Food and Agriculture Animal Health Branch at www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv_info.htm or call them at (916) 654-1447.

Dead birds should be reported to 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or www.westnile.ca.gov . Not all birds will be picked up and tested, but reporting dead birds provides important information for mosquito control efforts.

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