



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Adult Mosquito Control Treatment Scheduled for the Night of Sunday, August 12th in Areas of East Palo Alto**

*Burlingame, CA – 9 August 2018* – On August 9<sup>th</sup> San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District (SMCMVCD) detected West Nile Virus (WNV) in adult mosquitoes collected from East Palo Alto. These mosquitoes were collected by the District laboratory staff during disease surveillance.

In an effort to prevent human cases of WNV, the District will conduct a truck-mounted adult mosquito control treatment in the area where the infected mosquitoes were collected. **The adult mosquito control treatment will take place between 9pm Sunday night, August 12<sup>th</sup>, and 5am Monday morning, August 13<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting).**

“An adult mosquito infected with West Nile virus can pass it on to any person it bites, so we want to make sure we act quickly,” said Public Health Education and Outreach Officer Megan Sebay. “It’s very important that residents are aware of the risk of West Nile virus and take appropriate precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.”

The treatment area includes areas of the Pulgas Gardens, Palo Mobile Estates, and Weeks Gateway neighborhoods of East Palo Alto. Not all areas of these neighborhoods are included in the treatment. The treatment area is approximately bounded by Beech St. to the north, Clarke Ave. to the west, Bayshore Rd. to the south, and the San Francisquito Creek Trail to the east. **A map of the treatment area and further information can be found on the District website at [www.smcmvcd.org](http://www.smcmvcd.org).** Residents with additional questions can call the District at (650) 344-8592.

Mosquitoes will be collected in the area after the treatment is complete. If post-treatment mosquito samples are carrying West Nile Virus, additional adult mosquito control treatments may be necessary.

Reports of dead birds are an early indication that West Nile virus is circulating in the environment. Residents are encouraged to help by reporting fresh carcasses of birds or tree squirrels to the West Nile virus hotline, online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov) or by phone at 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473).

West Nile Virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. The primary hosts are birds. Humans, horses and other animals can become infected with WNV if

bitten by an infected mosquito. It cannot be spread person to person. Residents can reduce their risk of mosquito bites by taking the following precautions:

- Apply insect repellents that contain DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR 3535. Always follow label instructions.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes and repair or replace screens with tears or holes.
- Eliminate standing water and containers that can hold water from around the home.
- Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.

For assistance with a mosquito problem in San Mateo County, contact the District at (650) 344-8592. For more information on West Nile Virus or District services, visit us on the web at: [www.smcmvcd.org](http://www.smcmvcd.org).

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