

Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District

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NEWS RELEASE Director of Science and Outreach Katherine Ramirez (559) 896-1085

WEST NILE AND ST. LOUIS ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS POSITIVE MOSQUITOES COLLECTED WITHIN CITY LIMITS

The Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District has found West Nile virus positive mosquitoes in various cities, including Fresno, Clovis, Sanger, Kingsburg, and Selma, as well as St. Louis Encephalitis virus positive mosquitoes in Fresno and Clovis.

" It is essential for residents to take necessary precautions to prevent mosquito bites and mosquito development around their homes," says Katherine Ramirez, the Director of Science and Outreach for the District. To avoid mosquito bites, use an EPA-registered insect repellent on exposed skin or wear loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and pants when outside from dusk to dawn (www.cdc.gov/westnile/prevention/). Additionally, it is important to empty any water-holding containers at least once a week, including pet water dishes, to deter mosquito production (www.mosquitobuzz.net/mosquito-prevention).

The District applies U.S. EPA-registered insecticides during the mosquito season to control mosquitoes in urban and rural areas. To reduce adult mosquito populations, an ultra-low volume (ULV) sprayer dispenses very fine aerosol droplets that stay aloft and kill flying mosquitoes. Under certain conditions, ULV applications may be sprayed after sunset in residential areas using a truck-mounted ULV sprayer that drives along surface streets. Information about truck ULV spraying can be found at www.mosquitobuzz.net/scheduled-treatment-areas-for-adult-mosquitoes.

For more information about the District, areas of mosquito-borne disease activity, and areas scheduled for ULV fog applications visit the District website at <u>www.mosquitobuzz.net</u>.