

Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District

For Immediate Release

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Mosquito and Vector Control District Fighting to Suppress Mosquitoes Before They Emerge as Adults

Garden Grove, CA. In response to significant rainfall and reestablishment of mosquito breeding sites in the urban wetlands, the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) will apply a mosquito larvicide by helicopter to marsh and other natural waterway areas of Orange County on Wednesday, April 12, between the hours of 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., weather permitting. The type of product used by the District is a granular larvicide (VectorBac G®) that acts in water specifically on mosquito larvae and will not harm people, pets, plants, or wildlife. The larvicide contains *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (*Bti*), a naturally-occurring bacteria that targets mosquito larvae and prevents them from developing into biting adults.

The sites to be treated are as follows: Peters Canyon Reservoir, Villa Park Dam, Santiago Pit North, Santiago Pit South, and the Loma Pond. These are marshy, natural areas, which are common breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Mosquitoes collected from these areas in March 2017 averaged 52 mosquitoes per trap-night, as compared to the 5-year average of 21 per trap-night, indicating a 140% increase in mosquito abundance from wetlands in 2017. Mosquitoes from these locations and others in the County are monitored and tested for the presence of West Nile virus (WNV) and other mosquito-borne diseases.

"None of these applications are over any residential properties and all the sites are breeding large numbers of *Culex tarsalis* and other species of mosquitoes that can transmit WNV and St. Louis encephalitis virus," stated Rick Howard, District Manager for the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District. "If left untreated, mosquitoes from these wetlands could cause severe discomfort from their bites and disease transmission in surrounding neighborhoods."

The helicopter treatments will take place mid-morning and are scheduled to last no more than 5 minutes per site. The helicopter will be flying at a height of 200 feet during the application and all the sites will be treated within three hours. Applications will take place utilizing "dry spreader" equipment and is not a liquid spray. Since the material is being applied directly to the water source, there are no special precautions to follow. District staff will be at the locations during the treatment to answer questions and monitor the progress.

If weather conditions are not favorable, or if there are operational delays, the treatment will be postponed and resumed as soon as possible. A follow-up application will occur within three weeks of the initial application for optimal results. [Click here](#) for more information regarding the helicopter larval mosquito control application.

The District has regularly treated these same areas by helicopter in the past. Hummingbirds Inc., Aerial Applicator, has been working for the District since the early 1990s. The last time treatment took place was in 2010, which was the last year of significant rainfall.

Helicopter treatments are the most effective and efficient way to treat large bodies of water that are difficult to reach using ground equipment. Targeting mosquitoes in the larval stage significantly reduces - and often eliminates - the need to take reactive measures such as trying to control the mosquitoes after they have emerged as adults.

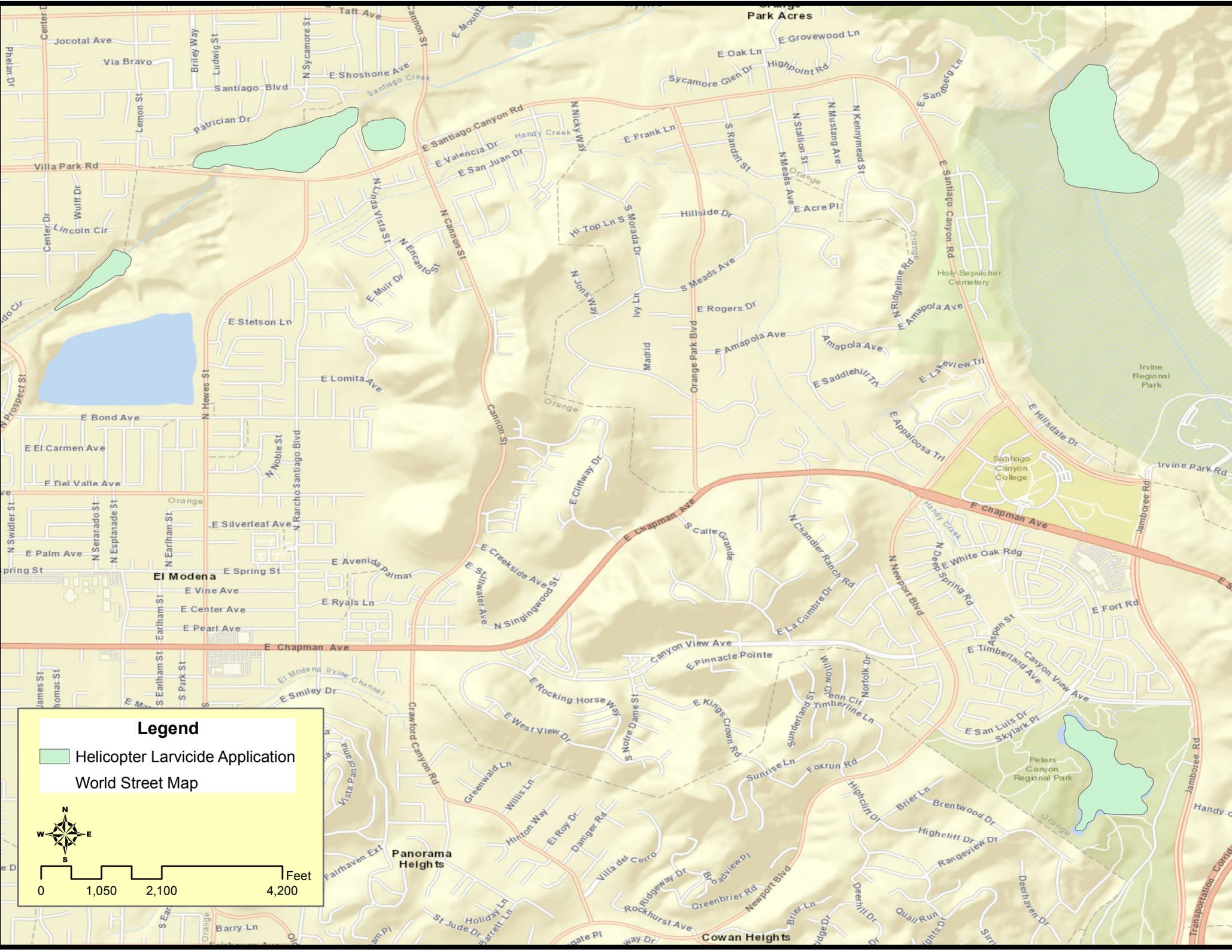
The District's mosquito control program is based on scientifically planned management tactics and control strategies that reduce the abundance of mosquitoes in a timely manner, utilizing the most effective and least toxic materials available. This method is commonly referred to as "Integrated Vector Management", and incorporates five basic methods: public information and education, mosquito and vector surveillance, biological control, source reduction, and microbial and/or chemical control.

All products used by the District are EPA-registered public health pesticides labeled for mosquito control. Applications of these products are conducted by state certified applicators in accordance with label requirements and limitations. [Click here](#) to view the product labels and material safety data sheets (MSDS) for all the materials the District uses.

Remember: the best protection against West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses is to prevent mosquito breeding and mosquito bites.

- Eliminate any standing water around your house.
- Make sure all of the window and door screens on your house are in good repair.
- Wear a repellent containing DEET®, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, or IR 3535.
- Contact the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District to report dead birds or neglected pools.

For more information, please contact the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District at
(714) 971-2421 or (949) 654-2421, or visit www.ocvector.org.



Legend

-  Helicopter Larvicide Application
-  World Street Map

