Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District

For Immediate Release

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TRUCK-MOUNTED MOSQUITO CONTROL APPLICATIONS SCHEDULED IN LA HABRA

OCMVCD continues to fight West Nile Virus in high risk areas

Garden Grove, CA. The Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD) is reporting a marked increase in the level of West Nile Virus (WNV) activity in the City of La Habra. OCMVCD routinely tests adult female mosquitoes (mosquito samples) and dead birds for the presence of WNV. Recent laboratory test results indicate 31 positive WNV mosquito samples have been collected in La Habra, resulting in a higher risk of residents getting bit by a mosquito capable of transmitting WNV.

On August 11th and 12th, the OCMVCD will conduct ultra-low volume (ULV) truck-mounted applications to treat for infected adult mosquitoes between the hours of 3:30 AM to 5:30 AM in two areas containing 3,500 properties in La Habra. Treatment locations will include an area slightly west of Beach Blvd to east of Monte Vista Ave. and north of La Habra Blvd up to the City border. The second treatment area includes the area around Vista Grande Park and east of Cypress Street [see map attached]. OCMVCD personnel will be applying AquaDUETTM, a water-based public health mosquito control product (pesticide). The active ingredients are formulated to mimic the insect-killing properties in chrysanthemum flowers. The product is applied according to the label rate (less than 2 tablespoons per acre) which is not harmful to people or pets, even if they are present during the application. The application will also not harm the finishes on cars or homes.

If weather conditions are not favorable, or if there are operational delays, the treatment may be postponed or delayed. OCMVCD will continue to track mosquito samples and may resume treatments in future weeks between the hours of 3:30 AM and 5:30 AM in areas determined to be high-risk for WNV transmission to residents.

Every effort will be made to notify residents in the application areas by treatment notification postcards, posters, eAlerts, City social media and news media. The public is also encouraged to visit the OCMVCD's website (ocvector.org) for the latest information on WNV, adulticiding mosquito control applications, and other vector related information.

West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans via the bite of infected mosquitoes, which become infected when feeding on birds carrying the virus. "The increased activity of mosquitoes and West Nile Virus in La Habra should serve as a reminder that everyone needs to be vigilant about eliminating standing water around the homes and offices," stated Lora Young, OCMVCD Director of Communications.

Residents can do a variety of things to help protect themselves and the community, and to help reduce the risk from mosquitoes this season:

- **Drain standing water:** Eliminate standing water around the home or office
- Install or repair screens: Keep mosquitoes out with tight fitting screens on all windows and doors
- Wear a repellent: Utilize repellent containing DEET®, Picaridin, IR 3535, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus

Contact OCMVCD to report mosquito problems, request mosquitofish, report neglected pools or standing water, and report dead birds.

Residents are encouraged to sign-up for OCMVCD email notification, follow OCMVCD on social media, and visit the website for the most current West Nile virus information:

(714) 971-2421 or (949) 654-2421, or visit <u>www.ocvector.org</u>.

www.facebook.com/OCVectorControl/, https://twitter.com/ocvector

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