



**Antelope Valley Mosquito
& Vector Control District**
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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

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Proposition 218 Assessment Does Not Pass; Decrease in Mosquito Control Services Anticipated

Lancaster, CA, July 13th, 2022: In May 2022, the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District sent out a Proposition 218 ballot measure to residents within District boundaries that proposed a small increase in funding for the District in order to maintain the high level of mosquito-control services provided to the community and bolster continued efforts to combat the Invasive Aedes mosquito infestation. The ballot measure was an opportunity for the community to vote on the continued and increased mosquito, vector and disease control services from the Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

This measure needed a 50% plus one vote from the community in order to pass and for the District to implement the additional funding. The measure received 45% support, and the District will not receive extra funding.

Unfortunately, not garnering additional financial support from the community means that the current level of mosquito control services provided to the community cannot be maintained. The overall increase in operation costs without appropriate funding means there will undoubtedly be a reduction in services. Please understand that our resources are limited and services that will be reduced may include but are not limited to:

- Treatment of local storm drains and unmaintained “green pools” which are both currently a very significant breeding source for mosquitoes
- The ability to provide free mosquito-eating fish to property owners for backyard ponds and other water features
- Testing for diseases that can be carried by mosquitoes
- Responding to service requests concerning mosquitoes
- Community education on how to treat and prevent vector sources

Our mission remains to protect the public health of citizens, improve enjoyment of outdoor recreation and enhance economic development. We will continue to provide the best possible services with the limited funds available. We are disheartened by the prospect of not being able to respond as quickly or as thoroughly as required to effectively reduce the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases in our community.

Thank you for your understanding.

In addition to the information above, please be informed that the District is in the process of monitoring pools to ensure they are either clean and maintained or completely dry. The 2022 aerial flyover was conducted during the second week of June and residents should have received pool notices if applicable. Please keep in mind that this monitoring system is not flawless. If you receive a pool notice in error, please respond according to the instructions on the notice or visit www.avmosquito.org/clean-pools-healthy-communities/ for more information. Reducing these major mosquito breeding sources means reducing the mosquito population.

Now, more than ever, the District urges residents to do their part to protect themselves from mosquito bites by following these recommendations:

- Check property for standing water and get rid of it
- When mosquitoes are active, use EPA registered insect repellents that contain one of these main ingredients: DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, IR3535 according to label instructions
 - If weather permits, wear loose fitting clothing that cover as much skin as possible
 - Make sure your screens on windows and doors are in good repair to avoid mosquitoes in the home
 - Check around faucets and air conditioner units, and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days
- Report daytime biting mosquitoes to the AVMVCD at 661-942-2917

- Report stagnant pools and other backyard sources to the AVMVCD at 661-942-2917
- Report dead birds by calling 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at www.westnile.ca.gov

To stay up-to-date on new West Nile Virus activity in the Antelope Valley and any mosquito related information visit our website at www.avmosquito.org, Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/avmosquito>), and follow us on Twitter and Instagram @AVMosquito.

For any further questions or services please feel free to contact the Antelope Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District by phone (661-942-2917).

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