### Don't Accidentally Invite Them Too

**Keep Rodents Out This Holiday Season**

Humans aren't the only ones looking forward to the holiday food! Don't end up accidentally inviting rodents to your holiday party this year. Prevent unwanted guest by doing the following:

- Keep garbage cans closed tightly
- Dispose of food scraps appropriately
- Keep compost bins far away from house (100+ feet if possible)
- Keep outside cooking areas and grills clean
- Seal all gaps in and around the house

Visit [www.sccvector.org/rodents](http://www.sccvector.org/rodents) for more information on rodent prevention.

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**In This Issue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In This Issue</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Services Available</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations Data</td>
<td>03-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease Surveillance</td>
<td>08-09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service Requests</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Development</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1580 Berger Drive  
San Jose, CA 95112  
M-F 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Office: (408) 918-4770  
Fax: (408) 298-6356

vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org  
www.sccvector.org
SERVICES AVAILABLE

The County of Santa Clara Vector Control District is committed to protecting the public from vectors capable of transmitting diseases or creating a nuisance.

The following services are available for free to the Santa Clara County public.

- Advice and control measures for mosquitoes
- Free mosquitofish for mosquito control
- Home inspections and advice for rodent infestations and wildlife activity
- Insect identification and confirmation letter
- Dead bird pick up for West Nile virus testing
- Yellowjacket and wasp control/nest removal in public areas and advice on control
- Consultations for bed bug abatement
- Educational presentations for K-12 students, tailored for individual classroom settings or school assemblies
- Educational presentations/booths for homeowner associations, organizations, businesses, civic groups, and other interested parties

“A VECTOR IS ANY ANIMAL OR INSECT THAT CAN TRANSMIT DISEASES TO ANIMALS OR PEOPLE.”
OPERATIONS DATA

Mosquito Control

The District has a robust mosquito prevention program in place, focusing on the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to eliminate mosquitoes before they reach adulthood, and begin infecting people and animals with diseases. IPM is composed of four elements and provides the most effective way to manage pests. It includes the use of biological, cultural, physical, and chemical control. To learn more about IPM, visit https://bit.ly/WhatIsIPM.

Year-round, staff inspect potential mosquito breeding sources like catch basins, marshes, creeks, ponds, neglected pools, and anything that holds standing water. The District uses biological controls such as mosquitofish and products approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, that specifically target mosquito larvae and pupae to eliminate mosquito populations in the county.
Anything that can hold standing water can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Even public areas like street curbs can hold standing water when it rains or grass is overwatered. Our operations team checks areas like these throughout the county to eliminate early stage mosquitoes before they can become biting adults.

5 curbs were found to be holding standing water and 4 of them were breeding mosquitoes.

Report any standing water you notice around your neighborhood and our technicians will eliminate any possible mosquito breeding. You can let us know by submitting a service request online at www.sccvector.org, sending us an email at vectorinfo.org, or calling (408) 918-4770.
Mosquitoes pose a serious health risk to humans because they can transmit deadly diseases like West Nile virus. Different mosquito species can carry different diseases, but not all mosquitoes are infected. If mosquitoes only need a bottle cap of water to breed, one neglected swimming pool can breed thousands of mosquitoes.

You can help prevent mosquito breeding in pools by following these precautions - do not allow water levels in your swimming pool to fall below the pump circulation area, drain pool and keep it dry after rainfalls, or permanently remove pool after obtaining the proper permits. If there is work being done to the property/pool, contact the District to help control the mosquito breeding while the work is being done.

To report mosquito activity and abandoned/neglected swimming pools you can call the District office at (408) 918-4770, submit a service request at www.sccvector.org, or email vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org.

Green pools are usually a sign of possible breeding

Magnified view of mosquito larvae

1 out of 4 inspected neglected pools were found to be breeding mosquitoes and were treated to eliminate immature mosquitoes.
65 bodies of water like ponds, marshes, and water troughs were treated to eliminate mosquitoes out of 282 inspected sites.
Mosquitofish (Gambusia affinis) are a small fish in the guppy family that are natural predators of mosquito larvae and pupae, making them an environmentally friendly alternative to mosquito control without the use of chemical insecticides. This method is referred to as biological control and is part of our Integrated pest management (IPM) program.

They are easily maintained and have a broad tolerance to a wide range of environmental conditions, require minimum care, and are compatible with most pond fish.

The District offers free mosquitofish to all of the public in Santa Clara County. They can be placed in artificial bodies of water like unmaintained pools, ponds, rain barrels, and water troughs. For more information on our mosquitofish program and mosquitofish availability, visit www.sccvector.org/mosquitofish.
**DISEASE SURVEILLANCE**

**West Nile Virus in California Counties - 2021 Year-to-date**

Just as the County's Vector Control District monitors for diseases transmitted by infected mosquitoes, there are other districts in California that do the same. As of December 3, 2021 California had positive West Nile virus tests for the following categories: 108 human cases, 209 dead birds, 88 sentinel chickens, 13 horses, and 2,261 mosquito samples.

The 108 human cases come from 26 counties, including Shasta (3), Glenn (2), Butte (13), Placer (2), Yolo (1), Solano (2), Sacramento (4), El Dorado (1), Contra Costa (2), San Joaquin (6), Stanislaus (5), San Mateo (1), Santa Cruz (1), Merced (2), Madera (3), Fresno (10), Kings (8), Tulare (8), San Luis Obispo (2), Santa Barbara (1), Kern (7), San Bernardino (1), Los Angeles (16), Orange (2), Riverside (3), and San Diego (2) counties.

There have been 3 positive mosquito pools in Santa Clara County to date, and our team continues to actively inspect and control all immature mosquito stages found breeding in the county.

*For more information on WNV activity in California, visit [https://westnile.ca.gov](https://westnile.ca.gov).*
Mosquito Trapping

Mosquito trapping is conducted throughout the entire county to monitor the abundance of mosquitoes and species present in the area. Mosquitoes are highly attracted to carbon dioxide (CO2) and is one of the methods they use to find their host. The District uses CO2 traps to attract and trap mosquitoes.

The top two mosquito species trapped in October included *Culex pipiens* (Northern house mosquito), *Culex tarsalis* (Western Encephalitis mosquito), and *Culiseta incidens* (Cool weather mosquito). To learn how you can help prevent mosquito bites and mosquito breeding around your home, visit www.sccvector.org/mosquitoes.
PUBLIC SERVICE REQUESTS

November Overview

The District provides services to the public including home inspections for rodents and wildlife activity, mosquitofish deliveries, insect identification assistance, and other services. In November, the District received 218 services requests, with the highest being requests for rodent assistance. If you would like to request a service, please submit a request online at www.sccvector.org or call (408) 918-4770.

Service requests received in November
PUBLIC EDUCATION

Community Outreach

On November 8, our staff assisted San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District to provide information to teachers from the San Mateo County Environmental Education Community-Based Partner Network about various science resources and presentations they could use to support their science-based lesson plans.

The groups met at the Environmental Volunteers' Center in Palo Alto, where San Mateo and Santa Clara County Vector Control Staff demonstrated how to find and dip for mosquito larvae in the adjacent marsh, and provided information on services provided by each district.
STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Continuing Education

In November, our outreach team virtually attended CAPIO’s (California Association of Public Information Officials) annual conference. This three day conference provided tools and information to advance the District’s outreach program. Topics presented during the conference included how to build effective key messaging campaigns to promote organizations, how to develop professional videos using smartphones, and a social media bootcamp featuring speakers from Twitter, Facebook, and Nextdoor.

Our staff also participated in the continued education session from the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California Coastal Region. Webinar topics included the use of 3D printing for mosquito abatement, yellowjacket bait development, rat control strategies, and larvicide resistance. Speakers included the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, Integrated Pest Management advisors, and human-wildlife interactions advisors.
MISSION

To detect and minimize vector-borne diseases, abate mosquitoes, and assist the public in resolving problems that can cause disease, discomfort, or injury, to humans in Santa Clara County.