AGENDA ITEM E-12

# CITY OF LODI
# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

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**AGENDA TITLE:** **Adopt Resolution for Affirmative Vote on Property Assessment Ballot for City Properties within the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District and Authorizing City Manager or Designee to Execute and Submit Ballots**

**MEETING DATE:** **October 5, 2005**

**PREPARED BY:** **Public Works Director**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** That the City Council adopt a resolution to cast an affirmative vote on the property assessment ballot for City properties within the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District and authorize the City Manager or designee to execute and submit the ballots on behalf of the City.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District is conducting a Public Hearing and Assessment Ballot Proceeding to increase the District's property assessment. The nominal increase for a single-family home is $7.58 per year, with separate assessment formulas for non-residential parcels. The annual total for all City parcels is $676.86.

The District provides information, testing and abatement services to the entire County area related to mosquitoes (West Nile virus), ticks (Lyme disease), and wild bees. The information sheet provided by the District is attached. The Public Hearing is scheduled for November 1, 2005.

The City's options are to:

1) Vote "Yes"
2) Vote "No"
3) Cast no ballot

Casting no ballot is essentially taking a neutral position as the property assessment will be approved (or not) based on the majority of ballots actually cast.

The City has had a good relationship with the District, and staff notes that the District was originally formed in the North County and later merged to a Countywide District. The District has facilities in Lodi and leases property at White Slough where they raise mosquito-eating fish in ponds utilizing treated wastewater. The District provides valuable health-related services. Thus, staff is recommending a "Yes" vote.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Minimal increased cost to the City budget. If approved, the assessment may be increased annually based on the consumer price index, not to exceed 3%. The assessment will be charged to the applicable facility budgets for the properties assessed.

**FUNDING AVAILABLE:** General and Utility Funds

James R. Krueger, Finance Director

Richard C. Prima, Jr.
Public Works Director

RCP/pmf
Attachment
cc: John Stroh, San Joaquin County Mosquito & Vector Control District

APPROVED: Blair King, City Manager

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9/28/2005

# OFFICIAL NOTICE AND BALLOT INFORMATION GUIDE

**For the Proposed**

## MOSQUITO, VECTOR AND DISEASE CONTROL ASSESSMENT

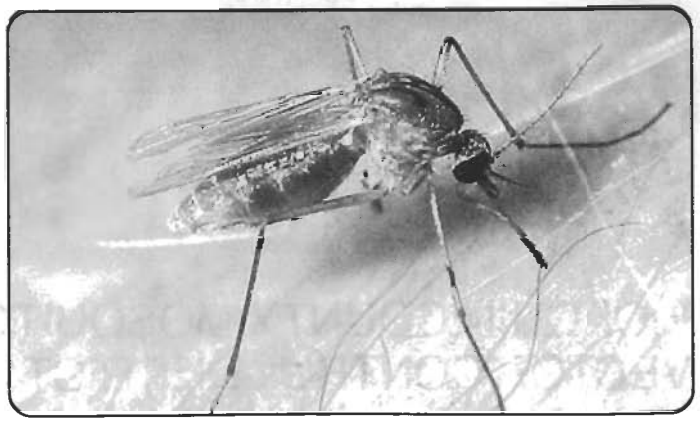
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

### *Why Did You Receive This Ballot?*

The San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) is a special purpose agency, not part of the County or any city, and is the only public health program that controls and monitors mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects in San Joaquin County. The District also protects the public health by regularly testing for, and working to prevent, diseases that are spread by mosquitoes and other insects.

The District is primarily funded by Ad Valorem property tax and a special tax passed in 1981. Since that time, inflationary cost increases have caused service costs to exceed available revenues. In addition, the emergence of West Nile Virus in California has caused the District to spend extra funds on mosquito control and disease testing in order to help prevent an outbreak of West Nile Virus in the County.

This ballot allows property owners to decide if the District should receive additional funding for its mosquito, vector and disease control services. If approved, this measure would fund the year-round control of mosquitoes and enhanced disease prevention services, including year-round testing for, and responding to, diseases that are carried by mosquitoes, such as West Nile Virus, dog heartworm and encephalitis.



*When Mosquitoes bite humans or animals, they can transmit diseases and viruses.*



### *SUMMARY OF PROPOSED SERVICES:*

***Mosquito Control*** - Year-round control of mosquitoes before they hatch using environmentally sensitive methods. Inspection and control of mosquitoes in residential, commercial, and agricultural areas. Free mosquito-eating fish for backyard fishponds as well as agricultural and natural mosquito breeding sources.

***West Nile Virus Disease Prevention*** - Enhanced year-round testing for West Nile Virus and other disease prevention services in locations in which disease is found.

***Disease Surveillance/Prevention*** - Year-round testing and monitoring for other diseases carried by mosquitoes and insects, such as encephalitis, dog heartworm, Lyme disease and other new or emerging pathogens. If diseases are discovered, the District would take actions to help prevent a disease outbreak.

***Community Education*** - Regularly educate the public about protecting themselves and their pets from diseases carried by mosquitoes and other insects, and how to prevent mosquito breeding in backyard locations.

***Emergency Response*** - Respond to new pathogens quickly and effectively to prevent human disease transmission.

***Response to Service Requests*** - Property owners and residents can call the District year-round for a service request on their property. Service technicians respond directly to owners' problems, typically within 48 hours of receiving a service request.

***Mosquito Source Control*** - Year-round monitoring of over 4,000 known mosquito breeding sources in the District. Control of mosquito larvae before they hatch and begin biting people and animals.

### *Does the District's Program Affect the Environment?*

The District's mosquito control and disease prevention efforts involve the use of environmentally friendly approaches. The District finds and removes stagnant water and weedy/overgrown areas that support mosquito breeding. For breeding sources that cannot be removed, the District uses mosquitofish and natural materials to eliminate mosquito larvae. This mosquito control approach has been found to be environmentally safe and is endorsed by the Environmental Protection Agency, the University of California and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### *How Does the District Control Mosquitoes?*

As noted, the District's mosquito and disease control efforts involve the use of environmentally friendly approaches to eliminate the sources of mosquitoes and other disease carrying insects before they emerge and begin biting people and animals.

This approach starts with identifying the sources of problem mosquitoes and insects (the District has identified over 4,000 mosquito breeding sources in the county.) Removable breeding sources, such as standing, stagnant water in backyards, old tires, etc., are eliminated or removed as soon as possible. For sources such as ponds and marshes, the District uses environmentally sensitive methods such as mosquitofish or application of products derived from naturally occurring substances that selectively target mosquito larvae before they transform into flying, biting adult mosquitoes. The District also responds to requests from property owners for help to eliminate local mosquitoes and other vector problems.

***Mosquitoes can reproduce in very small amounts of water. Examples of common backyard mosquito sources include old tires, buckets, ice chests.***



### *West Nile Virus Information*

West Nile Virus is transmitted by some of the most common mosquitoes in San Joaquin County. When people are infected by a mosquito, they may develop illness ranging from mild to severe flu-like symptoms to fatal central nervous system disorders. Originally from Africa, the virus first appeared in the United States in 1999 (in New York City). Since then, the virus has spread rapidly throughout most of North America. The virus can infect people, livestock, and birds. The most serious manifestations of infection are encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), polio-like paralysis, and death.

The first human case of West Nile Virus in California was discovered in 2002. Last year West Nile Virus caused 830 human cases and 28 deaths in California *(www.westnile.ca.gov)*. Over the past 15 months, there have been 12 human cases and 1 death in San Joaquin County, and for horses there have been 27 cases with most being euthanized.

West Nile Virus can also be deadly to birds and animals. The disease has caused thousands of horse deaths. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that over 200 species of birds can be killed by West Nile Virus. Over 1,000,000 birds are estimated to have been killed to date by West Nile Virus, and entire species are threatened with extinction. This funding measure is being proposed in part to help prevent this threat to public health and wildlife.

*Source: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the California Department of Health Services*

### *The District's West Nile Virus Strategic Response Plan*

The San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District's West Nile Virus Strategic Response Plan is comprised of the following five elements: Public Education, Surveillance, Mosquito Control, Response, and Remediation. Such a comprehensive year-round mosquito control and disease testing program is currently the only effective way to reduce the risk of an outbreak of West Nile Virus. This measure will provide the necessary funding for the District's prevention programs for West Nile Virus as well as future emerging vector-borne diseases.

*Additional resources related to West Nile Virus:*
*http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm* *http://www.westnile.ca.gov*
*http://www.mvcac.org/WNV.htm*

### *What Areas Would Receive Services From the Proposed Assessment?*

If approved, the assessments would be used to fund mosquito, vector and disease control services throughout San Joaquin County, including cities, urbanized areas, agricultural areas, and rural areas.

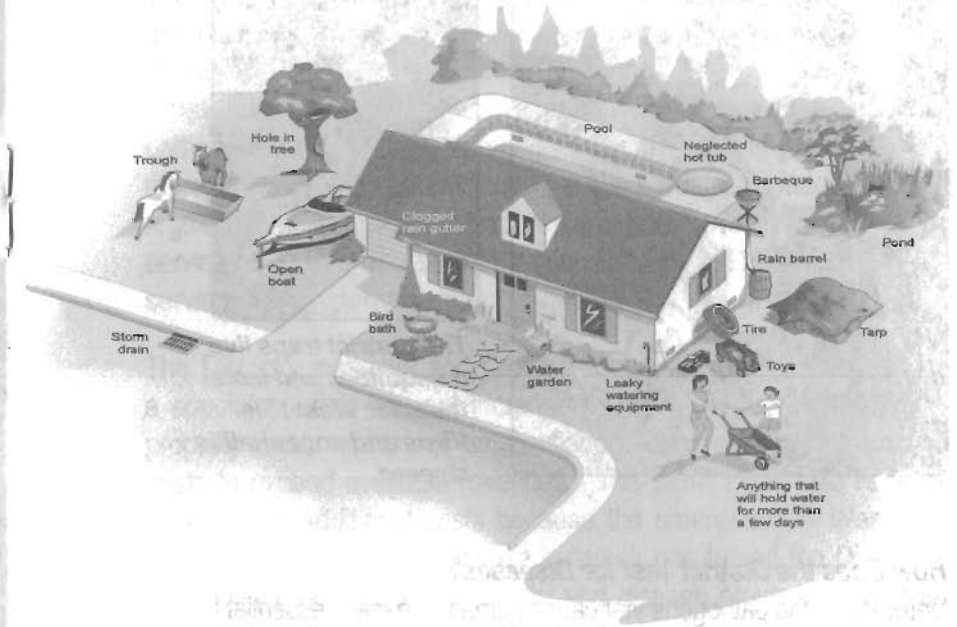
### *What Is a Vector?*

"Vector" means any animal capable of transmitting the causative agent of human disease or capable of producing human discomfort or injury, including, but not limited to, mosquitoes, flies, mites, ticks, other arthropods, and small mammals and other vertebrates (California Health and Safety Code Section 2002(k)).

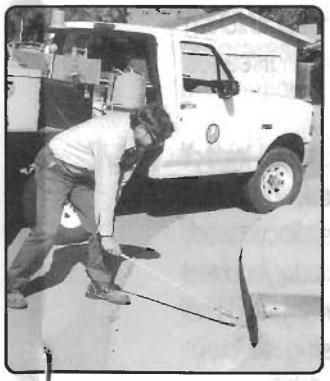
### *Service Examples*

The photos below depict some of the types of services and approaches the District uses to control mosquitoes and to help prevent diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, other insects and rodents. The common backyard sources of mosquitoes are also depicted to the right.

### *Common Backyard Sources of Mosquitoes*



*Testing for mosquito breeding in stagnant water areas.*



*Technician treating stagnant water in a catch basin in urban area, a significant source of mosquito breeding.*

*Disease surveillance in ticks and other vectors.*

*Educational programs to teach students how to eliminate backyard mosquito breeding sources and to help protect themselves from diseases.*

*Technicians test for mosquito breeding in urban locations, such as this unused swimming pool, and ensure owner compliance if needed.*

***The District traps live mosquitoes and tests them for West Nile Virus and encephalitis disease.***

### *How Does the District Test for Diseases?*

Detection of the pathogens that cause human disease is essential for the District to be able to use its resources efficiently. Since diseases like West Nile Virus often appear first in wild birds, the District maintains sentinel chicken flocks in strategic locations in the County. The sentinel chicken flocks are humanely and regularly tested for mosquito-borne diseases and viruses.

Another disease surveillance approach is the use of mosquito insect traps. Mosquitoes, insects, and other vectors are trapped, identified and sent to laboratories for disease testing. If diseases are discovered, the District would implement a response plan that could include focused control efforts, public education and other services as warranted. The assessment would fund expanded local testing, increasing efficient response to disease threats.

### *Additional Information*

For additional information concerning the District's services, the proposed assessments or this ballot proceeding, please call the District at (290) 337-0095.



### *About the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District*

The District has been providing mosquito and vector control services and public health protection services in San Joaquin County for over 60 years. The District is governed by an eleven member Board of Trustees comprised of one member from the cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Lodi, Manteca, Ripon, Stockton, Tracy, and four members representing unincorporated areas in the County. In addition to its regular mosquito and vector abatement, disease testing and control services, last year the District responded to over 1000 requests for services by property owners.

The District's mosquito and disease control services are funded by a special tax that has not increased since 1981, and Ad Valorem property taxes. Over this time, inflationary increases have caused costs to exceed available revenues. The District has also recently experienced additional costs because the emergence of West Nile Virus in California. This disease outbreak has forced the District to enhance its local mosquito control and disease prevention services in order to help prevent an outbreak of this disease in San Joaquin County. The additional costs from these West Nile Virus prevention services, as well as the overall costs of the District's vector control programs, have caused the District's mosquito control and disease prevention costs to exceed available revenues.

If this local funding measure is approved, the District would have sufficient resources to continue controlling mosquitoes and other insects, and to enhance such services in order to better respond to emerging public health threats, such as West Nile Virus. In addition, the District would have sufficient funds to test for, and respond to, other diseases that are carried by mosquitoes and insects, such as encephalitis and Lyme disease.

### *What Are the Public Accountability Safeguards?*

This ballot measure will include several layers of fiscal safeguards to ensure that all funds are expended appropriately. First, the funds raised can only be spent on mosquito control and disease prevention services within the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District. Second, the funds will be overseen by the Board of Trustees with annual audits to ensure that all funds are expended appropriately. And third, the budget for the services proposed for each year will be presented annually at a noticed public hearing.

### *How Much Is This Assessment?*

The proposed assessment for your property for fiscal year 2005-06 is printed on the Official Ballot included with this notice and information item. For single family homes on one acre or less, the proposed assessment is $7.58, while other residential property types are assessed according to the number of dwelling units and size. Commercial, industrial, and agricultural properties are assessed according to their parcel size and property type. (Note that this proposed assessment would be in addition to the District's current special tax of $9.56 for a home on one acre). The total amount that would be raised by the proposed assessments for fiscal year 2005-06 is approximately $1,537,336.

### *How Was the Assessment Determined?*

The total cost of the mosquito and disease control services that will be funded by the assessments is allocated to each property in the District based on the estimated special benefit received. The method of benefit determination is based on the type of property, the number of dwelling units, and its size.

The types of special benefit include: increased public safety, welfare, and protection of health; reduction of potential for new diseases and infections in humans, enhanced quality of life, desirability of the area and utility of property; increased disease prevention awareness; protection of economic activity; protection of tourism and agricultural business; wildlife protection and the reduced risk of nuisance and liability. An engineer's report describing the proposed services, method of assessment, budget, and proposed assessments for each parcel is available for review at the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District office located at 7759 South Airport Way, Stockton, California.



### *Method of Voting*

To complete the enclosed official ballot, mark the oval next to either Yes or No, sign the ballot, place it in the provided postage paid return envelope and mail or hand deliver it. Only official ballots which are signed and marked with the property owner's support or opposition and are **received before the end of the public input portion of the public hearing on Tuesday, November 1, 2005** are counted. If you have questions about the District or the proposed services, lose your ballot, require a replacement ballot, need a proportional ballot or want to change your vote, call the District at (209) 337-0095. See the enclosed ballot for additional instructions. Ballots are weighted by the proposed amount of assessment and will be tabulated accordingly by Croce and Company, a professional accounting and auditing firm. The assessment shall not be imposed if, upon the conclusion of the public hearing, weighted ballots submitted in opposition to the assessment exceed the weighted ballots submitted in favor of the assessment. If a majority of weighted ballots returned are in support, the assessment may be levied for fiscal year 2005-06 and may be continued in future years to fund ongoing mosquito, vector and disease control services.

### *Public Hearing*

**A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the U.C. Cooperative Extension Office, located at 420 South Wilson Way, Stockton, CA 95205.** You are invited to attend the public hearing. Tabulation of the returned ballots will commence after the close of the public input portion of the hearing, and the results of the tabulation will be announced at the **continuation of the public hearing scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on November 15, 2005 at the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District's Board Room, located at 7759 South Airport Way, Stockton, CA 95206.**

### *Will This Assessment Increase in Future Years?*

If approved, the assessment will continue in future years and cannot be increased without approval from property owners in another assessment ballot proceeding, except for an annual adjustment tied to the change in the San Francisco Bay Area Consumer Price Index, not to exceed 3% per year.

## Mosquito Facts:

**Disease Transmission:** Mosquitoes infected with a disease can spread that disease to other humans or animals when they bite and suck blood.

**Why Do Mosquito Bites Itch?** When a mosquito bites, it injects chemicals to prevent the blood from clotting. These chemicals cause irritation that makes you itch.

**Do All Mosquitoes Suck Blood?** Only the female mosquitoes feed on blood; male mosquitoes feed on plant nectar and juices.

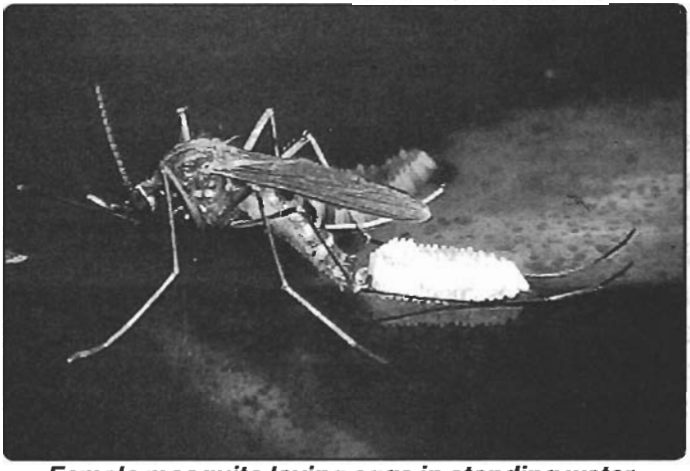
**Breeding Sources:** Mosquitoes lay eggs in stagnant, standing water. These eggs turn into larvae that live in the water until they hatch into adult mosquitoes. By eliminating standing water, we can eliminate the sources of mosquitoes.

**Breeding Potential:** A small household bucket filled with stagnant water can produce thousands of mosquitoes per day.

**Lifespan:** About 14 days for females; 7 days for males.

**Eggs:** One female can lay as many as 600 eggs in its lifetime.

**Wing Speed:** Moves more than 1,000 times a second; that is the buzzing sound we hear.



***Female mosquito laying eggs in standing water.***

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-209

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL CASTING AFFIRMATIVE VOTE ON PROPERTY ASSESSMENT BALLOT FOR CITY PROPERTIES WITHIN THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT BALLOTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF LODI

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WHEREAS, the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District is conducting a public hearing and assessment ballot proceeding to increase the District's property assessment; and

WHEREAS, the nominal increase for a single-family home is $7.58 per year; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends that the City Council cast a "Yes" vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lodi City Council hereby casts an affirmative vote on the property assessment ballot for City properties within the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the City Manager, or his designee, to execute and submit the ballots on behalf of the City of Lodi.

Dated: October 5, 2005

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2005-209 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held October 5, 2005, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hansen, Johnson, Mounce, and Mayor Beckman

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hitchcock

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

Susan J. Blackston

SUSAN J. BLACKSTON
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL

JOHN BECKMAN, Mayor
SUSAN HITCHCOCK
Mayor Pro Tempore
LARRY D. HANSEN
BOB JOHNSON
JOANNE L. MOUNCE

# CITY OF LODI

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL, 221 WEST PINE STREET
P.O. BOX 3006
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241-1910
(209) 333-6706
FAX (209) 333-6710
EMAIL pwdept@lodi.gov
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BLAIR KING
City Manager

SUSAN J. BLACKSTON
City Clerk

D. STEVEN SCHWABAUER
City Attorney

RICHARD C. PRIMA, JR.
Public Works Director

September 29, 2005

San Joaquin County Mosquito & Vector Control District
Attn: Mr. John Stroh
7759 S. Airport Way
Stockton, CA 95206

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution for Affirmative Vote on Property Assessment Ballot for City Properties within the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District and Authorizing City Manager or Designee to Execute and Submit Ballots

Enclosed is a copy of background information on an item on the City Council agenda of Wednesday, October 5, 2005. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, Carnegie Forum, 305 West Pine Street.

This item is on the consent calendar and is usually not discussed unless a Council Member requests discussion. The public is given an opportunity to address items on the consent calendar at the appropriate time.

If you wish to write to the City Council, please address your letter to City Council, City of Lodi, P. O. Box 3006, Lodi, California, 95241-1910. Be sure to allow time for the mail. Or, you may hand-deliver the letter to City Hall, 221 West Pine Street.

If you wish to address the Council at the Council Meeting, be sure to fill out a speaker's card (available at the Carnegie Forum immediately prior to the start of the meeting) and give it to the City Clerk. If you have any questions about communicating with the Council, please contact Susan Blackston, City Clerk, at (209) 333-6702.

If you have any questions about the item itself, please call me at (209) 333-6759.

P. Farris

for: Richard C. Prima, Jr.
Public Works Director

RCP/pmf

Enclosure

cc: City Clerk

NMOSQUITOCONTROLASSESSMENT.DOC