

MOTION

PUBLIC WORKS & GANG REDUCTION

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a serious and growing public health threat to Los Angeles residents. According to a report by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, a total of 27 deaths were caused by WNV in 2017. This is the highest count of fatalities since WNV emerged in Los Angeles County in 2003. Additionally, 2017 also marked the longest recorded mosquito season.

WNV is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. While adults over 50 years of age and those with chronic medical conditions are most at risk, WNV can affect anyone regardless of age. WNV can cause meningitis, encephalitis, limb paralysis and even death. Severe cases may have incomplete recovery leading to longer-term mental and physical problems and loss of independence. There is no cure for WNV.

On August 23, 2018, the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) reported an increase of WNV in the San Fernando Valley. Ten additional samples of mosquitos collected from Northridge, Panorama City, Porter Ranch, Sherman Oaks, Van Nuys and Encino all confirmed positive for WNV. Moreover, LA County Department of Public Health has identified Northridge as being one of the top 5 areas at highest risk for WNV in the County.

Despite precautions taken by residents to reduce stagnant water on their property and the best efforts of GLACVCD, mosquito populations will remain high until the City takes responsibility for mosquito breeding sources on public property. The City's aging infrastructure such as damaged roads and underground storm drain system and uneven curb and gutters form pooling of stagnant water that breeds mosquitos that can transmit WNV.

According to the California Health and Safety Code, Sections 2000-2093, the GLACVCD has expressed powers to conduct vector surveillance, prevent the occurrence, and take any and all proper actions to abate or control vectors and vector-borne diseases and may initiate abatement proceedings against cities that neglect mosquito concerns including penalties of \$1,000 per day for each day of non-compliance. The attached letter from GLACVCD further demonstrates the immediate need for the City to take action.

Given the risks posed by mosquitoes bearing WNV and potential non-compliance fees, it is urgent that the Bureau of Street Services be instructed to identify sources of funding, inspect the identified locations, and develop and implement a plan to abate the pooling of stagnant water at those locations.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the CAO be instructed to work with the Bureau of Street Services to immediately identify funding and to develop and implement the necessary actions to abate the pooling of stagnant water at the following locations in Council District 12 as a

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matter of extreme urgency in the effort to control the spread of West Nile Virus pursuant to the attached letter from the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District:

- a. 9100 block of Balboa Blvd., Northridge between Tupper St. and Nordhoff St;
- b. 19600 block of Chatsworth St., Porter Ranch from Melvin Ave. to Corbin Ave;
- c. 9300 block of Louise Ave., Northridge between Nordhoff St. and Prairie St;
- d. 20200 block of Devonshire St., Chatsworth, North side of street;
- e. 17900 block of Raymer St., Northridge;
- f. 16200 block of Kalisher St., Granada Hills

PRESENTED BY:



MITCHELL ENGLANDER

Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:



GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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GENERAL MANAGER

Truc Dever

August 24, 2018

Councilmember Mitchell Englander
& Honorable Members of the City Council
200 North Spring Street, Room 405
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Mosquito-Borne Diseases and LA City Infrastructure

Dear Councilmember Englander:

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District to urge you and the Los Angeles City Council to take immediate action to prioritize and fund street and public works infrastructure repairs to reduce mosquito breeding and the risk of West Nile virus transmission.

As you may be aware, West Nile virus (WNV) is transmitted through the bite of infected mosquitoes and is endemic to Los Angeles County. Since the discovery of WNV in the State in 2003, more than 6,500 cases have been reported to the California Department of Public Health and nearly 300 of those have resulted in deaths. Here in Los Angeles County, there were 268 documented cases and 27 deaths last year alone. The number of deaths was the highest documented since WNV emerged in LA County. In fact, Los Angeles County identifies more WNV cases each year than anywhere else in the country. Unfortunately, we know this illness is under-reported, and we suspect that hundreds more go undiagnosed each year. This debilitating virus can cause neuroinvasive illnesses and result in paralysis or death. That is why it is so important that cities within our County take measures to protect the health of their residents. You can reduce the risk of WNV transmission in your communities by eliminating places where these mosquitoes grow and breed, specifically stagnant water sources.

We recently met with your staff at Council District 12 to discuss chronic mosquito breeding sources within your jurisdiction and within the City of Los Angeles. We identified underground storm drain systems and street gutters that regularly breed mosquitoes and where we spend countless hours each month monitoring and chemically treating for immature mosquitoes before they can become biting, disease-carrying adults. The infrastructure of these chronic breeding sources needs to be addressed by way of adequate funding and resources for repair and maintenance.

The California Health and Safety Code, Sections 2000-2093, give the District expressed powers to conduct vector surveillance, prevent the occurrence, and take any and all proper actions to abate or control vectors and vector-borne diseases. While the District may initiate abatement proceedings against cities that neglect mosquito concerns including penalties of \$1,000 per day for each day of non-compliance, we prefer to work collaboratively with our member municipalities to correct mosquito breeding issues.

ARTESIA
Sally Flowers
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BELLFLOWER
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BURBANK
Dr. Jeff D. Wassem
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SOUTH EL MONTE
Hector Delgado
SOUTH GATE
Denise Diaz
WHITTIER
Josué Alvarado

This year, the Los Angeles County Public Health Department identified Northridge, within Council District 12, as one of the five highest risk cities or communities for West Nile virus infection based on patient data. Our District's historical mosquito surveillance data also support the designation of Valley communities as being at higher risk for WNV. Earlier this month, we issued a press release identifying 10 mosquito samples that tested positive for WNV from six San Fernando Valley communities: Encino, Northridge, Panorama City, Porter Ranch, Sherman Oaks, and Van Nuys. Despite our best efforts, mosquito populations will remain high in our densely urban environment until more cities and residents take responsibility for mosquito breeding sources on their properties.

We hope to partner with the City and Council District 12 on a number of mosquito control efforts. To better serve your City, we request your attention to the following items:

- 1) GLACVCD requests a waiver from the City's underground storm drain treatment permit, which currently requires the District to pay an annual fee to access storm drain systems to treat for mosquito breeding.
- 2) Work with GLACVCD to uncover paved-over manhole covers to allow for better access in order to treat underground storm drain systems.
- 3) We have identified several initial chronic mosquito breeding sites within Council District 12 based on service requests, reports to CD 12, mosquito abundance and disease activity. However, this list is by no means exhaustive and we hope to maintain a partnership with the City and open line of communication to resolve other areas of public health concern in the future.
 - a. 9100 block of Balboa Blvd., Northridge between Tupper St. and Nordhoff St.
 - b. 19600 block of Chatsworth St., Porter Ranch from Melvin Ave. to Corbin Ave.
 - c. 9300 block of Louise Ave., Northridge between Nordhoff St. and Prairie St.
 - d. 20200 block of Devonshire St., Chatsworth, north side of street
 - e. 17900 block of Raymer St., Northridge
 - f. 16200 block of Kalisher St., Granada Hills

We look forward to the opportunity to work with you and the City on these important public health matters and thank you for your consideration and support of our mission.

Best regards,



Truc Dever
General Manager