



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2003

Contact: Jack Miller (858) 694-2888

Joe Tash (619) 595-4627

MEDIA ADVISORY

Editors: Please Note 3 p.m. News Conference Today

WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Virus Detected in Dead Bird Found in East County Earlier This Month

The County's Department of Environmental Health announced today that West Nile Virus has been confirmed in a dead bird found near a home in the unincorporated east end of El Cajon earlier this month.

The County has mobilized staff to the area to treat known mosquito breeding sites, and is asking the public to provide information on other possible breeding sites, including unused swimming pools, ponds and creeks.

Other West Nile-related activities include:

- **At 3 p.m. today**, County health officials will provide the latest developments regarding West Nile Virus at a news conference to be held at the Department of Environmental Health, 9325 Hazard Way (near Ruffin Road and Clairemont Mesa Boulevard.)
- County Environmental Health staff are canvassing the areas around Dehesa Road in the El Cajon area, treating any known mosquito breeding sites to reduce the risk that West Nile could be transmitted to humans or animals.
- **At 9:45 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 20**, an aerial application of mosquito larvicide will take place at Buena Vista Lagoon in North County as previously scheduled. The media is invited to observe this application. (Staging area at Hosp Grove Park, Thomas Guide Page 1106, E3)
- The County has sent three dead birds found at Kit Carson Park in Escondido to be tested for West Nile Virus. Results are expected early next week.
- The public is encouraged to report dead birds or mosquito breeding areas by calling (858) 694-2888. Dead birds do not need to be reported if they have been hit by a car, shot or killed by animals; if they are covered with flies or ants; if they have a foul odor; or if their bodies are not intact.
- For more information, the public can call the County's West Nile Virus information line at 1-888-551-INFO (4636) or log on to www.SDFighttheBite.com.

###

MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 208 • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101