AERIAL SPRAYING TO TARGET MOSQUITOES IN METROPOLITAN BAKERSFIELD AREA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Kern Mosquito and Vector Control District (KMVCD) and the Kern County Department of Public Health are alerting area residents that aerial spraying to control adult mosquitoes has been planned for this week. This is in response to a high number of adult mosquitoes being detected and associated with an elevated risk of contracting West Nile virus. It is a priority of Kern Mosquito and Vector Control and Kern County Department of Public Health to protect the residents of Kern County with minimal risks to the environment.

Aerial spraying will begin approximately 8:30 pm Thursday evening August 9, 2007, weather permitting. A second application is scheduled for the week of August 13, 2007. The spray zone encompasses the area that has demonstrated a very high concentration of West Nile virus activity. Treatment will be made with a twin turbine, fixed-wing aircraft fitted with ultra low volume spray equipment. The KMVCD will be using a natural pyrethrin product to treat for adult mosquitoes at a rate of 0.76 fluid ounces per acre.

No special action is required by residents within the affected areas. All products used are approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of California for use of controlling mosquitoes and protecting public health. When used according to the label directions, there is no reasonable concern for property, pets, wildlife, environment, or human health. Individuals who may be sensitive to chemicals should consult their healthcare provider regarding their specific questions.

The Kern County Department of Public Health has set up a hotline for up to date information about aerial spraying. The number is (661)868-0367, with Spanish language option. For additional information, visit the Kern County Department of Public Health website at http://www.co.kern.ca.us/health to see maps of areas to be sprayed, as well as general information about West Nile virus.

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