

219

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
August 29, 2006

SUBJECT: Response to the Grand Jury Report: Riverside County Mosquito and Vector Control Services

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Approve with or without modifications, the attached response to the Grand Jury's recommendations regarding Riverside County Mosquito and Vector Control Services.
- 2) Direct the Clerk of the Board to immediately forward the Board's finalized response to the Grand Jury, to the Presiding Judge, and the County Clerk-Recorder (for mandatory filing with the State).

BACKGROUND: On July 11, 2006, the Board directed staff to prepare a draft of the Board's response to the Grand Jury's report regarding the Riverside County Mosquito and Vector Control Services.

Section 933 (c) of the Penal Code requires that the Board of Supervisors comment on the Grand Jury's recommendations pertaining to the matters under the control of the Board, and that a response be provided to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days.

H:\DGRANT\GJURY\90dayVector06.doc

Departmental Concurrence

Gary Christmas
GARY CHRISTMAS
 Deputy County Executive Officer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ N/A	In Current Year Budget:
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$	Budget Adjustment:
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$	For Fiscal Year:

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote <input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE.

County Executive Office Signature

[Signature]

- Dept Recomm.: Consent
- Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent
- Policy
- Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.9- 7/12/05

District:

Agenda Number:

3.6

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL SERVICES
RESPONSE TO FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

FINDINGS:

Number 1:

West Nile Virus cases for Riverside County as of November 2005 are shown on the attached chart. Seventy-one percent of West Nile Virus cases were reported from the areas covered by the County Vector Control Division of the Environmental Health Department.

Response:

Respondent disagrees partially with the finding. Explain the partial disagreement:

While the statement is correct that 71% of West Nile Virus cases in Riverside County did occur in areas covered by County Vector Control Program, it implies that service was inferior. In the previous year (2004), only 18 (15%) of the 117 human cases of West Nile Virus occurred in our coverage area. Given the variables involved in human occurrences and the natural migration of the disease, no direct correlation with occurrences and service areas can be made. It is important to note that although offered, all the incorporated cities that contracted for our services chose not to provide for proactive surveillance of mosquito populations and/or the identification and treatment of breeding sources as was done in the unincorporated area.

Number 2:

Complaints about mosquitoes between the Coachella Valley District and the City of Blythe are received by the Blythe office and submitted weekly to County Vector Control. The County then schedules control visits based upon the weekly reports and sends personnel and equipment, incurring costs for overnight stays and extensive mileage.

Response:

Respondent agrees with the finding.

In addition to complaint responses we also conduct routine trapping and larvaciding in the Blythe area to monitor the mosquito population and species, as well as reduce the adult mosquito population. Unless this area is incorporated into the CVMVCD area of service, we will be required to provide service to this area. We would support this proposal if the CVMVCD District Board is willing to do this.

Finding Number 3:

With five agencies, separate areas of responsibility and unclear geographic boundaries, the public is often confused about whom to call for assistance or to report vector activity.

Response:

Respondent agrees with the finding.

This is true whenever there are multiple agencies providing similar services. An attempt has been made to clarify the service areas and provide contact information to the public on our web site at <http://www.rivcoeh.org/02-03.htm>.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation Number 1:

Conduct a study of vector control effectiveness throughout the areas covered by the five agencies. Based upon study results, consider the benefit to the County of dividing all vector control responsibilities between the two Special Districts (Northwest and Coachella Valley).

Response:

The recommendation has been implemented. Provide a summary regarding the implemented action.

This is currently being done. On May 29, 2006 the Board approved our request (Board Agenda Item 3.4) to transfer \$2,000 to LAFCO to offset the costs of a study on Vector Control Services in Riverside County. The NWMVCD and CVMVCD also each provided \$5,000 toward this effort. It is anticipated that this study will be completed by September or October of 2006.

Recommendation Number 2:

Conduct a survey and/or prepare a ballot measure for voters outside the present Special Districts to determine their willingness to support the additional cost for Special District coverage.

Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. Explain the scope and parameters of an analysis or study:

If the Board decides to have our Department implement a parcel assessment in our service area we are prepared to retain a consulting firm with expertise in this area.

This would include conducting a survey of public support and, if sufficient support is indicated, preparation of a mail out ballot.

Finding Number 3:

If accepted by the voters, merge County Vector Control into the two Special Districts, or form a third Special District. Such a merger or expansion should offer any non-participating cities the option to contract with the appropriate Special District.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Explain the scope and parameters of an analysis or study:

The decision to form a third special district or expand the existing districts should be made by the Board based on the above mentioned study. We agree that any special district formation or expansion must include the option for cities to contract for services.

H:\DGRANT\GJURY\90dayVector06.doc

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY
WEST NILE VIRUS ACTIVITY
BY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**

As of November 2005

Vector District	Number of Cases	Areas Covered
City of Blythe	0	Blythe
Vector Control – City of Riverside	7	Riverside
Coachella Valley MVCD	5	Desert Hot Springs, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Indio
Northwest MVCD	4	Lake Elsinore, Glen Ivy, Corona, Norco, Arlington/Arlanza, Canyon Crest, La Sierra, Woodcrest Mira Loma, El Cerrito, Jurupa, Glen Avon, Highgrove, Rubidoux, Pedley, and Home Gardens
Vector Control – Riverside County Environmental Health	72	Beaumont, Banning, Hemet, Nuevo, Moreno Valley, Cherry Valley, Sun City, Hemet, Wildomar, Canyon Lake, Menifee, San Jacinto, Yucaipa, Temecula, Romoland, Homeland, Quail Valley, Winchester and Cabazon.
Area without current vector control	13	Perris and Calimesa

Case count provided by the Director, Disease Control, Riverside County Community Health Agency.

Report Issued: 06/28/06
Report Public: 06/30/06
Response Due: 09/27/06