



Napa County
Mosquito Abatement District

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11 August 2004

The Honorable Scott Snowden
Presiding Judge
Napa County Superior Court
825 Brown Street
Napa, CA 94559

Dear Judge Snowden:

The Board of Directors of the Napa County Mosquito Abatement District is writing this letter to advise you of the District's response to the 2003-2004 Napa County Grand Jury report released on 23 June 2004.

Concerning recommendation number one: The District has modified its current public outreach program as follows. First, a website (Napamosquito.org) was created and has been available since February 23, 2004. This website has copies of all District brochures, disease information, links to sites about pesticides and other key public health agencies such as the California Department of Health Services and the CDC, and much more. Second, the District has been running an informational advertisement in the Napa Register, Yountville Sun, Weekly Calistoga and the St. Helena Star since April 7th and will continue to do so until the end of September. This ad advises the public about what they can do to reduce their risk of exposure to West Nile Virus and where they can get more information and help. The District continues to make presentations to schools, service clubs and community groups as well as responding within 24 hours to requests for service. All presentations and responses to service requests include presentation of the District's different informational brochures and website address. The District also participated in the Napa-Solano Home and Garden Show on May 12-14 where District staff interfaced with thousands of citizens, answering questions about mosquitoes, mosquito-borne disease, rodents and yellowjackets.

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The Board of Directors are very aware of the importance of "getting the word out" to the citizenry that they serve. We are also aware that care needs to be taken not to create a situation where demand outstrips the District's ability to respond in a timely and effective manner. It is the District's practice to respond either in person or by phone within 24-48 hours of the time that a citizen makes a request for service. All service requests are then followed up in person so that a proper assessment can be made as to the best course of action to address the citizen's concerns. Since the District covers all 796 square miles of the County with a total staff of eight people, care must be taken to balance our public relations efforts with ability to provide timely, effective service. The Board also feels that District staff have quite adequately performed many of the tasks that a public relations firm could do for us at this time. Therefore, we do not feel that the hiring of a public relations firm is necessary.

Concerning recommendation number two, the Board of Directors and District staff always have, and always will make controlling mosquitoes our first priority. The additional services that are provided were a result of numerous citizen requests over the years for these services. The District was initially founded to control mosquitoes and reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease. Therefore, management of mosquito populations will remain our primary focus.

In conclusion, we would like to thank you and the 2003-2004 Grand Jury for your review of our organization and recommendations for ways that we can make our services more effective for the public that we serve.

Respectfully,



Steven Rosa
President, Board of Trustees



Wesley A. Maffei
Manager