



SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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Cities of:

Alhambra

Arcadia

Azusa

Bradbury

Claremont

Covina

Duarte

El Monte

Glendora

Industry

Irwindale

La Puente

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San Gabriel

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West Covina

County of
Los Angeles

April 9, 2009

REDUCTION IN BEE and RODENT CONTROL SERVICES

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito Control District provides services for the control of various insect 'vectors' as part of our ongoing program to protect public health in the San Gabriel Valley.

Since it was introduced in 2003, West Nile virus (WNV) has placed a tremendous strain on vector control agencies across the State including this District. In response, we have refocused our priorities and staffing to concentrate our resources on the most pressing public health concern – controlling mosquitoes and reducing the risk of human disease.

Unfortunately, this means that our ability to provide other services, such as rodent and honey bee control, has been sharply reduced. As such, we wish to keep you informed and implore your assistance in relaying this information to your staff so that residents continue to receive the most current and concise information.

This District no longer removes SWARMS of bees – these are transitory groups of bees that are often reported as clustered on a wall or hanging from a tree branch. These bees do not have a nest (honey comb) to defend, will often move on within a few days, and are not aggressive unless physically provoked. Please urge residents to leave them alone and give them the opportunity to leave the area. Those wishing to have them removed immediately can contact a private pest control operator or bee keeper (there is a charge for these services.)

Requests to remove Bee NESTS on residential property (established colonies *in tree cavities or thick vegetation*) will be placed on a waiting list in the order received and responded to **as time permits**. The District currently has a 5-6 month waiting list. This District is not licensed to handle structural pest control problems, thus bees nesting *inside wall spaces, attics, and other man-made structures* must be removed by a private pest control

company. In these situations, please refer residents to their yellow pages (under “bee removal” or “pest control”) or visit the www.pcoc.org website.

Bees NESTING in a public place (parks, schools, hospitals, etc) will still be **handled as a priority** and responded to as soon as possible.

MULTIPLE STINGING INCIDENTS are considered an **emergency** and should be referred to emergency responders – call 911 immediately.

RODENT PROBLEMS will also be handled by our technicians **as time permits**. Rodents *inside structures* must also be removed by a licensed pest control operator.

These changes are required to ensure we can properly respond to the increased risk that West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases pose to our residents. As conditions warrant, these programs will be reevaluated and we will update you of any changes.

Please assist us in providing residents with this information if they contact you for assistance. Our telephone number is 626.814.9466.

Your understanding is greatly appreciated,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve West', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve West
District Manager