



## **San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District**

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[www.sgvmosquito.org](http://www.sgvmosquito.org)

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# **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

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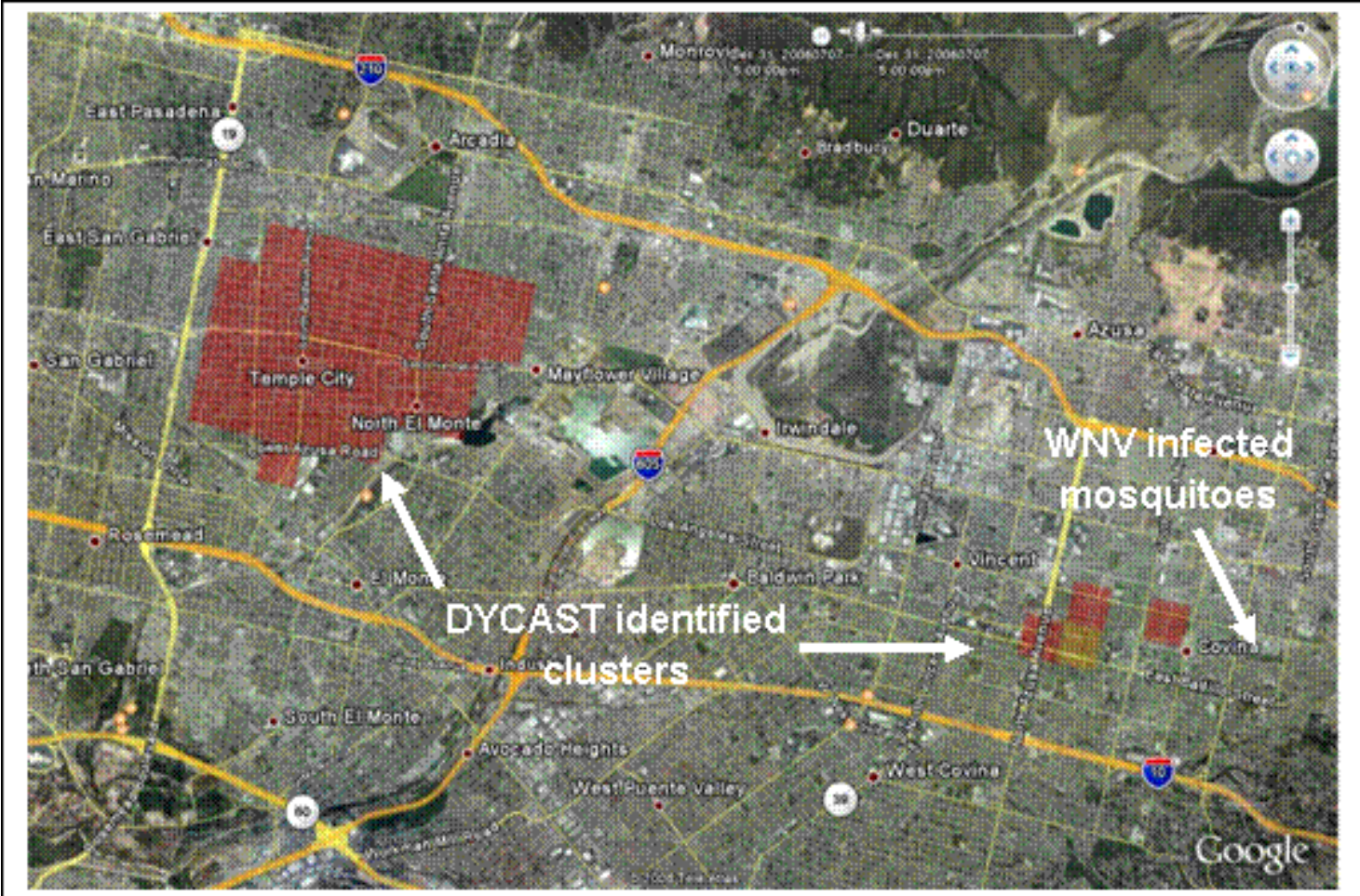
## **Elevated West Nile Virus Risk in Several San Gabriel Valley Cities**

**West Covina, CA (July 09, 2008)** – The Statewide West Nile virus (WNV) DYCAST surveillance system has noted significant clusters of dead birds being reported from the cities of Arcadia, Covina, Temple City, and portions of El Monte and San Gabriel in recent days. Additionally, two samples of mosquitoes collected from a Covina park yesterday tested positive for WNV. These are the first mosquito samples to test positive in the Valley this year. This increased activity raises the level of concern for all San Gabriel Valley cities.

DYCAST (Dynamic Continuous-Area Time Space model) is a surveillance tool managed by the California Department of Public Health which analyzes dead bird reports from watchful residents to the State's West Nile Virus Hotline. Clusters usually predict increased WNV activity in the area by several weeks, and serve as an early warning tool which mosquito control districts take very seriously.

“This system helps us pinpoint potential problem areas which we use to focus our search for mosquito breeding sites and control efforts as early as possible” noted Steve West, the District’s General Manager. “Finding these breeding sites is preferable and often precludes the need to use fog to control adult mosquitoes.” Pasadena’s Foothill Air Support Team (FAST) will provide helicopter assistance tomorrow to help the District search for green swimming pools and other standing water sites.

Mosquitoes collected from Kahler Russell (Wingate) Park in the city of Covina tested positive late yesterday for West Nile virus (WNV). The District will post warning signs around the park which will serve to remind residents that the virus is again active in the area. Although residents can still enjoy visiting this or other area parks, they should take precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes. Residents should wear long sleeve shirts and pants and apply effective mosquito repellents according to label if outdoors between dusk and dawn or any time mosquitoes are biting.



The District needs residents to remain vigilant and encourages everyone to survey their property today for any standing water and remove it. Report all green (improperly maintained) pools, spas, or ponds immediately as well as problems with adult mosquitoes which often indicate a nearby breeding source.

Residents are encouraged to continue to report any dead birds or tree squirrels to the California West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov). Not all birds and squirrels will be tested, but the data is vital in tracking and controlling the virus.

District Technicians and Ecologists continue to identify and control breeding sites to eliminate mosquitoes. Residents can be a tremendous help by monitoring their neighborhoods and following the simple steps outlined below to reduce the risk of exposure to mosquito bites and West Nile virus.

Remembering the **3 Ds** will help residents stay safe:

1. **DRAIN:** Monitor your property weekly and dump out standing water. Properly maintain pools and spas (buckets, unused “green” swimming pools, and poorly maintained ponds/fountains are notorious mosquito breeders). Avoid over-watering and repair leaky faucets/sprinklers.
2. **DUSK/DAWN:** Avoid outside activity at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. Keep doors and windows properly screened to keep mosquitoes outside.
3. **DEET:** If outdoors during peak hours, use a repellent containing the ingredients DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Be sure to follow label directions for maximum effectiveness.

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District is a public health agency dedicated to the control of mosquito and other vector-borne diseases. The District can be reached at 626-814-9466 or on the web at [www.sgvmosquito.org](http://www.sgvmosquito.org).