



**SAN MATEO COUNTY
MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SEPT 14, 2005**

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Ronald Anderson	Doris Kellett
Robert Blake	Leon Nickolas
Robert Bury	Lawrence Peterson
Valentina Cogoni	Dennis Preger
John Curtis	Richard Tagg
Victoria Feng	
Joseph Fil	
Raymond Honan	

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Roland Finley	Betsy Schneider
Robert Maynard	Lawrence Vallergera
Robert Riechel	

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert Gay, District Manager
Karen Williams, Clerk of the Board
James Counts, Field Operations Supervisor
Chindi Peavey, Vector Ecologist

GUESTS/SPEAKERS PRESENT:

None

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Input on Non Agendized Items

No one was present from the general public to address the Board

Consent Calendar

MOTION: Approve the consent calendar, which consisted of the list of expenditures for July and August, revenue received for July and August, and the Minutes from the July 13, 2005 Board meeting. Fil/Curtis, carried unanimously.

District Programs/Staff Reports

San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project 2005

Manager Gay, Field Supervisor Counts and Vector Ecologist Chindi Peavey reported on the District involvement in removing invasive cord grass in areas surrounding San Francisco Bay. In conjunction with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Coastal Conservancy, the District is assisting in removal of non-native Spartina, which is an invasive species of cord grass affecting 1,700 acres along the bay shoreline. The District has equipment designed to access difficult areas, which will not impact significantly on endangered species in these areas. Currently, the cord grass restricts mosquito treatments from entirely reaching their target. Removing the grass will allow the City of Redwood City to open up some diked areas and return approximately 2,000 to 3,000 acres to tidal marsh and therefore remove mosquito-breeding areas. In the coming years, this will result in a significant savings to the District with a reduction in helicopter and manual treatments to this area. The Coastal Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife are taking all the steps to handle the permits and paperwork processes needed to move the project along. Testing will be performed before and after treatments to ensure water quality. The project is estimated to cost the District approximately \$150,000. All costs, including man-hours and materials, will be billed to U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Coastal Conservancy respectively. The District has worked with U.S. Fish and Wildlife in previous years but this is the first year of working with the Coastal Conservancy. The Coastal Conservancy is responsible for properties from Highway 92 North to Brisbane along the Bay. To establish the working relationship with the Coastal Conservancy, a Resolution was drafted authorizing the work to be performed by the District.

MOTION: Authorizing the execution of the agreement between the Coastal Conservancy and the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District and approving its terms and conditions. Curtis/Peterson, carried unanimously.

Fish Pond/Parking Garage Construction Project

Manager Gay reported on the building project. He stated that the City of Burlingame Planning Department has held up the permit process and has placed the project behind schedule. Currently, the foundation slab has been poured and additional work to the car wash drain area is ongoing. Once the remaining concrete has been laid, the steel building will be brought in and the rest of the work will commence. The District is looking at a completion date sometime October or November. A building committee meeting needs to be arranged.

Entomology Support Services

Chindi Peavey reported on the activities of the lab staff. The District's 4 chicken flocks have not received any positive tests for West Nile virus. Statewide, it has been determined that chicken flocks are not predictive of human cases of West Nile virus. Mosquito pools have been more effective in determining the likelihood of human exposure. Last year, we had 17 positive jays and crows. To date, San Mateo County has had 6 positive birds but no crows tested positive for West Nile virus. Most incidents of positive findings are in the Central Valley. Sacramento has the highest number of cases in the state at this time and spilling over into Napa, Solano and Marin/Sonoma Counties. Two human cases have been reported in Santa Clara County. One of those was acquired elsewhere while the other was actually from San Jose.

Dr. Peavey reported on an issue involving Santa Clara County Vector Control. There is a hot spot in Santa Clara County around Los Trancos Rd, near our southern border, which Santa Clara was stating was being caused by our mosquitoes. Our technician in the area performed some CO2 trapping and captured 500 mosquitoes each night. Through testing we determined that the mosquitoes were indeed coming from Santa Clara County. Testing also showed that virus was present in this area. Our District performed the treatment as a goodwill gesture and to create a buffer from their county to ours. It was determined that the Technician from Santa Clara was not

sufficiently educated on the area to determine that the small tulle pond was the source of the problem.

The Lab has subscribed to a Dycast Modeling program that uses statistical data to determine areas with the most risk for West Nile outbreak. It has been extremely accurate in other areas throughout California. The program uses State information regarding dead bird calls to follow the emergence of the virus. Foster City has seen the most potential in our County.

San Mateo County has recorded no human cases of West Nile virus, though one resident has acquired the virus from outside our area.

Written question from Trustee Riechel: “How successful has this program been and has the collected numbers in San Bruno dropped meaningfully? **Answer:** The CO2 trap program is very successful in determining where a problem is occurring and is useful in seeing the levels drop when treatment has been applied. The CO2 trap program is a valuable tool to assist the District in monitoring problem areas and see how effective treatments have been.

Dr. Peavey provided a presentation that included graphs of surveillance work in areas of the County. Currently, service requests dating back to as far as 1995, are being entered into our database by our temporary Office Assistant. This will provide historical data showing a pattern or typical mosquito behavior and how it was addressed in previous years and how it is being addressed now. These graphs indicated the levels of mosquitoes in previous years before treatment at a given month and after treatments. Showing treatment beginning earlier had a significant impact on the levels of mosquitoes in the same areas in more current years. This modeling method will provide needed data for future years as to when to begin treatment in problem areas of the County.

Operation Services

James Counts reported on the activities of the Operations department. In conjunction with the graph presentation provided by Dr. Peavey, Mr. Counts reported on the results from aerial spraying showing previous years work and compared it to this year. Starting approximately two weeks early this year reflected a significant lower result of mosquitoes at Sharp Park, Searsville Lake and Mills Field in San Bruno. This treatment is being done every three weeks using about 20lbs per acre, flying about 6 to 8 feet above ground forcing the material into the tulle area getting better coverage.

Helicopter treatments are still ongoing in the Stanford, Pacifica and SFO area. **Written question from Trustee Riechel:** How effective has the helicopter treatment of the tulle areas been – specifically in San Bruno? **Answer:** Excellent! Prior to treatment, some CO2 traps in these areas collected approximately 2,000 mosquitoes a night and after treatment they were reduced to almost none.

Written question from Trustee Riechel: What is the District’s current policy of notification to a specific community when it becomes necessary to spray for West Nile Virus? How far in advance and whom in the community is notified? **Answer:** For adulticiding issues, the cities, the police department in that city, the Agriculture department and occasionally Public Works are notified. If enough advance notice is available, local press can be called. Stanford is responsible for notifying residents in their area.

A recent *Aedes dorsalis* fly off in Redwood Shores resulted in numerous phone calls from residents. Adulticiding was performed in the early morning hours. CO2 traps were collected after the treatment and a successful control was achieved, much to the delight of the local residents.

The creek program is still underway. 32 creeks are treated every 4 weeks. This program will come to an end on October.

James is working with the City of Redwood City, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Sheriff’s Department and Bomb Squad regarding using explosives to open up 5 dikes in Bair Island. This will return

these areas to tidal marsh, relieving the District of having to treat several thousand acres of breeding sites each year.

The sewer plant program is ongoing. The District has 8 sewer plants that are monitored for breeding. Recently, a problem developed in the Daly City area, which was incorrectly related only to the sewer plant. Upon a more detailed investigation, it was determined that an area outside of the plant, in the North Gate area, was causing the problem. Ongoing surveillance is working to rid the area of the entire problem, but apologies to the Plant Superintendent were given since the problem was not entirely their cause.

San Francisco has developed a working version of a mosquito control program by hiring bicycle messengers to treat all catch basins throughout the city. They are also utilizing GPS to mark each catch basin to make finding them again easier.

Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC)

Manager Gay reported on activities from the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC). The District has received \$195,628.74 from the State of California, which represents money put aside by the Governor for mosquito programs, in light of West Nile virus. This money is to replenish operational expenditures associated with treatment work.

Manager Gay reported on the adulticiding being done in the Sacramento area. Though the Sac/Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District took all necessary steps to inform the public regarding the need and safety of adulticiding for mosquitoes, they have run into lots of opposition from citizen groups and environmentalists. It has even gone so far as to require that the District Manager, Dave Brown, be escorted to and from work by armed guards. His family has had to be moved out of the area due to threats. The costs associated with the aerial spraying and adulticiding have totaled approximately \$150,000. Our District does not intend to use aerial spraying to eradicate adult mosquitoes. Our program is designed to be preventative and adulticiding is used only as a last resort and will only be done by motor vehicle or by hand. CSDA Executive Director is on the offensive with the Sacramento Bee. The Bee has produced a string of negative editorials about special districts in general and is now attacking Sac/Yolo MVCD saying Mosquito Abatement Districts are not sufficiently effective or accountable. They are recommending creating citizens charter commissions to review local districts and recommend reform or consolidations.

The MVCAC quarterly meeting will be held in South Lake Tahoe, NV this upcoming October. Manager Gay, Dr. Peavey and Trustee Preger will be attending.

Vector Control Joint Powers Agency

Manager Gay reported activities from the Vector Control Joint Powers Agency. Manager Gay and Trustee Preger attended the VCJPA Annual meeting which outlines the insurance program. Brian Kelly, Bickmore Risk Services will attend the October 11, 2005 board meeting to review the insurance program for the Trustees.

It was learned that Trustee Dennis Preger was not elected as Coastal Region Representative. He will serve as alternate.

District Manager's Activity Report

Manager Gay reported that he provided a presentation to the Atherton Town Council on July 20th. The event was received well by all in attendance.

Trustee Nickolas will attend CSDA Annual Conference on September 27-29 at the Westin Long Beach. He will report back at the October board meeting.

The District received our sustaining membership certificate from AMCA. Our membership helps support mosquito programs around the world and activities related to legislative advocacy.

Santa Cruz MVCD passed their annexation and benefit assessment at over 70%. They now cover up to our border.

Gary Suiter, Suiter & Associates, is drumming up business at districts by offering their help in Board performance, contract management, or professionally facilitated performance reviews. They do board retreats, teambuilding, board/staff relations, strategic planning, and training. Costs start at \$10,000 and go over \$25,000. Manager Gay feels that we have enough additional training, along with a comprehensive District Policy Manual and Employee Manual, which provide plenty of assistance to the Trustees.

Trustee Field Day 2005-06 has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2005. This is a day of equipment demonstrations and program presentations, followed by a barbeque lunch. Please mark your calendars!

The District audit was performed on August 17 and August 18, 2005. Final copies should be provided at the November board meeting.

Manager Gay would like to schedule the District Christmas party for December 7, 2005. It will be held at District headquarters. More information to follow.

Board and Staff Announcements

None

Reminder of Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2005 at 7:00.

Adjournment

MOTION: Adjournment. Fil/Peterson, carried unanimously. 9:42pm

Approved:

District Manager

President

Date