

## **West Nile found in county**

*By Darren Chapel*

San Mateo County joined a list of 32 other California communities to report a positive test for the West Nile Virus on Wednesday. The virus was discovered in an eastern grey squirrel that was collected on July 9 in San Mateo by the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District.

The virus has been present within the county since 2004, but the most recent discovery is the first documented case this year. A total of 278 cases of West Nile were documented in Californians last year, resulting in seven deaths.

Infected mosquitoes pass the virus to birds, humans, horses and squirrels, and large reports of dead birds are commonly an early indication that the virus is present in the environment.

Residents are encouraged to report recently dead birds and squirrels to the state online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov), or by telephone at (877) WNV-BIRD.

For more information on West Nile virus and safety tips, visit the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District's Web site at [www.smcmad.org](http://www.smcmad.org)