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### **Media Release**

Contact: Dottie Merki, REHS

Program Chief/PIO

[dellisme@rivcocha.org](mailto:dellisme@rivcocha.org)

### **Mosquito Spraying in San Jacinto**

Riverside County Environmental Health Vector Control Program have trapped more of the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in the city of San Jacinto. Vector control staff will be treating the area Thursday morning between 6 and 8am. The application of EPA approved mosquito control products Zenivex (EPA Reg No 2724-807) and Aqua Reslin (EPA Reg. No 432-796) is aimed at reducing the number of adult mosquitos. The area to be treated is near Hwy 79 and Shaver and Irwin and Evans St. (see map below). The area has been posted notifying residents and business of the planned operation.

*Aedes aegypti* is not native to California. It is a black and white **day-biting mosquito** that prefers to feed on humans. This mosquito is capable of transmitting several viruses, including Zika, Yellow Fever, Dengue and Chikungunya. While these viruses are not currently transmitted in California, there is potential for them to be introduced by infected international travelers. In the presence of a large population of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, a sick returned traveler may become a source leading to local transmission of disease. In this age of global commerce, *Aedes aegypti* has found paths into California. It has been detected in 12 counties throughout the state. View the California Department of Public Health map at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/AedesDistributionMap.pdf>

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is different from native California mosquitos. It lays its eggs just above the water surface in small containers, such as flower pots, pet bowls, discarded tires, and bird baths. As these mosquitos can breed in amounts of water as small as a bottle cap, residents are reminded to eliminate all standing water on their property. The eggs of this species of mosquito can survive on surfaces even after the water has been drained, for this reason we advise to drain and then scrub all items that were found to have stagnant water.

Vector Control staff will continue conducting surveillance in areas surrounding the point of discovery to assess its distribution. These efforts include door-to-door inspection of residential and commercial properties for these mosquitos and the standing water habitats where their larvae can develop. The mosquitos recently trapped have been sent to a lab for testing of Zika, West Nile virus as well as other mosquito borne diseases. As San Jacinto is one of our cities that contracts for our services, we will be working closely with city officials for follow up investigations.

Residents can reduce the chances of being bitten by *Aedes aegypti* or other mosquitos by taking the following precautions:

- Protecting against mosquito bites by using insect repellent. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535 according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age, and only in concentrations of 30 percent or less on older children. Lemon eucalyptus oil should not be used on children under age three.
- Being aware of peak mosquito hours. Dawn and dusk are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities planned for those hours.
- Choosing clothes that can help reduce mosquito bites. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors to help keep mosquitoes away from skin.
- Mosquito-proofing your home. Drain standing water, where mosquitos lay their eggs and drain and scrub items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty and scrub unused flowerpots and wading pools. Change water in birdbaths and pet bowls at least weekly.
- Keeping mosquitoes outside with tight-fitting screens on all windows and doors.

Contact the Riverside County Vector Control program at (951) 766-9454 or your local vector-control district to report mosquito problems, request mosquito fish or report neglected pools or standing water as potential mosquito sources. Visit the department online

<http://www.rivcoeh.org/Programs/vector> or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/RiversideCountyEH/> for more information.

