

# VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA



## MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 2020

### SAVE WATER. NOT MOSQUITOES.

#### DON'T CREATE MOSQUITO HABITAT BY ACCIDENT.

Over watering lawns and plants is a large contributor to mosquito breeding. Help fight the bite by:

- Fixing leaky faucets and broken sprinklers.
- Only apply as much water as your plants and soil need.

Visit [SCCVector.org](http://SCCVector.org) for more information.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER



**Nayer Zahiri**  
County of Santa Clara  
Vector Control District Manager

Warm weather is here and that means vectors such as ticks are more active. May was Lyme Disease Awareness Month, and the County of Santa Clara Vector Control District celebrated by participating and advertising the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Lyme Disease Awareness Month Lunch and Learn Series. The weekly series offered interactive presentations on tick surveillance, tick collection, tick bite prevention, and other activities.

The District reminds the public to practice preventative measures to avoid coming into contact with ticks. Use insect repellent approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, avoid areas with high grass, and check gear, pets, and children for ticks during and after being in tick habitat.

Warm months also mean other vectors such as mosquitoes are more active as well. The District is hard at work monitoring for diseases, such as West Nile virus and eliminating mosquito breeding in areas like marshes, neglected pools, curbs, catch basins, and ponds. The public can help prevent mosquito breeding by eliminating standing water around their home at least once a week, drilling holes in tire swings, disposing of unused tires, tarps, and toys.

While warm months mean fun outdoor activities, we would like to remind you to enjoy it safely by protecting yourself against ticks and mosquitoes.

Sincerely,

*Nayer Zahiri*

# SERVICES AVAILABLE

The County of Santa Clara Vector Control District is committed to protecting the public from vectors capable of transmitting diseases or creating a nuisance.

The services listed below are available for free to the public in Santa Clara County

- Advice, and/or control measures for mosquitoes.
- Phone consultations and advice for rodent infestations and/or wildlife activity.
- Insect identification and confirmation letter. Please mail or submit photo of specimen during Shelter-in-Place order.
- Phone consultations for bed bug abatement.
- Yellowjacket and wasp control/nest removal in public areas.
- Dead bird pickup and testing for West Nile virus.
- Mosquitofish to control mosquito populations are available for front door delivery during Shelter-in-Place order.
- Due to the Shelter-in-place order, school and community presentations, educational booths, and hands on activities are on hold until further notice.



***A VECTOR is any animal or insect that can transmit diseases to animals or people.***

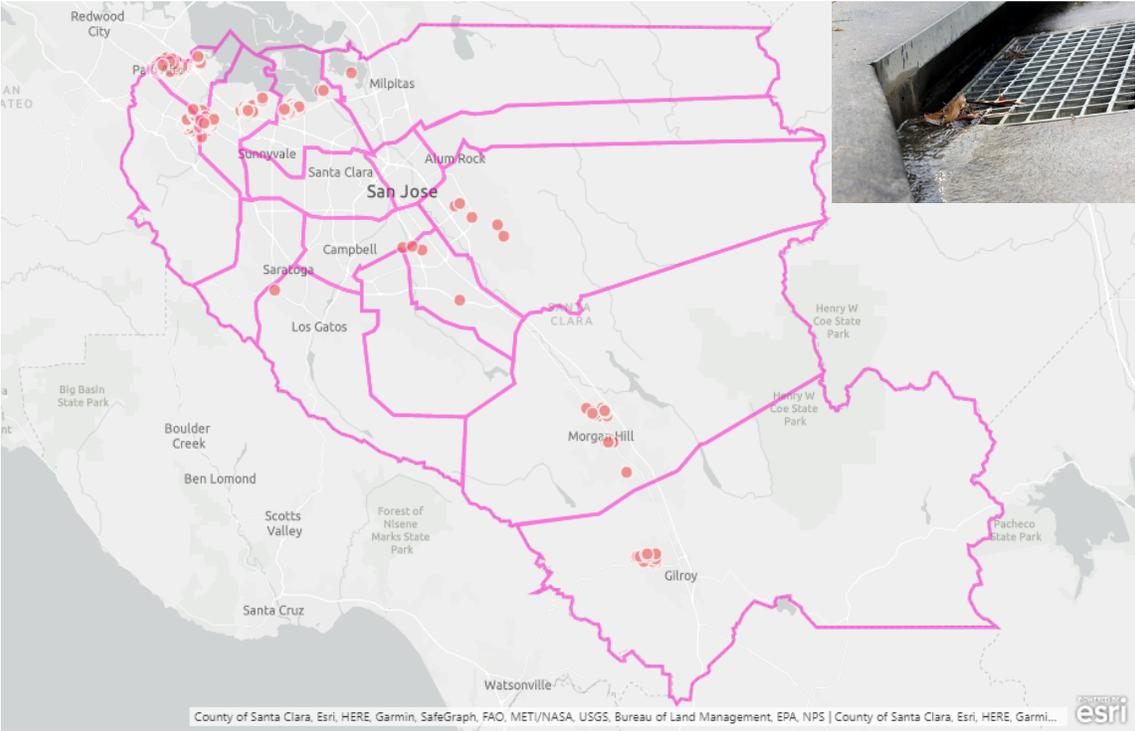
# OPERATIONS DATA

## MOSQUITO CONTROL

The District’s staff checks and treats mosquito larvae in flooded street stormwater catch basins, curbs, naturally breeding sources, and ponds. These sites hold standing water due to rainfall or urban runoff from domestic water usage.

Stagnant water in these areas, and in neglected swimming pools, can breed mosquitoes that can carry dangerous human diseases like West Nile virus.

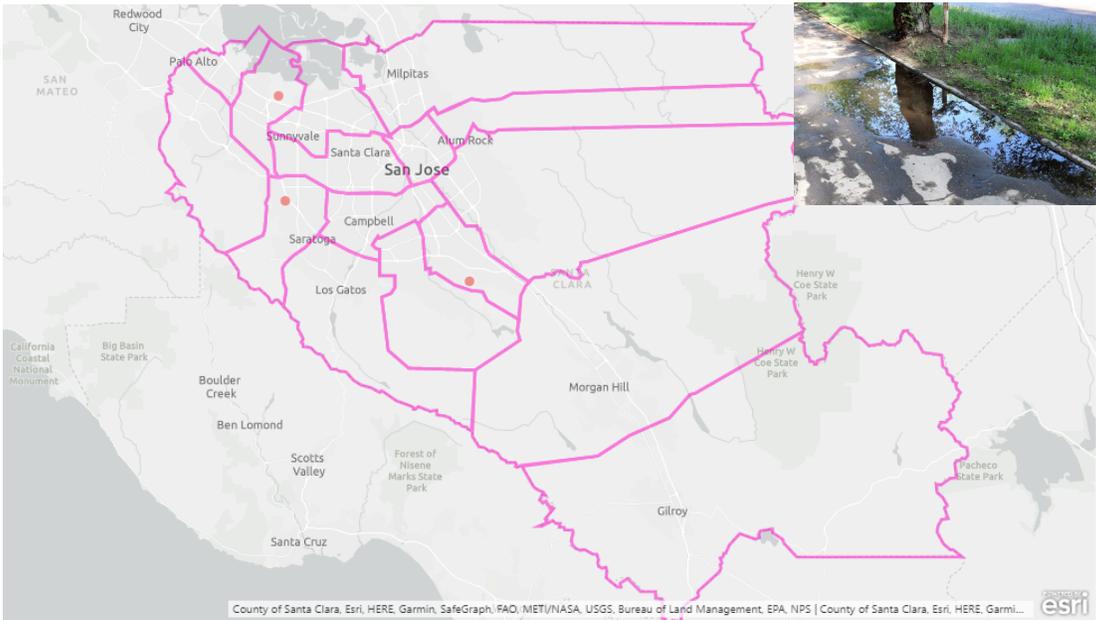
The County of Santa Clara Vector Control District actively monitors such locations to prevent these local nuisances from emerging and potentially spreading diseases.



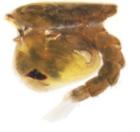
Map 1. In May, staff inspected 5,137 catch basins and treated 579 that were found to contain mosquito larvae.

# OPERATIONS DATA

## MOSQUITO CONTROL



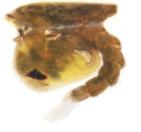
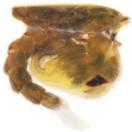
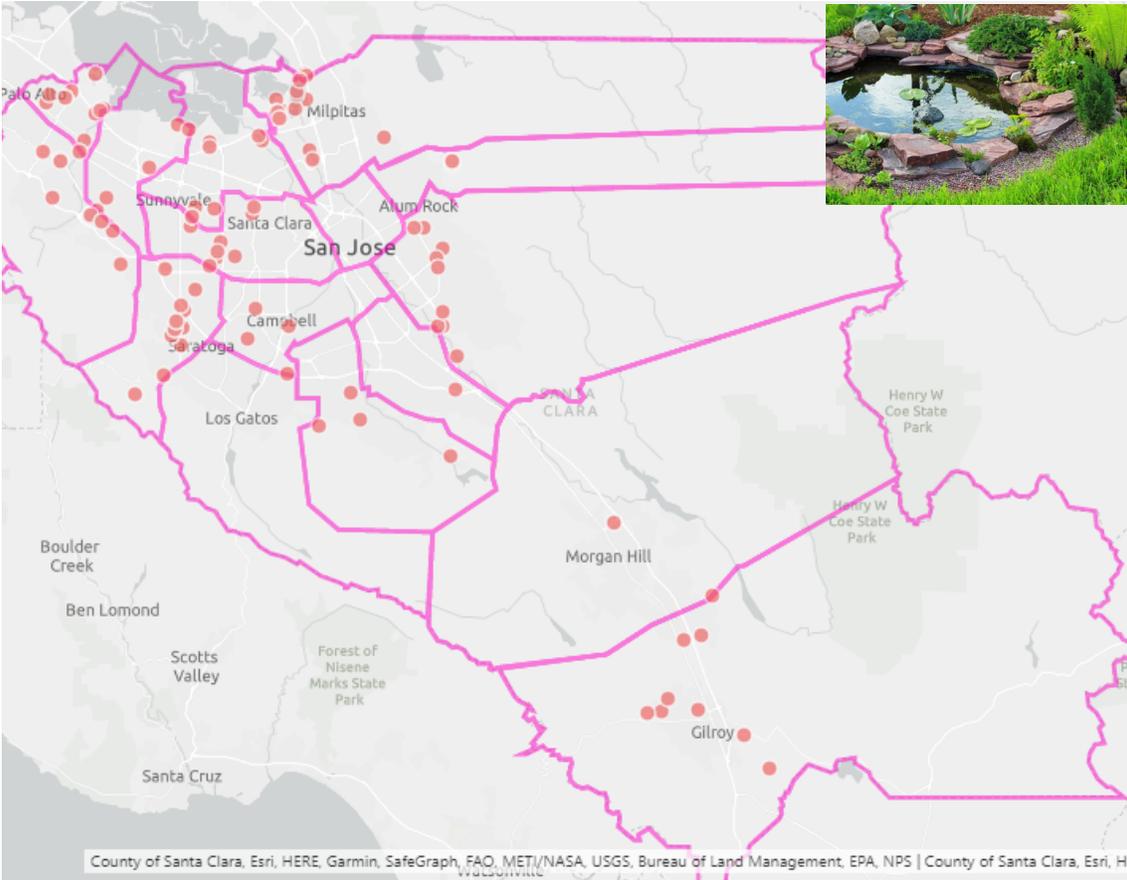
Map 2. In May, 19 curb inspections were conducted and 3 were treated to control mosquito breeding.



Map 3. Inspected 74 neglected pools and treated 7 that were found to be breeding mosquitoes.

# OPERATIONS DATA

## MOSQUITO CONTROL



Map 4. Inspected 412 different locations including man-made habitats such as ponds, creeks, and marshes, treating 158 that were breeding mosquitoes.



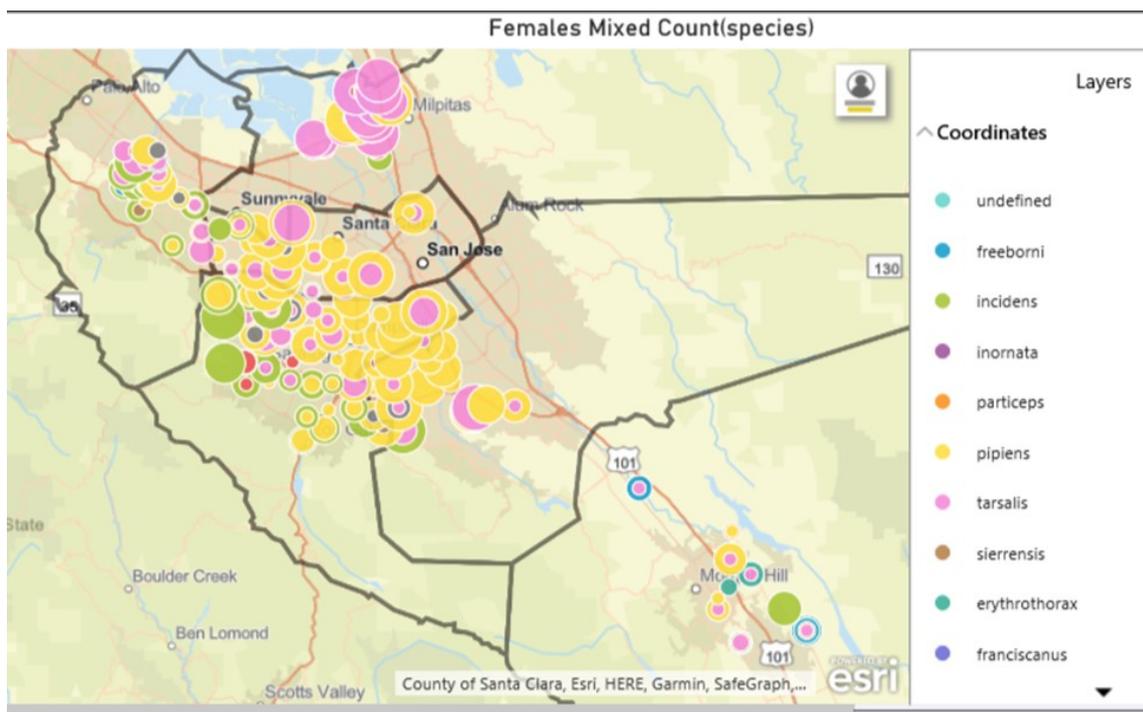
# WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE

## STATEWIDE

As of May 29, 2020 there have been no human infections reported. Four West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito pools were reported at the end of the month from Los Angeles, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties, which were the first WNV positive mosquito pools reported in California in 2020. These were also the first detections of WNV in Los Angeles, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties of the year.

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY

In May, 35 dead birds were tested for WNV, including 27 American crows, 1 California scrub jay, 1 goldfinch, 2 house sparrows, 1 lesser goldfinch, 1 unknown songbird, and 1 unknown pigeon/dove. Of the 35 birds tested, only one American crow tested positive for WNV. Other efforts to monitor for mosquito-borne diseases included setting out mosquito traps. Carbon dioxide mosquito traps were set out for a total of 248 nights, capturing over 4,000 mosquitoes, and gravid traps were set out for 150 nights, capturing over 1,000 mosquitoes. The highest mosquito species count for gravid traps were for the Common house mosquito (*Culex pipiens*) and the Western Encephalitis mosquito (*Culex tarsalis*) for the carbon dioxide traps.



# WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY (CONTINUED)

SPECIES	MALE	FEMALE
Western tree hole mosquito - <i>Aedes sierrensis</i>	8	4
Washino's willow pool mosquito - <i>Aedes washinoi</i>	0	2
Cool weather mosquito - <i>Culiseta incidens</i>	22	412
Northern common house mosquito - <i>Culex pipiens</i>	74	679
Banded foul water mosquito - <i>Culex stigmatosoma</i>	0	20
Western Encephalitis mosquito - <i>Culex tarsalis</i>	3	61
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>1,178</b>

Amount of mosquito species collected in gravid traps

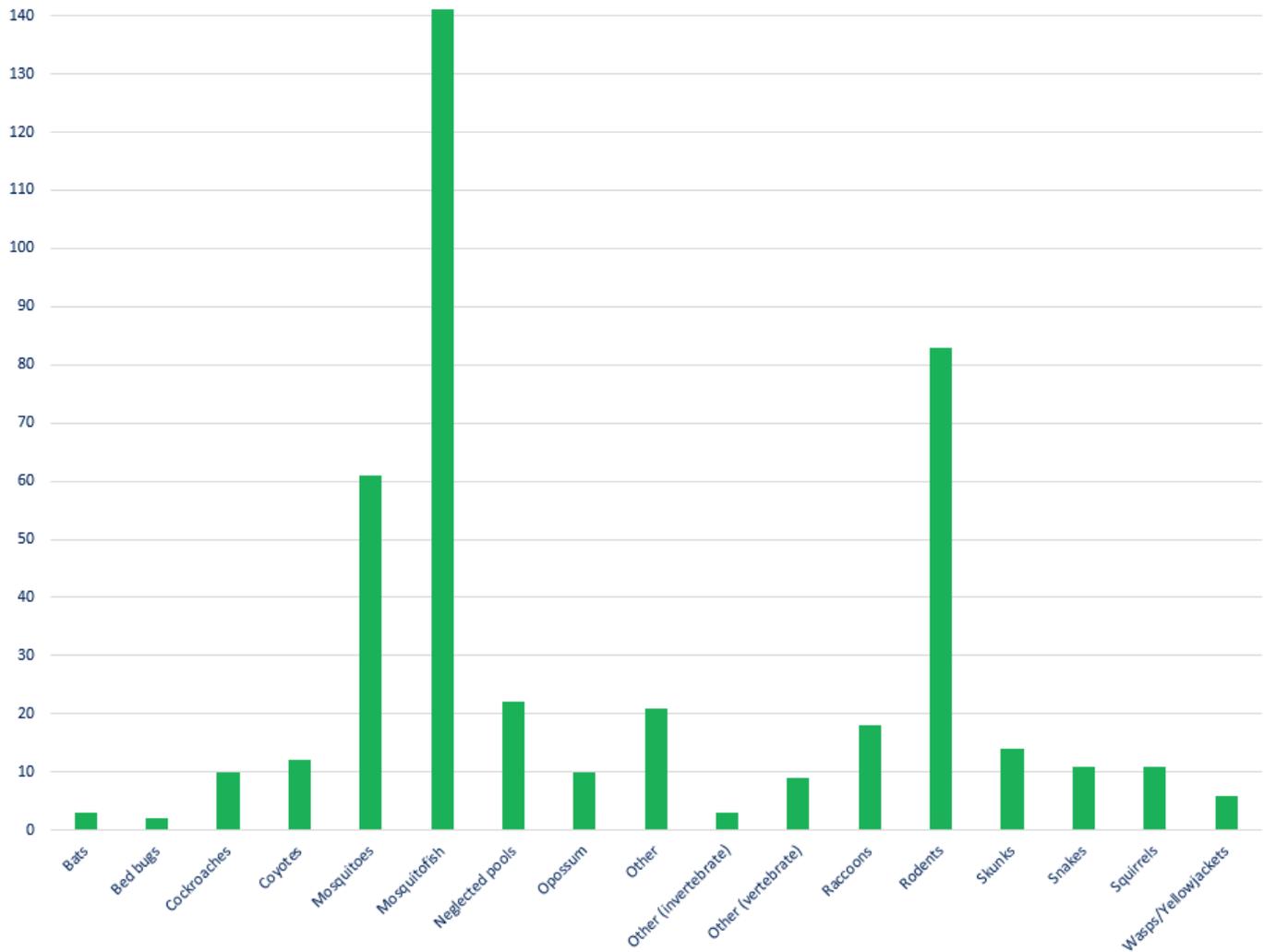
SPECIES	MALE	FEMALE
Summer salt marsh mosquito - <i>Aedes dorsalis</i>	0	2
Western tree hole mosquito - <i>Aedes sierrensis</i>	88	14
Winter salt marsh mosquito - <i>Aedes squamiger</i>	0	66
Washino's willow pool mosquito - <i>Aedes washinoi</i>	0	13
<i>Anopheles franciscanus</i> (no common name)	0	1
Western malaria mosquito - <i>Anopheles freeborni</i>	0	18
Cool weather mosquito - <i>Culiseta incidens</i>	8	261
Large winter mosquito - <i>Culiseta inornata</i>	0	17
<i>Culiseta particeps</i> (no common name)	0	20
Tule mosquito - <i>Culex erythrothorax</i>	0	60
Northern common house mosquito - <i>Culex pipiens</i>	76	882
Banded foul water mosquito - <i>Culex stigmatosoma</i>	0	5
Western encephalitis mosquito - <i>Culex tarsalis</i>	4	3210
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>4,569</b>

Amount of mosquito species collected in carbon dioxide traps

# PUBLIC SERVICE REQUESTS

## MAY SERVICE REQUESTS

The District received 437 service request in May. The highest request of the month was for mosquitofish (141), followed by rodents (83), and mosquitoes (61). This is likely due to warm weather increasing mosquito breeding and rodent activity.





Mosquito larvae in standing water

# MISSION

To detect and minimize vector-borne diseases, to abate mosquitoes, and to assist the public in resolving problems that can cause disease, discomfort, or injury to humans in Santa Clara County.

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



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