



# COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

## Operations and Surveillance Report

# JUNE & JULY 2019

## OPT OUT OF THE CLAW TRAP

Avoid using claw rodent traps outside as wildlife can get caught in them on accident.

If you are experiencing issues with rodents, contact us and we will provide:

- Free home inspections
- Educational materials
- Advice on the most efficient rodent traps
- Information on preventing and attracting rodents

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

Summer months increase activity for several vectors, including mosquitoes, wildlife, biting midges, and rodents. The Santa Clara County Vector Control District (SCCVCD) is hard at work monitoring for vector-borne diseases such as West Nile virus, and protecting public health and offering the best quality of life for County residents.

June and July were two very busy months for our operations team conducting larval treatments in areas such as catch basins, curbs, and neglected pools. Our wildlife technicians continue to help with coyote, skunk, and racoon calls, and assist when wildlife is accidentally caught in claw traps intended for rodents.

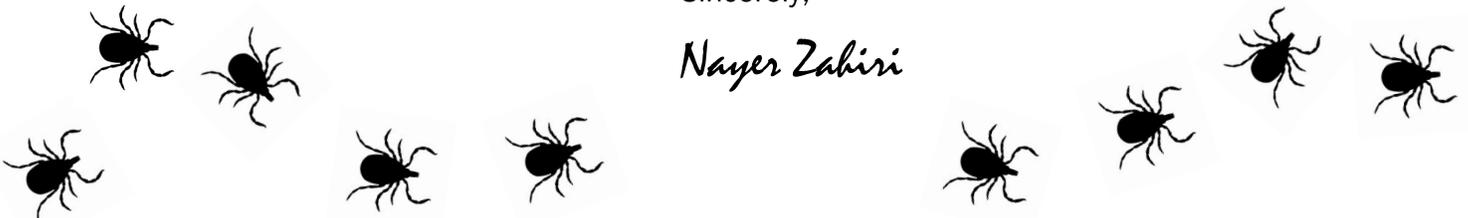
Our surveillance team continues to proactively set traps to catch mosquitoes and detect signs of West Nile virus in the County.

The outreach team launched a new mosquito prevention educational campaign with an online newsletter, interviewed with a local Spanish radio station, and educated the public about vector-borne diseases during local wellness fairs.

Remember to protect yourself from mosquito bites, dump and drain standing water around your home, and pick up fallen fruit in your yard. Small actions protect you from accidentally breeding mosquitoes, getting bug bites, and attracting wildlife to your home.

Sincerely,

*Nayer Zahiri*



# SERVICES AVAILABLE

SCCVCD is committed to protecting the public from vectors that are capable of transmitting diseases or creating a nuisance.

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

- Customer service requests for identification, advice, and/or control measures for mosquitoes, rodents, wildlife, and miscellaneous invertebrates (ticks, cockroaches, bees, fleas, flies, and others).
- Yellowjacket and wasp control/nest removal in public areas.
- Dead bird pickup and testing for West Nile virus.
- Delivery of mosquitofish to control mosquito populations. Mosquitofish are a topminnow (*Gambusia affinis*) and are a natural predator of larval and pupal stage mosquitoes.
- K-12 educational presentations and hands-on activities tailored for individual classroom settings or school assemblies.
- Educational presentations for homeowner associations, organizations, businesses, civic groups, and other interested parties.
- Educational booths for community, corporate, or school events.



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

# OPERATIONS REPORT

The District employs seasonal staff to check and treat 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.

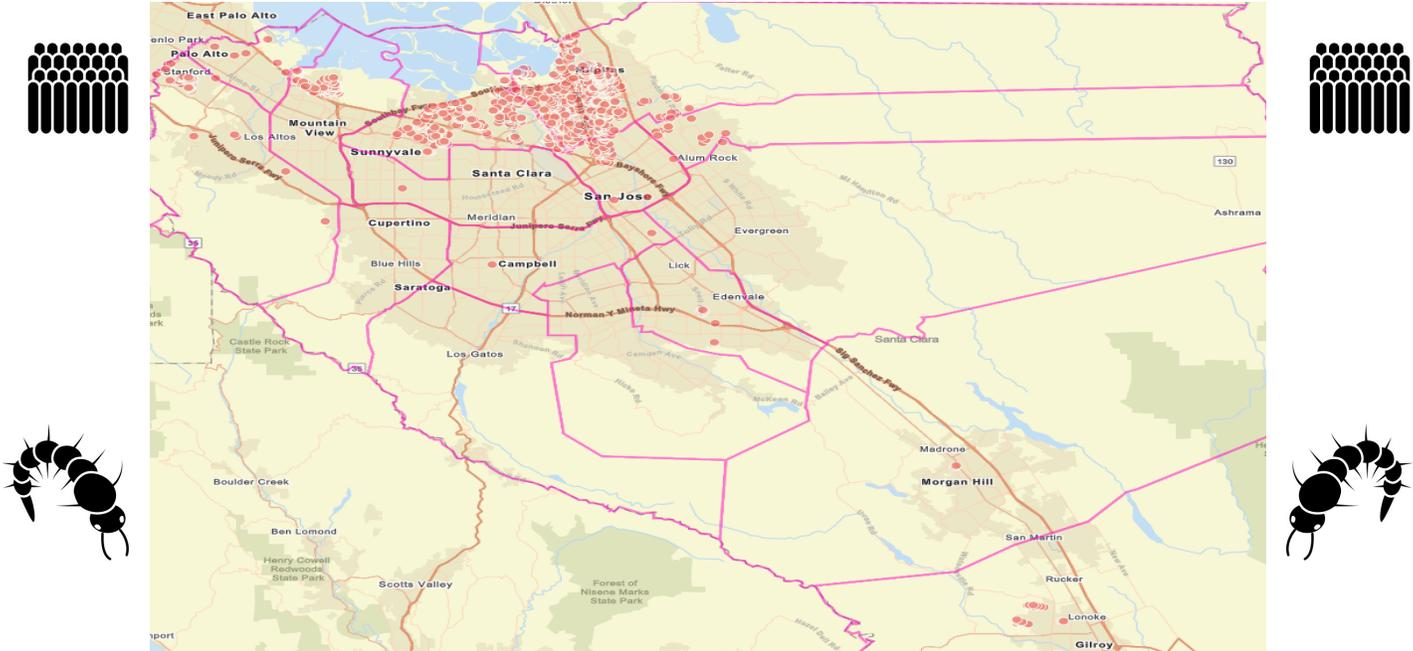
## June & July Updates

*(All figures are listed on the following pages)*

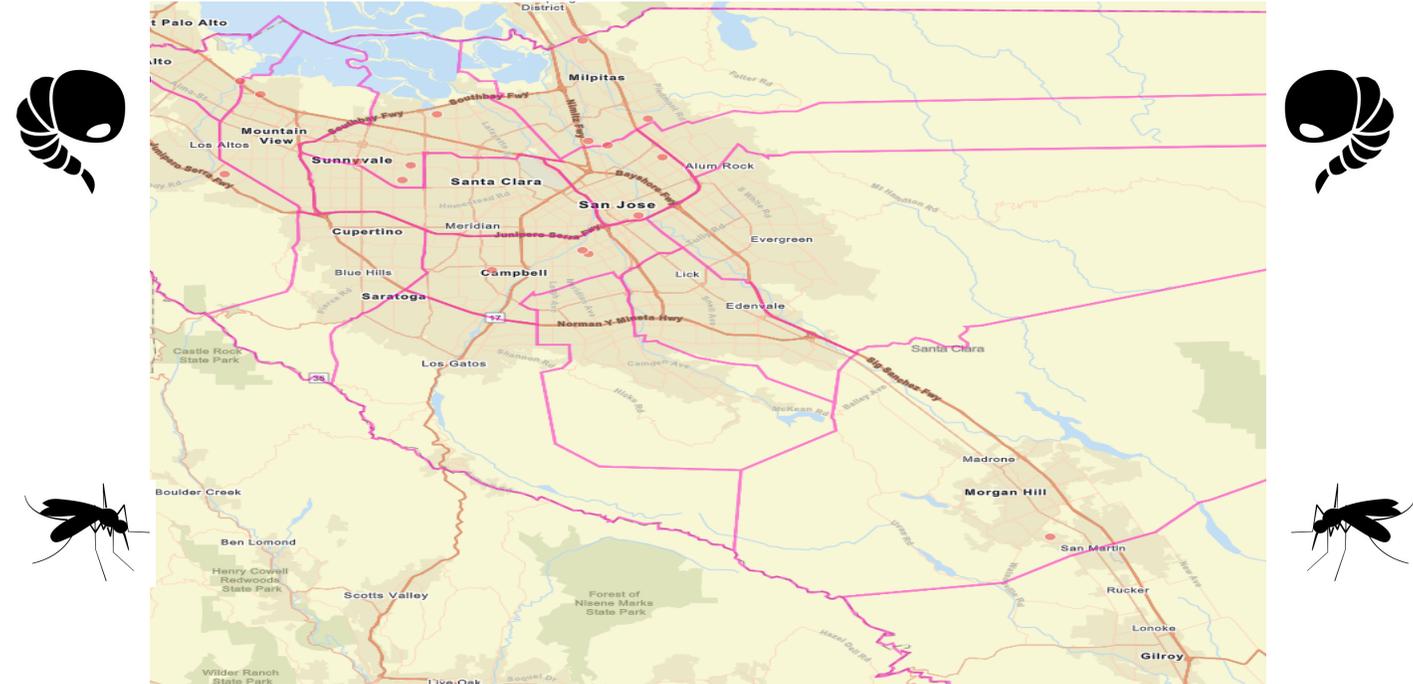
- Staff inspected 18,865 basins and treated 2,291 that were found to contain mosquito larvae (Map 1).
- 17 of 27 inspected curbs were treated to control mosquito breeding (Map 2).
- Inspected 192 reported neglected pools and treated 39 that were found to be breeding mosquitoes (Map 3).
- Inspected 873 different locations, including man-made habitats such as ponds, creeks, and marshes, treating 211 that were breeding mosquitoes (Map 4).
- Delivered a total of 244 mosquitofish during 15 service requests (Map 5).



# OPERATIONS REPORT DATA

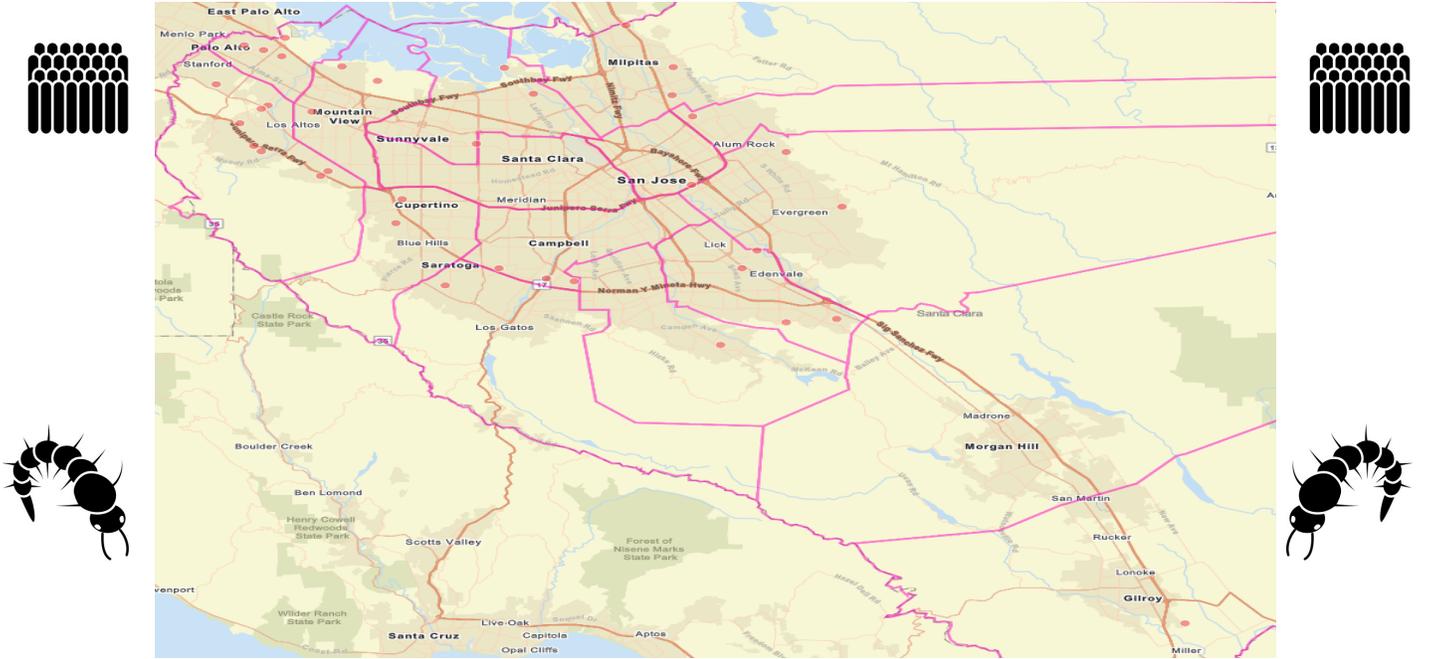


Map 1. Location of catch basins that were positive for mosquito larvae and treated to decrease mosquito populations during June and July.

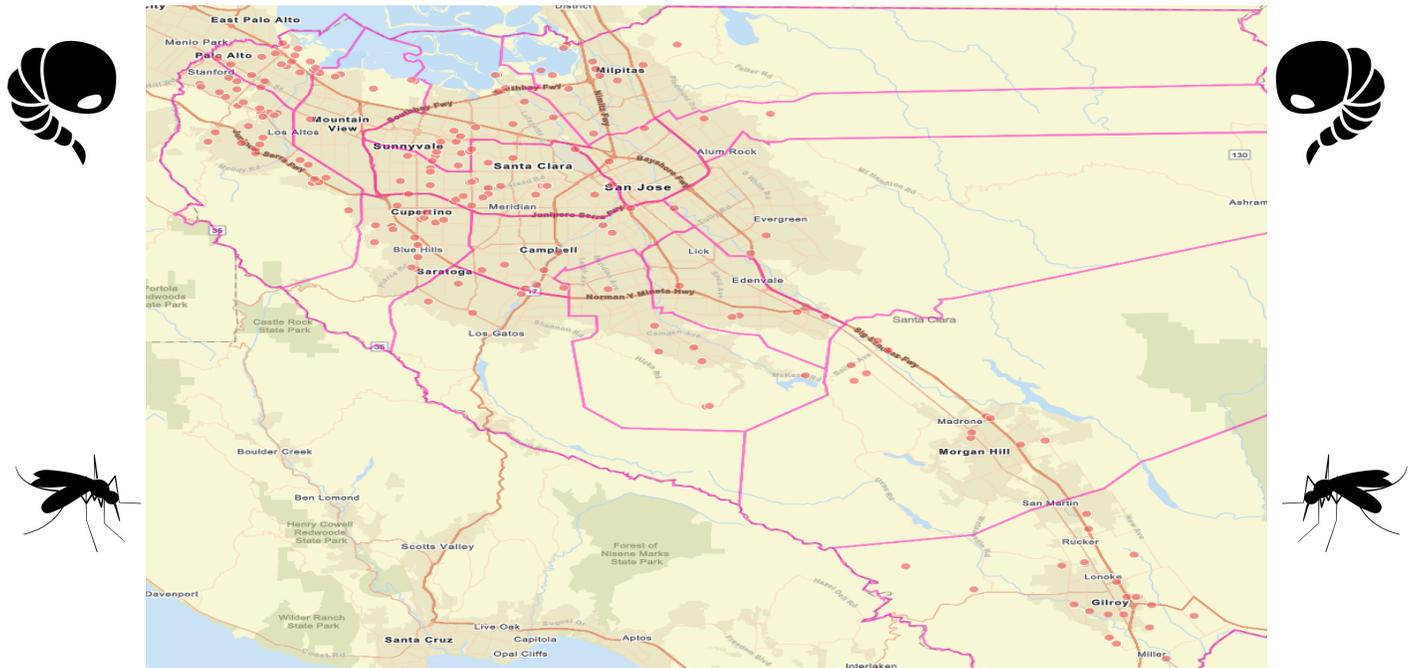


Map 2. Curbs that were treated to control mosquito breeding during the two month period.

# OPERATIONS REPORT DATA

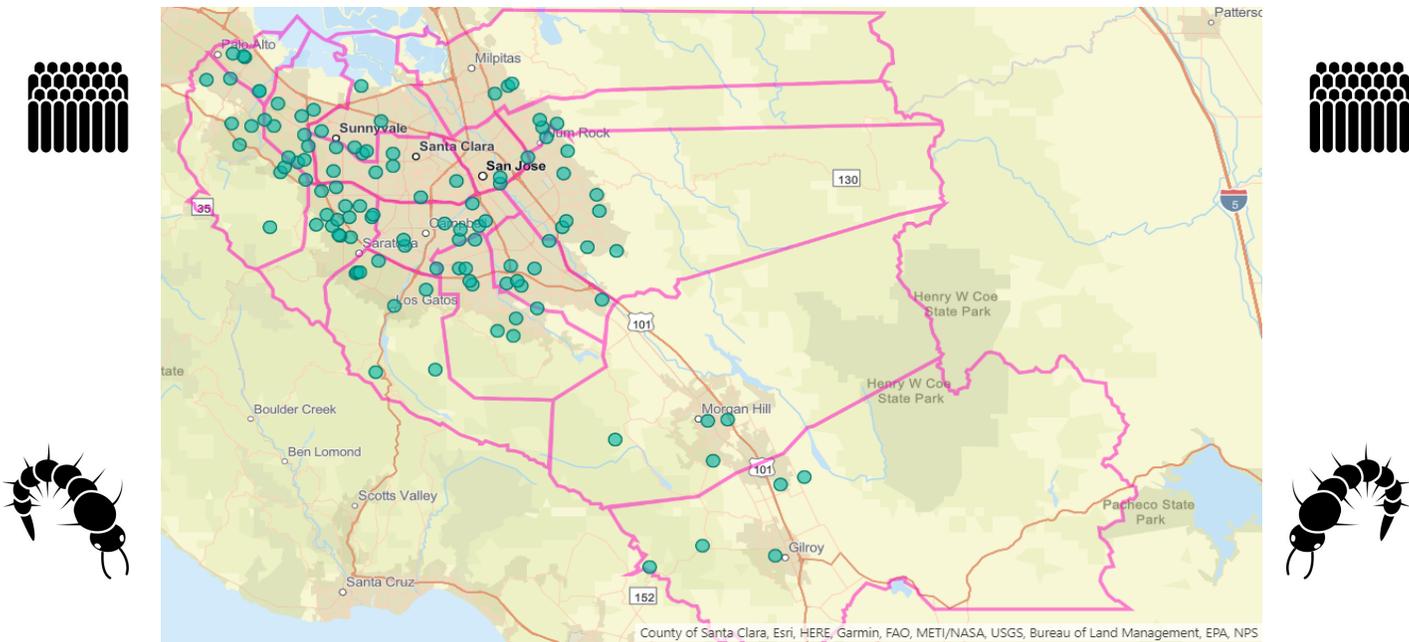


Map 3. Location of abandoned/neglected pools that were treated to control mosquito larvae populations during June and July.



Map 4. Natural and man-made habitats that were treated for mosquito larvae during the months of June and July.

# OPERATIONS REPORT DATA



Map 5. Areas where mosquitofish were stocked and/or delivered during the months of June and July.



Mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) are bred at the Santa Clara County Vector Control District and are provided to the County public for free

# WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE

## STATE WIDE

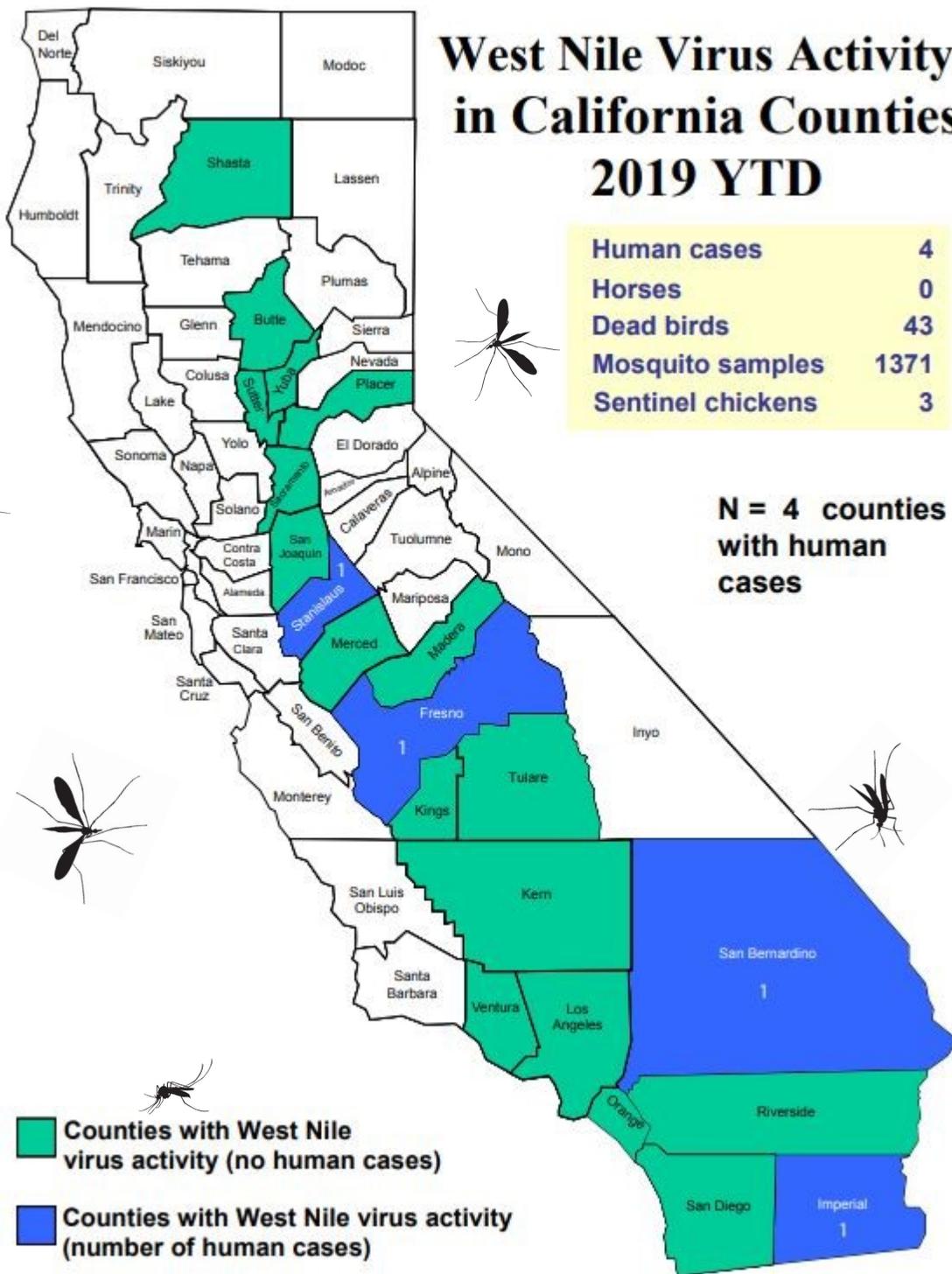
At the end of July, there were 21 counties in California with positive detections for West Nile virus (WNV). A total of 43 birds from eight counties have tested positive statewide this year. There have been 1,371 WNV positive mosquito samples, primarily in Riverside and Tulare counties, followed by Fresno County. As of July 26 (week 30), there were a total of two WNV human cases, both were classified as neuroinvasive disease and one case was fatal. In addition to the two cases, three asymptomatic infections have been reported from Kern County (1), San Bernardino County (1), and Sutter County (1). At this time last year, 12 human cases of WNV illness had been reported from eight counties.

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY

During June, a total of 28 birds were tested for West Nile virus (WNV), Saint Louis Encephalitis (SLE), and Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE). The 28 birds included 23 crows, 3 scrub jays, 1 raven, and 1 song bird. By the end of July, 12 birds were tested for WNV, SLE, and WEE. The birds collected from both June and July all tested negative for WNV, SLE, and WEE.



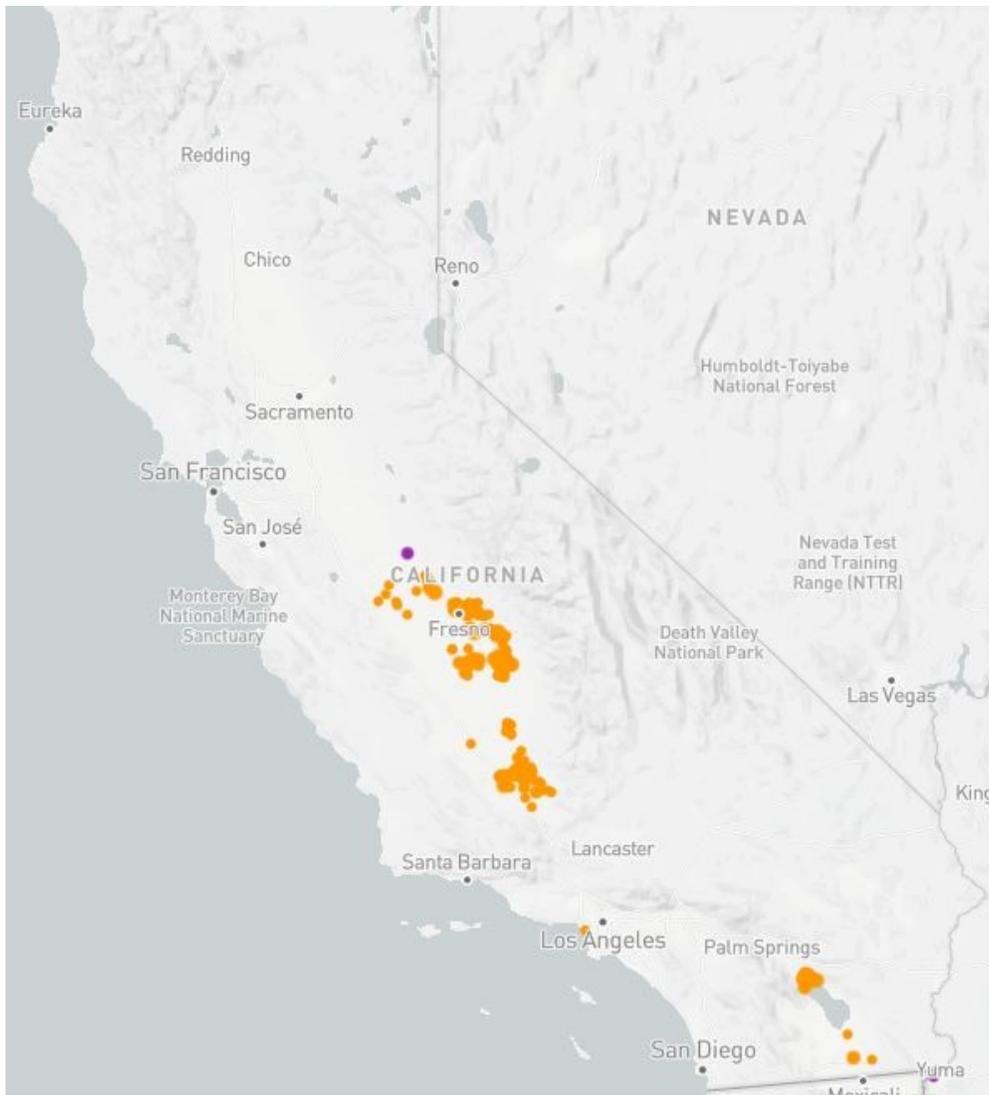
# WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE IN CALIFORNIA COUNTIES



# SAINT LOUIS ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS (SLE) SURVEILLANCE

## SLE VIRUS UPDATES

A total of 62 SLE virus positive mosquito pools have been detected to date from four main counties. Those counties include Visalia (33), Kern (12), Fresno (11), and Tulare (6). SLE is a viral disease that is spread to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes. SLE virus symptoms include fever, nausea, tiredness, and headaches. It is important to proactively use insect repellent, and wear long-sleeves and pants in order to help prevent mosquito bites and SLE virus infection.



Locations with Saint Louis Encephalitis virus positive mosquito locations and positive sentinel chickens

# NO-SEE-UMS NUISANCE ISSUES

## NO-SEE-UMS

On July 1, 2019 the SCCVCD received a service request from a resident who lives in a neighborhood in the Morgan Hill area. The resident reported that he and his family were being bitten by “black flying biting bugs,” and also reported having over 20 bites on his scalp.

The resident was able to provide a sample which was identified as *Leptoconops torrens*, a small biting fly in the no-see-umm-family. No-see-ums are very small, about 1/16 inch long, allowing them to easily pass through window and door screens. Others in nearby neighborhoods were also reporting similar issues through the NextDoor mobile application.

SCCVCD set out carbon dioxide baited Encephalitis Vector Survey traps in the reporting party’s neighborhood and the areas nearby. The District will continue to design and conduct scientific investigations for future knowledge of no-wee-um control and treatment.



No-see-um biting midge samples



# PUBLIC SERVICE REQUESTS

## JUNE SERVICE REQUESTS

During June, the District received 427 public requests for service regarding a variety of vector issues. Requests for rodents were the most frequent, followed by requests for mosquitofish and mosquito complaints. Requests were statistically above normal, along with coyotes and other invertebrates such as biting mites, fleas, flies, and others. On the other hand, numbers were below normal for opossums.

## JULY SERVICE REQUESTS

A total of 549 service requests were received during July. The most frequent request continued to be rodents, followed by mosquitoes, mosquitofish, and wasps/yellowjackets. Yellowjacket activity tends to increase during summer time. If you notice a yellowjacket nest in a public area, please contact our District office and we will remove it.



Yellow jacket nest removal in Los Altos

REQUEST IN JUNE/JULY	TOTAL
Rodents	231
Gambusia (Mosquitofish)	133
Mosquitoes	119
Coyote	85
Wasps/Yellowjackets	58
Other Invertebrate	51
Skunk	46
Raccoons	42
Other Vertebrate	39
Neglected Pools	37
Cockroaches	25
Opossum	23
Snakes	21
Bees	21
Bed Bug	15
Bats	12
Squirrels	7
Other (see description)	4
Information Request	3
Insect ID	2
Midges/Gnats	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>976</b>

# OUTREACH PROGRAM

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

Our June outreach efforts continued through educating the public at four local Wellness Fairs, a Boy Scouts group, and with the Don Edwards Education Center at their Wheels and Wildlife event. July's community outreach included presentations at the Eastside Neighborhood Center in San Jose, the Almaden Senior Center, and an educational booth at Saratoga's Car Show.

June launched a new mosquito prevention campaign with an online newsletter centralized to cities in the County. Educational efforts further extended in the Spanish speaking community with a local Spanish radio station interview. Topics discussed during the interview included vectors found in the county, services offered by SCCVCD, mosquito prevention and protection, tips to avoid ticks, wildlife advice, and rodent exclusion. The public education and outreach program strives to find new and more effective ways of better educating the public. Arming residents with knowledge of how to prevent mosquito bites, reducing water sources, and providing general vector knowledge is one of our highest priorities.



Santa Clara County Employee Wellness Fairs



Photo courtesy of Vincent Ushikubo

*Aedes dorsalis (Summer Salt Marsh Mosquito)*  
(photo for educational purposes only)

# 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)



@sccvcd