

Mayor
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**Office of the
City Manager**

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To: Lemoore City Council
From: John Tyler, Administrative Analyst
Date: August 28, 2007
Subject: Kings Mosquito Abatement District – West Nile Virus Suppression

Item #7

Discussion:

The Kings Mosquito Abatement District, through its District Manager Michael Cavanagh, is requesting that the City of Lemoore issue a permission letter to the District (and thereby its hired contractor) to perform aerial spraying over City limits in case the need for such aerial spraying arises. We have been assured that no spraying would be performed unless the Kings Mosquito Abatement District determined that such action was necessary to protect the public health. If that need did arise, the Kings Mosquito Abatement District would notify the City again prior to the application taking place.

This particular aerial spraying would be pesticide in nature, and would be targeting mosquitoes that could possibly carry the West Nile Virus that has become an *endemic* in the Central Valley, according to Mr. Cavanagh and the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC). As it relates to disease, *endemic* is defined in Webster's as "*constantly present in a particular region: said of a disease that is generally under control*" (1997, p. 448). The Kings Mosquito Abatement District is issuing this request of the City of Lemoore, and all other affected Cities within and including Kings County, as part of the preliminary processes of their own "emergency planning," as stated in the request (attached). The letter of permission, which is a new requirement recently mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration, is requested in advance of the actual need to apply aerial pesticides over populated areas so that 1) the District can act quickly if the number of WNV cases suddenly rises and 2) the District can inform the public in meetings such as this of the potential for emergency measures and the continuing need to protect themselves against the threat of the disease by using the proper prevention methods. A fact sheet concerning WNV has also been attached to this staff report. Mr. Cavanagh will be in attendance on Tuesday evening to answer any questions you may have.

Budget Impact:

None.

Recommendation:

That Council grant the City Manager the authority to draft a letter to the Kings Mosquito Abatement District, to be signed by the Mayor, providing permission to allow for aerial spraying over City limits in an effort to combat West Nile Virus, should that need occur.