

AGENDA
1085th MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
DECEMBER 9TH, 2020

TIME: 5:00 P.M.
PLACE: Teleconference Only, **see below**
TRUSTEES: Wendi Poulson President, City of Alameda
P. Robert Beatty, Vice-President, City of Berkeley
Betsy Cooley, Secretary, City of Emeryville
Cathy Roache, County-at-Large
Peggy McQuaid, City of Albany
Shawn Kumagai, City of Dublin
George Young, City of Fremont
Elisa Márquez, City of Hayward
James N. Doggett, City of Livermore
Eric Hentschke, City of Newark
Jan O. Washburn, City of Oakland
Andrew Mingst, City of Piedmont
Julie Testa, City of Pleasanton
Victor Aguilar, City of San Leandro
Subru Bhat, City of Union City

The meeting will follow the conclusion of the 4:00 P.M. Special Meeting Strategic Planning Workshop.

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. President Poulson invites any member of the public to speak at this time on any issue relevant to the District. (Each individual is limited to three minutes).
4. Approval of the minutes of the 1084th meeting held October 14th, 2020 (**Board action required**)
5. Resolution 1085-1 honoring City of Livermore Trustee James N. Doggett (**Board action required**)
 - a. City of Livermore resolution 7-77 appointing Trustee Doggett to the Board of Trustees on January 10th, 1977
6. Appointment of a committee to nominate candidates for board offices (**Board Action required**).
7. Nominating Committee nominates a slate of 2021 District Officers for Board approval (**Board action required**)
8. Report by the Ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee (Information only)
 - a. Introduction

- b. Strategic History
- c. Mission & vision statement
- d. Goals

9. Financial Reports as of November 30th, 2020: (Information only).

- a. Check Register
- b. Income Statement
- c. Investments, reserves, and cash report
- d. Balance Sheet (and attached guide)

10. Presentation of the Monthly Staff Report (Information only).

11. Presentation of the Manager's Report (Information only).

- a. Trustee & Staff Anniversaries
- b. Trustee reappointment requests sent to: County of Alameda, Albany, Hayward, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Leandro
- c. ACMAD CEQA update planned for 2021
- d. Los Angeles Times article: *Costa Mesa's Fairview Park Wetlands, once seen as a boon, is bogged down by deficiencies*

12. Board President asks for reports on conferences and seminars attended by Trustees.

13. Board President asks for announcements from members of the Board.

14. Board President asks trustees for items to be added to the agenda for the next Board meeting.

15. Adjournment.

RESIDENTS ATTENDING THE MEETING MAY SPEAK ON ANY AGENDA ITEM AT THEIR REQUEST.

Please Note: Board Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities and others who need assistance. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation (including auxiliary aids or services) to observe and/or participate in this meeting and access meeting-related materials should contact Ryan Clausnitzer at least 48 hours before the meeting at 510-783-7744 or acmad@mosquitoes.org.

IMPORANT NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19 AND TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS:

Based on the mandates by the Governor in Executive Order 33-20 and the County Public Health Officer to shelter in place and the guidance from the CDC, to minimize the spread of the coronavirus, please note the following changes to the District's ordinary meeting procedures:

- The District offices are not open to the public at this time.
- The meeting will be conducted via teleconference using Zoom. (See Executive Order 29-20)
- All members of the public seeking to observe and/or to address the local legislative body may participate in the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically in the manner described below.

HOW TO OBSERVE THE MEETING:

Telephone: Listen to the meeting live by calling Zoom at **(669) 900-6833**
Enter the **Meeting ID#** 829 4764 5996 followed by the pound (#) key.

Computer: Watch the live streaming of the meeting from a computer by navigating to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82947645996>

Mobile: Log in through the Zoom mobile app on a smartphone and enter **Meeting ID#** 894 1038 8424

HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Before the Meeting: Please email your comments to acmad@mosquitoes.org, write "Public Comment" in the subject line. In the body of the email, include the agenda item number and title, as well as your comments. If you would like your comment to be read aloud at the meeting (not to exceed three minutes at staff's cadence), prominently write "Read Aloud at Meeting" at the top of the email. All comments received before 12:00 PM the day of the meeting will be included as an agenda supplement on the District's website under the relevant meeting date and provided to the Trustees at the meeting. Comments received after this time will be treated as contemporaneous comments.

Contemporaneous Comments: During the meeting, the Board President or designee will announce the opportunity to make public comments and identify the cut off time for submission. Please email your comments to acmad@mosquitoes.org, write "Public Comment" in the subject line. In the body of the email, include the agenda item number and title, as well as your comments. Once the public comment period is closed, all comments timely received will be read aloud at the meeting (not to exceed three minutes at staff's cadence). Comments received after the close of the public comment period will be added to the record after the meeting.

MINUTES

1084th MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

October 14th, 2020

TIME: 5:00 P.M.
PLACE: *Zoom Teleconference Only*
TRUSTEES: Wendi Poulson, President, City of Alameda
P. Robert Beatty, Vice-President, City of Berkeley
Betsy Cooley, Secretary, City of Emeryville
Cathy Roache, County-at-Large
Peggy McQuaid, City of Albany
Shawn Kumagai, City of Dublin
George Young, City of Fremont
Elisa Marquez, City of Hayward
James N. Doggett, City of Livermore
Eric Hentschke, City of Newark
Jan O. Washburn, City of Oakland
Andrew Mingst, City of Piedmont
Julie Testa, City of Pleasanton
Victor Aguilar, City of San Leandro
Subru Bhat, City of Union City

1. Board President Poulson called the regularly scheduled board meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.
2. Trustees Poulson, Cooley, Roache, McQuaid, Kumagai, Young, Marquez, Hentschke, Washburn, Mingst, Testa, Aguilar, & Bhat were present on the Zoom conference. Trustee Doggett was absent. Trustee Beatty arrived at 5:04 P.M.
3. Board President Poulson invited members of the public to speak on any issue relevant to the District. Information Technology Director Robert Ferdan was on the teleconference call for technical support. Vector Biologist Jeremy Sette was present to record the minutes. No public comments were submitted prior or during the meeting.
4. Introduction of new Board Member, Peggy McQuaid, representing the City of Albany. She was welcomed by the Board and noted that she was happy to be there and looking forward to learning about the District.
5. Approval of the minutes of the 1083rd meeting held September 9th, 2020.
Motion: Trustee Washburn moved to approve the minutes
Second: Trustee Marquez
Vote: motion carries: unanimous. Trustee McQuaid abstained.
6. Report by the Finance Committee on CalPERS and OPEB planning.
Discussion:
The General Manager reported on CalPERS and OPEB planning and fielded the following discussion. Secretary Cooley of the Finance Committee reported that the Finance Committee meeting also included an update on the District's OPEB account from Joseph Federico, PFM Asset Management LLC. She also noted that the District plans to continue contributing to the

section 115 Trust if the budget allows. The goal is to get the District's CalPERS funded up to but not over 100%. Trustee Marquez thanked the Finance Committee for their work and asked if the 115 Trust was the same as the pension stabilization fund (yes) and if it was possible to add "115 Trust" next to said fund in financial documents and policies for clarification (yes).

7. Verbal Report by the Ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee.

Discussion:

The General Manager gave a briefing of the goal behind the upcoming Strategic Plan. Trustee Bhat reported on behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee that met on October 13th, 2020, at 1:00 P.M. and attended by Trustees Beatty, Washburn, Bhat and Aguilar and District employees Clausnitzer and Sette. Trustee Bhat noted that "Accountability" would be added to the "Values" section of the Strategic Plan. The General Manager noted that the Board can review the current Strategic Plan before the next Board meeting that will include a workshop. Vice-President Beatty noted that he was pleased with the layout of the goals and commented that the goals are thorough and detailed. Trustee Washburn also remarked he was pleased with the ambitious goals.

8. Presentation of the Financial Reports as of September 30th, 2020.

Discussion:

The General Manager presented the Financial Reports as of September 30th, 2020 and fielded the following discussion. Trustee Marquez asked for clarification for a check on September 14th for Best, Best, and Krieger (a law firm working on the health retirement account project for the District). Vice-President Beatty asked how often unused vacation time would be collected from employees under the proposal (every pay period which makes the administrative time a current barrier to implementation). Trustee Aguilar if the invoice includes a breakdown of costs (yes, which were included with the check when signed by a Trustee and will be provided to him).

9. Presentation of the Monthly Staff Report.

Discussion:

The General Manager presented the Monthly Staff Report and fielded the following discussion. Trustee Mingst asked if acquiring permits for ditching will become difficult in years to come (the permit process is extensive, but the District is experienced in the process).

10. Presentation of the Manager's Report.

Discussion:

The General Manager presented the Manager's Report and fielded the following discussion. The General Manager congratulated President Poulson on five years of Trustee service and virtually presented her the five-year anniversary District pewter belt buckle. President Poulson exclaimed that she was proud to be of service for the District and being a part of such a great organization. The Board congratulated the General Manager for being elected President of CSDA for 2021. Secretary Cooley asked if her required training would be live or in-person (the training will either be a recorded presentation or a live webinar). Vice-President Beatty asked for clarification on why the Board packet folder seems invisible (accidentally, but perhaps because they are named with a period before the name ".packet"). Trustee Marquez noted that the General Manager also includes the packet in the Zoom link. Trustee Washburn noted that he was not having problems. The General Manager noted that he will remove the period before the file name of the packets as to avoid any issues.

11. Board President Poulson asked for reports on conferences and seminars attended by Trustees. None.

12. Board President Poulson asked for announcements from the Board. None.

13. Board President Poulson asked trustees for items to be added to the agenda for the next Board meeting. The General Manager explained that a workshop will precede the December meeting at 4:00 P.M.

14. The meeting adjourned at 5:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved as written and/or corrected
at the 1085th meeting of the Board of
Trustees held December 9th, 2020

Wendi Poulson, President
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Betsy Cooley, Secretary
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION NO. 1085-1

ALAMEDA COUNTY MOSQUITO
ABATEMENT DISTRICT

COMMENDATION TO: James D. Doggett

- WHEREAS: You, James D. Doggett, served on the Board of Trustees of the District, representing the City of Livermore since your appointment in January of 1977 until December 2020, and
- WHEREAS: You; as President of the Board of Trustees in 1979 led the District through the effects of Proposition 13 and as President again in 2002 when the District prepared for the upcoming introduction of West Nile into Alameda County, and
- WHEREAS: You; as a member of the Remodel/Building Committee oversaw the design, finance, and construction of the facility remodel in the 2000s, and
- WHEREAS: You; as a member of the Personnel/Salary Committee where you successfully led the District through multiple labor negotiations, and
- WHEREAS: You, a member of the Policy Committee who ensured the Board provided clear and concise direction and authority for District staff, and
- WHEREAS: You, who worked with four different District Managers through the successful passing of two revenue channels: 1983's Measure K and the Benefit Assessment of 2008, and
- WHEREAS: You, who moved to approve the resolution to complete a County-wide mosquito abatement District in 2019. Now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: We, the undersigned Board of Trustees, and General Manager, do hereby extend our sincere appreciation for your dedication of service to this District.

IN THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIVERMORE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 7-77

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ALAMEDA COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

(James Doggett)

WHEREAS, a vacancy on the Board of Trustees of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District exists which the Council desires to fill; and

WHEREAS, after consideration of various applicants, the Council wishes to appoint James Doggett to said Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Livermore, that James Doggett be and he is hereby appointed as the City's representative on the Board of Trustees of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, to serve a two-year term commencing January 2, 1977.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

S/Gary Reiners

Acting City Attorney

On motion of Councilmember Staley, seconded by Mayor Tirsell, the above appointment was approved at the Council meeting of January 10, 1977, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Dahlbacka, Kamena, Staley, Turner and Mayor Tirsell

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

On motion of Councilmember Staley, seconded by Councilmember Kamena, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted this 17th day of January, 1977, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Dahlbacka, Kamena, Staley and Mayor Tirsell

NOES: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Turner

/s/ HELEN M. TIRSELL
Mayor, City of Livermore, California

ATTEST:

/s/ DOROTHY J. HOCK
City Clerk

INTRODUCTION

As we look to the future and develop our strategic plan, Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District (ACMAD) is setting goals that will help us maintain the same level of excellence you've come to expect from us. We plan to utilize our existing assets and resources to address future challenges, both known and unforeseen. We aim to align individual performance goals into a comprehensive District strategy that is effective and efficient. In order to realize these goals, we will improve our internal and external communication. Finally, we will formalize performance and accountability measures by documenting improvements to the District's operating procedures.

ACMAD has a proud history of effective and efficient mosquito control through its prudent financial planning, collaborative decision-making, and balanced integration with partner agencies. With our 100-year anniversary of public service approaching in the next decade, it is important for ACMAD to reaffirm its strong relationship with our community. We plan to accomplish this through thoughtful planning that leads to effective resource allocations of public funds. Through the leadership of the Board of Trustees, District staff will continue to provide high-quality and valuable service to the people of Alameda County, even through unforeseen public health crises like the current global pandemic.

HISTORY OF STRATEGIC THINKING

Prior to the formation of organized control districts, mosquitoes hampered economic development within the Bay Area. During late 1928 and through the early months of 1929, the city councils of Alameda, Berkeley, Emeryville, Hayward, Oakland, Piedmont, and San Leandro passed a resolution endorsing the formation of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District (ACMAD). ACMAD was officially formed when the Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance B on March 11th, 1930; three days later, the California Secretary of State filed the certificate of incorporation, thereby formalizing formation of the District.

Initially, ACMAD focused its efforts on ditching in marshes along the San Francisco Bay to promote drainage of habitats where salt marsh mosquitoes breed. As residential populations and their use of water grew, freshwater mosquitoes became more prevalent and ACMAD expanded its efforts to counter the rise in mosquito abundance. To fulfill the demands for mosquito control throughout the County, personnel and equipment were needed to accommodate the increase in services. ACMAD funding from ad valorem property taxes was stable until Proposition 13 passed in 1978; after the passage of Prop 13, the District's budget was reduced by half. To provide adequate service to residents, Alameda County's Measure K was introduced in 1982 and approved by over two thirds of Alameda County voters. This allowed for a maximum assessment of \$1.75 per single home as a Special Tax to support the District's operations. Funds generated by this tax enabled the District in 1984 to consolidate its operations from three existing depots in Oakland, Pleasanton, and Union City into a single modern facility in Hayward in 1984.

Mosquito management changed dramatically when West Nile virus was introduced via wild bird transmission into Alameda County in 2003. To control the mosquitoes that transmit this virus, ACMAD increased operation costs by \$280,000 a year. These costs covered additional seasonal staff, pesticides, equipment, and public outreach education programs. Adjusting to the newly introduced threat, ACMAD's Board of Trustees reviewed methods for adding to the District's revenue stream to meet the increasing financial needs for mosquito surveillance and control. Property owners approved levying a benefit assessment in the spring 2008.

On May 14th, 2008, the ACMAD Board of Trustees formally passed the resolution approving the benefit assessment and increasing the District's revenue. This allowed the District to provide enhanced services to the residents of Alameda County and to prepare the District for future public health threats caused by mosquitoes. Through sound fiscal policies, the District's has not needed to increase the benefit assessment level in over twelve years. In 2019, ACMAD expanded its borders to include Albany, the last remaining city in the county to receive District mosquito control services.

Even though there have been many changes over the past 90 years, including mosquito control techniques and regulations, the dedication and effectiveness of the District have remained the same. ACMAD will continue to provide timely, reliable, professional, and effective service during the current global pandemic and impending introduction of invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes into Alameda County.

OUR STRATEGY

OUR MISSION

Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District is committed to improving the health and comfort of Alameda County residents by controlling mosquitoes and limiting the transmission of mosquito-borne diseases.

OUR VISION

To serve all residents of Alameda County in a transparent and equitable manner by providing knowledge-driven and environmentally-conscious mosquito control. We strive to provide an exemplary model of good government through fiscal transparency and accountability.

OUR CORE VALUES

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- Ecologically responsible
- Proactive in environmental legislation
- Responsive to environmental changes
- Emphasis on biorational treatments for mosquito control

KNOWLEDGEABLE

- Science-based decision making
- Data-driven
- Technology enabled
- Safety program adherent

PROFESSIONAL

- Honest
- Reliable
- Respectful
- Responsive
- Committed
- Inclusionary
- Accountable

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

An Environment Scan is a self-assessment process that allows organizations to identify their internal and external strengths, weaknesses, and foreseeable changes that may impact service delivery.

STRENGTHS

- Data sharing and integration of laboratory and operations
- Larval-based control program
- Financial stability and accountability
- Timely responses to public request for service
- Public accessibility to staff and District information
- Culture of independence that fosters effective collaboration
- Innovative methods to monitor mosquito abundance

WEAKNESSES

- Limited mosquito control products
- Limited ability to increase scale of operations in short amount of time
- Low diversity of revenue sources

FORESEEABLE CHANGES THAT MAY IMPACT SERVICE DELIVERY

- Climate change
- Insecticide resistance
- Changes in regulations
- Human population growth
- Introduction of invasive mosquito species
- Emerging mosquito borne infectious diseases
- Natural disasters

ACMAD GOALS: 2021-2023

 Ensure ACMAD has the training, equipment, personnel, partnerships, and financial support to combat the introduction of invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes

2021

- Build Parcel Inspection Plan (PIP) for *Aedes aegypti* response
- Create a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) forum from county affiliates to establish their involvement with our Invasive *Aedes* Response Plan.
- Ensure all field staff can identify invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes

2022

- Provide school age children with mosquito prevention messaging
- Develop a model for pesticide deposition by Wide Area Larvicide System (WALS)

2023

- Improve adult mosquito identification processes
- Develop a simple and rapid assay that discriminates *Aedes* species

Leverage ACMAD assets towards efficient approaches to mosquito control

2021

- Improve the credit card process to include updated technology that includes time-saving methods for employees and increased review options by management.
- Replace tech room computers with VDI (Virtual Desktop Interface) or chrome-based devices.
- Begin 3-year infrastructure upgrade. Network, routers, cable, switches, firewall.
- Improve 3D-printed Encephalitis Virus Survey (EVS) traps
- Obtain quotes and coordinate the recoating of the covered parking structures, pest shed, wash rack, and shop exterior.
- Obtain quotes and coordinate the recoating of the shop floor.
- Reconfigure parking lines with updated spaces.

2022

- Rebuild SharePoint sites to include BI analytics
- Revisit District phone contract
- Full HR software audit
- Research and deploy cloud storage and software for lab modeling projects.
- Digitize fleet and building preventive maintenance processes
- Improve the physical facilities of the aquaculture program.
- Support Regulatory Affairs in locating cryptic drainage ditches
- Update source reduction maps
- Provide an allocation of time for operational research projects and professional development
- Evaluate a catch basin hotspot extra layer in mapvision and improve color-coding
- Develop a dashboard to analyze field staff workloads and to display financial information

2023

- Make progress in funding the Repair and Replace account along with other reserve categories.
- Revisit alarm contract
- Research new technology to replace Apple iPads
- Fully automated drone information capture
- Improve production in the aquaculture program
- Repair or replace front gate
- Increase number of fully certified pilots and deploy more ops missions

Employ the best practices for mosquito control districts and local governments

2021

- Improve financial visuals and projections to accompany the annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).
- Research and improve cemetery source reduction efforts and treatments
- Improve the process for delivering larvicide products to urns
- Create new partnerships with organizations within Alameda County that have established community connections
- Connect with city code enforcement departments regarding our aerial pool surveillance program to ensure consistent messaging to property owners
- Establish relationships with new state, county, and local elected officials
- Build relationships with Homeowners Associations (HOA) near marsh communities
- Evaluate public perception of District services

2022

- Convert annual budgets to multi-year with formatting changes to improve readability.
- Evaluate Accounting Associate job description and duties.

2023

- Analyze future liabilities to determine when the district should withdraw from section 115 fund.
- Begin work on predictive mosquito control modeling methods
- Establish mosquito control as a stakeholder in Alameda County development
- Develop new relationships with schools (principals, teachers, PTAs, etc.)
- Hone outreach efforts to incorporate an equity lens into community outreach
- Improve approaches for trapping *Aedes dorsalis*

Alameda County Mosquito Abatement Dist.

Check Register

For the Period From Nov 1, 2020 to Nov 15, 2020

Filter Criteria includes: Report order is by Date.

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
2435	11/12/20	Adapco	1,265.43
2436	11/12/20	Airgas	157.74
2437	11/12/20	AT&T	69.51
2438	11/12/20	BARTKIEWICZ, KRONICK & SHANAHAN	507.50
2439	11/12/20	Cintas	165.21
2440	11/12/20	Coverall North America, Inc.	495.00
2441	11/12/20	Grainger	222.13
2442	11/12/20	Industrial Park Landscape Maintenance	226.00
2443	11/12/20	Marina Plumbing Company	785.00
2444	11/12/20	Mar-Len Supply, Inc.	250.64
2445	11/12/20	PFM Asset Management	1,748.71
2446	11/12/20	PG&E	60.50
2447	11/12/20	The Hartford	80.55
2448	11/12/20	Voya Institutional Trust Company	178.51
2449	11/12/20	U.S Bank Corporate Payment System	7,963.10
2450	11/12/20	United States Plastic Corp.	229.66
ACH	11/12/20	Alameda County Mosquito Abatement Dist (Payroll)	75,463.97
ACH	11/12/20	CalPERS Retirement	14,530.57
ACH	11/12/20	CalPERS 457	3,078.37
Total Expenditures - November 15, 2020.			107,478.10

Alameda County Mosquito Abatement Dist.

Check Register

For the Period From Nov 16, 2020 to Nov 30, 2020

Filter Criteria includes: Report order is by Date.

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
2451	11/24/20	Airgas	58.68
2452	11/24/20	Alco Sheet Metal and Heating, Inc.	405.00
2453	11/24/20	Bay Alarm	509.25
2454	11/24/20	Cintas	364.65
2455	11/24/20	Grainger	273.05
2456	11/24/20	Leading Edge Associate, Inc.	10,000.00
2457	11/24/20	Namakan West Fisheries	560.00
2458	11/24/20	PC Professional	33.75
2459	11/24/20	PG&E	35.77
2460	11/24/20	Robles, Michelle	5,000.00
2461	11/24/20	Rowsey Enterprises, LLC	465.44
2462	11/24/20	The Regents of U.C	600.00
2463	11/24/20	Verizon	1,276.57
2464	11/24/20	Voya Institutional Trust Company	178.51
2465	11/24/20	VSP	710.23
2466	11/24/20	Waste Management of Alameda County	280.83
2467	11/24/20	WEX Bank	2,969.34
ACH	11/24/20	Alameda County Mosquito Abatement Dist (Payroll)	77,130.50
ACH	11/24/20	CalPERS Health	37,487.69
ACH	11/24/20	CalPERS Retirement	14,530.57
ACH	11/24/20	CalPERS 457	3,078.37
Total Expenditures - November 30, 2020.			155,948.20

Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District
Income Statement
November 30, 2020. (5 of 12 mth, 42%)

REVENUES	Actual 2018/19	Actual 2019/20 ¹	Current Month	Year to Date 2020/21	Budget 2020/21	Actual vs Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 4,922,549.00	\$ 4,986,220.87	\$ 9,742.57	\$ 542,355.20	\$ 4,346,513.00	12%

EXPENDITURES	Actual 2018/19	Actual 2019/20 ¹	Current Month ²	Year to Date 2020/21	Budget 2020/21	Actual vs Budget
Salaries	\$ 1,894,209.00	\$ 1,970,928.74	\$ 168,764.75	\$ 839,401.04	\$2,116,177	40%
CalPERS Retirement	\$ 310,838.00	\$ 378,832.61	\$ 17,160.02	\$ 303,118.77	\$423,350	72%
Medicare	\$ 25,149.00	\$ 29,651.04	\$ 2,244.60	\$ 11,318.66	\$31,278	36%
Fringe Benefits	\$ 452,960.00	\$ 465,466.14	\$ 38,278.47	\$ 198,804.87	\$527,031	38%
Total Salaries, Retirement, & Benefits	\$ 2,683,156.00	\$ 2,844,878.53	\$226,448	\$1,352,643	\$3,097,836	44%
Clothing and personal supplies (purchased)	\$ 8,899.00	\$ 6,213.94	\$ 507.49	\$ 810.24	\$10,000	8%
Laundry service and supplies (rented)	\$ 12,603.00	\$ 10,648.44	\$ 529.86	\$ 3,496.43	\$15,000	23%
Utilities	\$ 30,161.00	\$ 25,962.21	\$ 377.10	\$ 2,838.00	\$12,000	24%
Communications-IT	\$ 108,868.00	\$ 80,735.47	\$ 14,174.59	\$ 29,206.40	\$111,400	26%
Maintenance: structures & improvements	\$ 13,673.00	\$ 16,678.86	\$ 1,476.29	\$ 7,704.81	\$25,000	31%
Maintenance of equipment	\$ 43,629.00	\$ 20,599.88	\$ 581.76	\$ 8,702.59	\$35,000	25%
Transportation, travel, training, & board	\$ 98,433.00	\$ 95,813.55	\$ 8,305.59	\$ 29,284.35	\$122,400	24%
Professional services	\$ 115,324.00	\$ 111,224.89	\$ 2,256.21	\$ 35,885.47	\$176,200	20%
Memberships, dues, & subscriptions	\$ 20,774.00	\$ 26,316.50	\$ 151.00	\$ 18,774.00	\$23,337	80%
Insurance - (VCJPA, UAS)	\$ 124,688.00	\$ 134,833.60	\$ -	\$ 140,942.13	\$137,524	102%
Community education	\$ 34,861.00	\$ 23,283.51	\$ 50.12	\$ 5,723.64	\$38,575	15%
Operations	\$ 206,731.00	\$ 179,304.00	\$ 2,636.86	\$ 63,760.07	\$241,000	26%
Household expenses	\$ 18,655.00	\$ 14,817.21	\$ 1,035.63	\$ 6,235.01	\$16,750	37%
Office expenses	\$ 11,795.67	\$ 13,760.57	\$ 60.50	\$ 2,646.05	\$12,000	22%
Laboratory supplies	\$ 95,640.00	\$ 100,794.23	\$ 4,492.90	\$ 29,933.19	\$139,000	22%
Small tools and instruments	\$ 2,211.00	\$ 2,055.54	\$ 377.66	\$ 679.12	\$3,000	23%
Total Staff Budget	\$ 946,945.67	\$ 863,042.40	\$ 37,013.56	\$ 386,621.50	\$1,118,186	35%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 3,630,101.67	\$ 3,707,920.93	\$ 263,461.40	\$ 1,739,264.84	\$4,216,022	41%

Total Expenditures

1 - As of June 30, 2020. Unaudited.

2 - Total Operating Expenditures in current month may not match the check register due to accounts receivables and petty cash transactions.

**Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District
Investment, Reserves, and Cash Balance Report
November 30, 2020. (5 of 12 mth, 42%)**

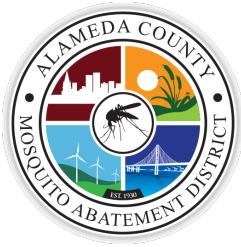
Account #	Investment Accounts	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest Activity	Ending Balance
1004	LAIF	\$ 1,431,610.85	\$ -	\$ (255,000.00)	\$ -	\$ 1,176,610.85
1005	OPEB Fund	\$ 4,524,362.69	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 306,512.72	\$ 4,830,875.41
1006	VCJPA Member Contingency	\$ 375,883.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 375,883.00
1008	CAMP: Repair and Replace	\$ 1,040,369.03	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 115.80	\$ 1,040,484.83
1009	CAMP: Public Health Emergency	\$ 525,909.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58.54	\$ 525,967.76
1010	CAMP: Operating Reserve	\$ 1,943,179.38	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 216.28	\$ 1,943,395.66
1011	CAMP: Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 59,072.23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6.57	\$ 59,078.80
1012	PARS: Pension Stabilization ¹	\$ 1,684,194.87	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (12,574.45)	\$ 1,671,620.42
Total		\$ 11,584,581.27	\$ -	\$ (255,000.00)	\$ 294,335.46	\$ 11,623,916.73
		Beginning Balance			Activity	Ending Balance
Cash Accounts				Withdrawals		
1001	Bank of America (Payroll Account) *	\$ 107,952.63			-	\$ 107,277.21
1002	Bank of The West (Transfer Account) *	\$ 241,802.17			-	\$ 209,843.14
1003	County Account	\$ 707,864.07	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,742.57	\$ 717,606.64
1013	Petty Cash	\$ 440.88	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (35.10)	\$ 405.78
Total		\$ 1,058,059.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,707.47	\$ 1,035,132.77

1 -PARS - Pension Stabilization balance is as of October 31, 2020.

* - Ending balance differs from beginning balance due to checks clearing the account.

Alameda County Mosquito Abatement
Balance Sheet Comparison
November

ASSETS	11/30/2020	11/30/2019	Explanation
Current Assets			
Cash	\$ -		
Bank of America payroll	108,506.54	112,031.30	Current book balance, different from the ending balance shown on bank statement, due to outstanding deposits (will not match IRC page).
Bank of the West	294,186.91	359,178.13	" "
County	717,606.64	576,114.12	Current balance in County account.
Cash with LAIF	1,176,610.85	838,570.48	Current balance in LAIF (working capital) account.
VCJPA- Member Contingency	375,883.00	358,147.00	Reserve amount with VCJPA (updated quarterly)
CAMP - Repair and Replace	1,040,484.83	273,415.93	Reserve committed to repair or replace capital assets.
CAMP - Public Health Emergency	525,967.76	521,494.08	Reserve committed for public health emergencies.
CAMP - Operating Reserve	1,943,395.66	1,926,865.88	Reserve committed as an emergency rainy-day fund (= to 60% of current year expenses)
CAMP - Capital Reserve Fund	59,078.80	35,602.35	Reserve for current year capital assets or non-capital facility maintenance
PARS	1,671,620.42	1,607,769.86	PARS is no longer being reported stand-alone on the balance sheet, would only be reported on the balance sheet if it was a liability to the district.
Petty cash	<u>405.78</u>	<u>388.04</u>	To reimburse employees - under \$50
Total Current Assets	7,913,747.19	6,609,577.17	
Property and Equipment			
Acc Dep - equipment	(1,282,441.98)	(1,311,776.21)	Accumulated depreciation expense from date of purchase through current useful life, which reduces assets book values
Acc Dep - stru & improv	(2,349,631.01)	(2,349,631.01)	" "
Acc Dep - conts in progress	-	-	" "
Construction in progress	-	535,663.99	Accumulated cost of a project yet to be completed.
Equipment	1,699,506.64	1,699,506.64	Original cost of depreciable equipment item.
Structure/improvement	5,240,948.78	4,638,621.62	Original cost of depreciable structure/ improvement item.
Land	<u>61,406.00</u>	<u>61,406.00</u>	Original purchase price of owned land; will not change.
Total Property and Equipment	3,369,788.43	3,273,791.03	
Other Assets			
Net OPEB Asset	<u>716,666.00</u>	<u>716,666.00</u>	Amount reported on actuary report. Pre-paid amount (overfunded), still considered an asset to the district. The amount has not changed because we have not withdrawn or added to account in the current year.
Total Other Assets	716,666.00	716,666.00	
Total Assets	<u>\$ 12,000,201.62</u>	<u>\$ 10,600,034.20</u>	
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	\$ 104,245.25	\$ 114,223.34	Invoices due but yet to be paid.
AP Credit Card	-	23,560.14	Current credit card purchases, no longer shows up on balance sheet due to credit card clearing out when credit card statement is paid.
Acc payroll/vacation	200,290.26	187,668.43	District's debt from employees' unused vacation time.
Def inflow - 75	41,760.00	41,760.00	Other post employment benefit cost. Projected but yet to be incurred. Actuary is suggesting what is going to happen but hasn't happened yet.
Def inflow pen defer GASB 68	809,861.00	809,861.00	Pension benefit cost projected but yet to be incurred. Actuary is suggesting what is going to happen but hasn't happened yet.
Defer outflow pen cont GASB 68	(818,392.00)	(818,392.00)	Payments into pension incurred but yet to be posted against the outstanding liability at a given point of time.
Net pension liability GASB 68	<u>2,642,666.00</u>	<u>2,642,666.00</u>	Unfunded pension accrued liability as estimated by an actuary as of a given point of time.
Total Current Liabilities	2,980,430.51	\$ 3,001,346.91	
Long-Term Liabilities			
Total Long-Term Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Total Liabilities	2,980,430.51	3,001,346.91	
Capital			
Designated fund balances	4,100,295.19	4,100,295.19	Board approved reserves for designated purposes.
Investment in general fixed as	6,056,392.04	4,637,374.11	Value of fixed assets left after accumulated depreciation and or debt.
Net Income	<u>(1,136,916.12)</u>	<u>(1,138,982.01)</u>	Net Income = Gross Income - Expenses
Total Capital	9,019,771.11	7,598,687.29	Sum of designated fund balances, investment in general fixed assets and net income.
Total Liabilities & Capital	<u>\$ 12,000,201.62</u>	<u>\$ 10,600,034.20</u>	



MONTHLY STAFF REPORT –1085

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1. OPERATIONS REPORT

During the early part of October, staff attended a Zoom training provided to ACMAD by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). This is a continuing program to help staff stay current on many of the endangered and threatened species they may encounter in the field while performing mosquito abatement activities. Salt marshes and vernal pools are home to several endangered or threatened species of animals and plants. Many ACMAD operations occur in these habitats and the goal is to familiarize our staff with these plants and animals to avoid interrupting or harming them during inspections, treatments, and during ditching efforts. In many cases, ACMAD operations staff are in these source types more often than most other agencies and we also strive to provide important data to USFWS on sightings, range, and location of threatened and endangered species. This reoccurring training is one component of ACMAD’s mission to control mosquito larvae while being knowledgeable and conscientious of the other organisms that inhabit the areas we work in.

Ditching operations continued to be conducted twice a week in October and November. As of the close of November, operations staff have cleared over nine-thousand feet of existing ditches in tidal marsh sources in Fremont, Newark, and Union City. Several high tide events over the course of the two months indicated that the work conducted to date had greatly improved the circulation of high tide waters into and out of these cleaned ditches. This ditch maintenance work will continue until the end of January 2021 when our current 2020-2021 permit expires.

Rainfall totals for October and November were below four percent of the average for the two months combined. The only real rainfall event for both months occurred on November 17th. The lack of rainfall and the flushing of catch basins, storm drains, canals, and creeks that the rain usually brings extended the seasons for *Culex pipiens* and *Culex tarsalis* in many of these and other sources. Operations staff continued efforts on these two species as well as on *Culex erythrothorax* throughout October and November. All three of these mosquito species are capable and competent vectors of West Nile virus (WNV). Testing by ACMAD’s lab detected two WNV positive crows collected in October and one WNV positive California Towhee collected in November indicating that WNV was still active in our county during those months.

Significant high tides in October and November also continued to produce larvae of *Aedes dorsalis*. Inspections of several of these sources were positive for this species and treatments were conducted. Again, ACMAD’s A-1 mist blower was utilized to treat several tidal sources totaling 200 acres for *Aedes dorsalis* in the latter part of October. Continued cooling of day/night temperatures, a shift in photoperiod, and (hopefully), more rainfall in December should lead to a shift from the four aforementioned species into our normal winter mosquito species.

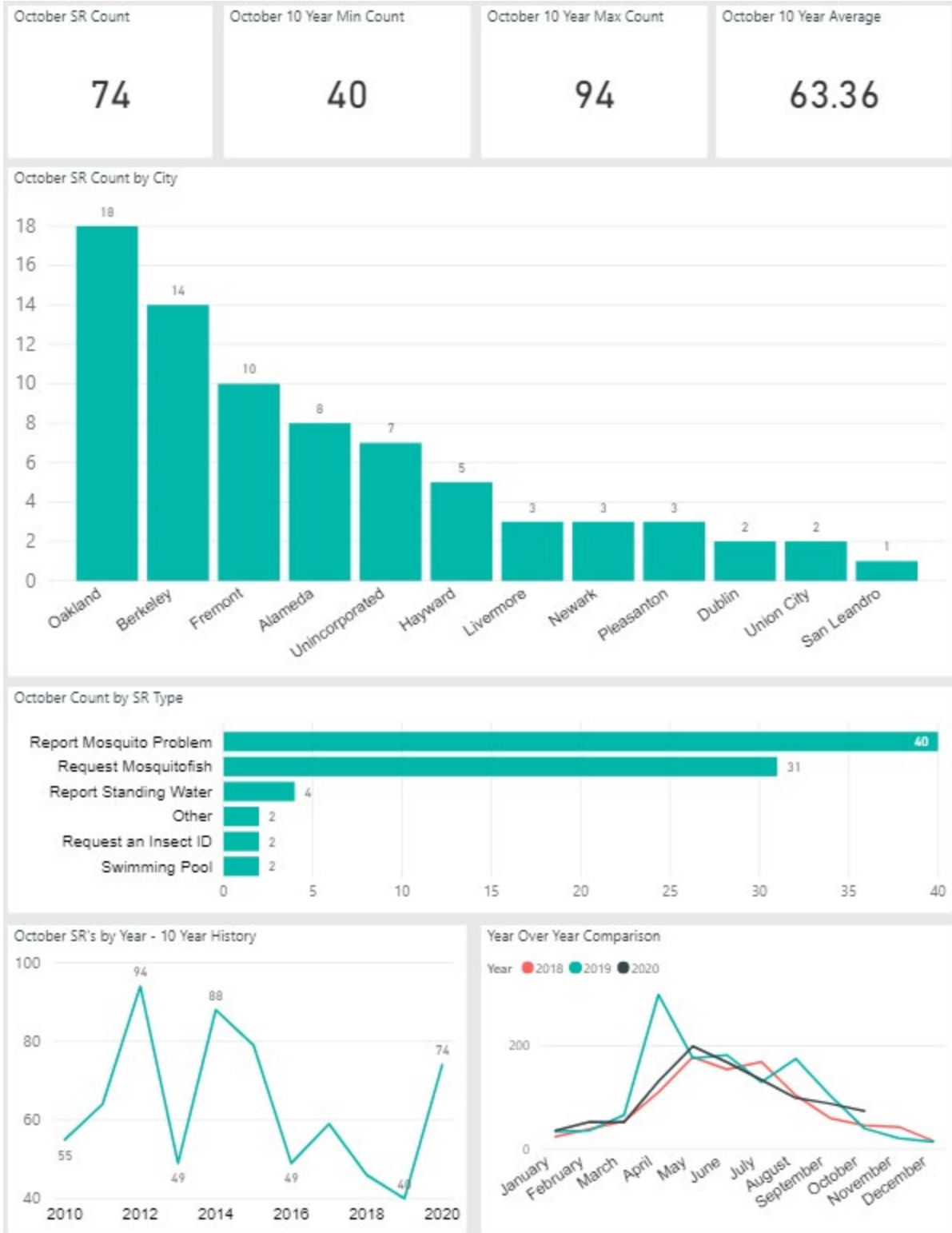
Service request data for the months of October and November also reflect some of the effects caused by the lack of rainfall and the continued activity of our traditionally spring, summer, and early fall species of mosquitoes. Over fifty percent of the requests received from the public were requests to report a “mosquito problem”. Most of these requests were attributable to species discussed earlier that typically would be in decline in October and all but absent in November. This was further demonstrated by the significant number of inspections and treatments conducted by operations staff for *Cx. pipiens*, *Cx. tarsalis*, *Cx. erythrothorax*, and *Ae. Dorsalis*. These inspections and treatments will continue until significant rainfall arrives and we fully transition to our winter mosquito species.

Joseph Huston

Field Operations Supervisor

2. District Data

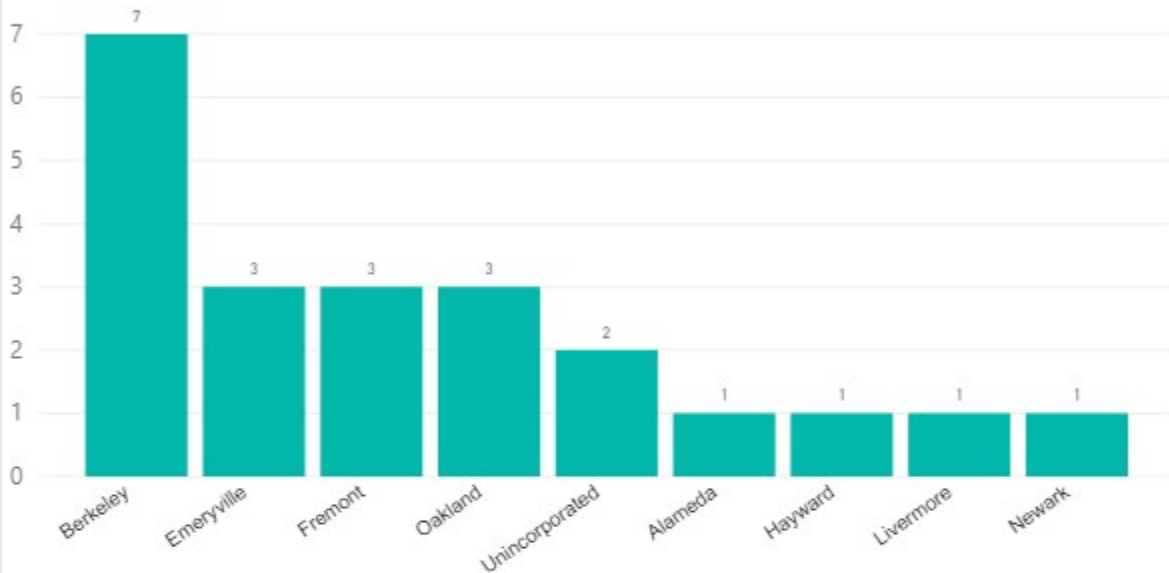
1. October Service Requests



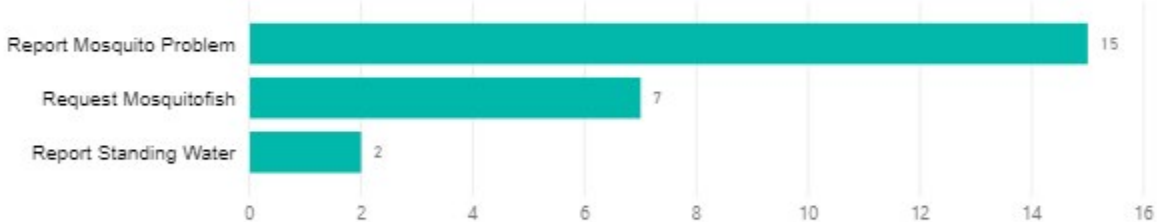
1a. November Service Requests

November SR Count	November 10 Year Min Count	November 10 Year Max Count	November 10 Year Average
22	17	55	34.45

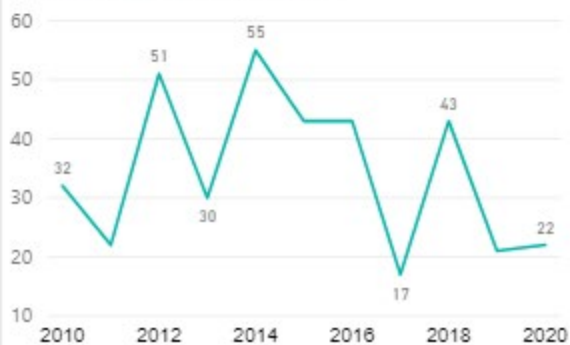
November SR Count by City



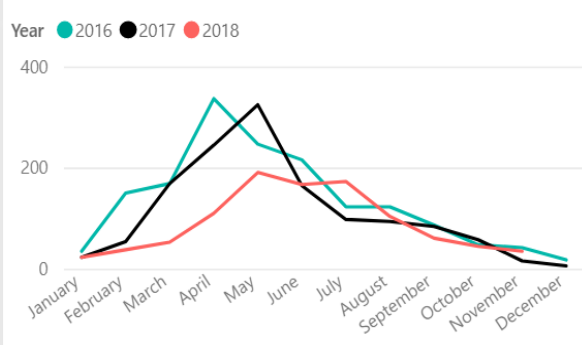
November Count by SR Type



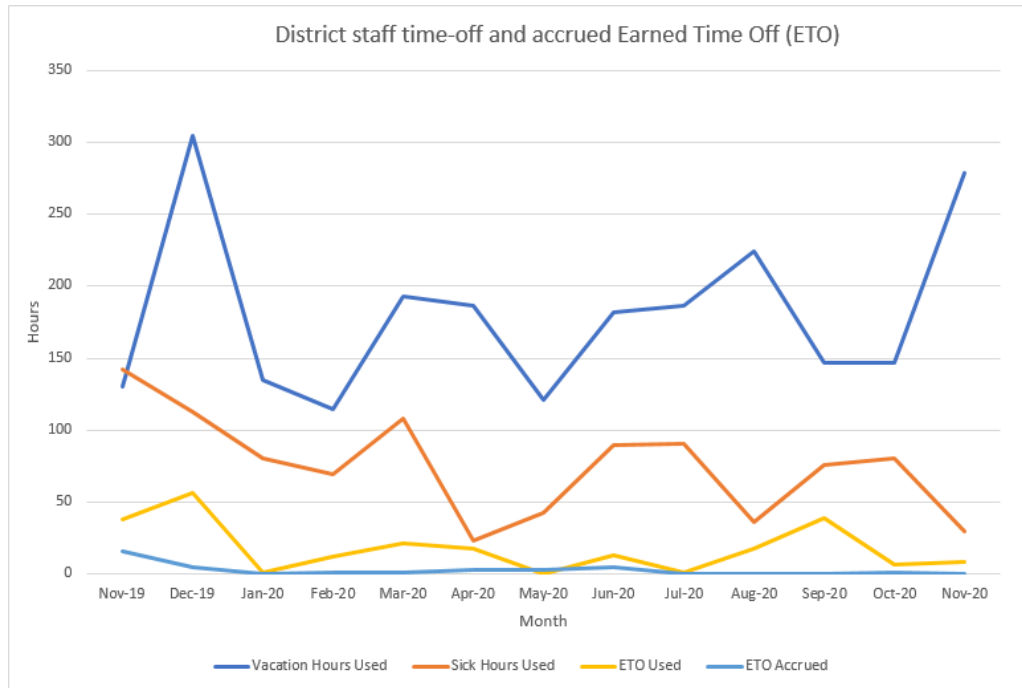
November SR's by Year - 10 Year History



Year Over Year Comparison

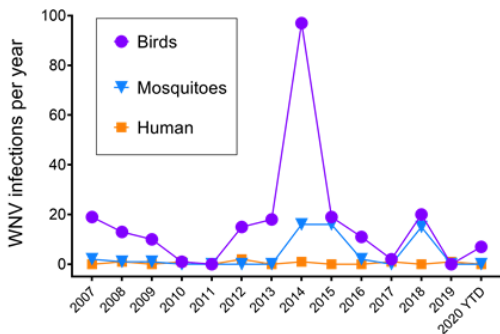


2. Activity Report

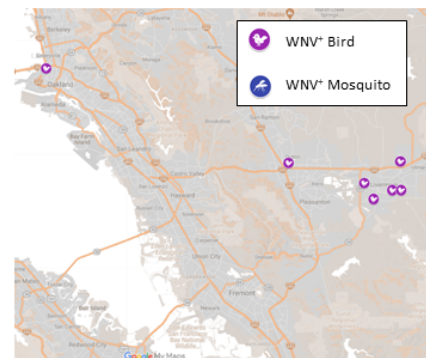


3. WNV Activity

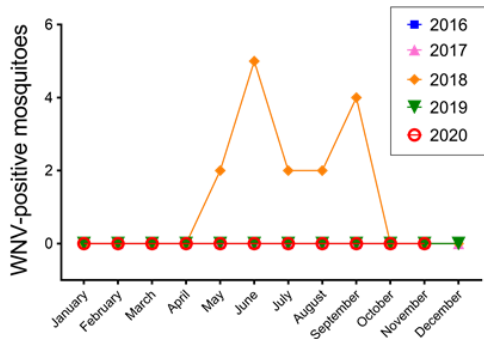
WNV infections detected in Alameda County 2005 – 2020 YTD



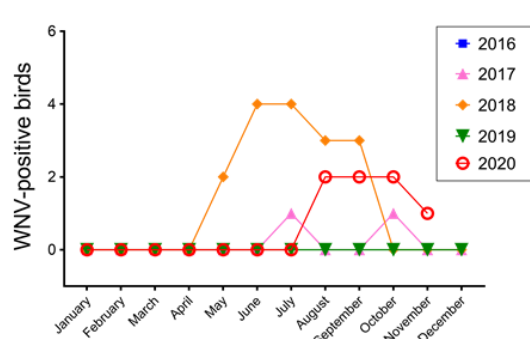
Locations of WNV-infected mosquitoes and birds collected in Alameda County during 2020



WNV-infected birds collected in Alameda County



WNV-infected mosquitoes collected in Alameda County



2. LAB

Summary

- West Nile virus (WNV) was detected in two American crows that were collected in Livermore and one California towhee that was collected in Oakland.
- Arboviruses have not been detected in mosquitoes during 2020.
- Invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes have not been detected in Alameda County during 2020.
- Mosquito abundance during October and November 2020 as measured using CO₂-baited encephalitis virus survey (EVS) traps was 45% lower relative to September 2020.
- New Jersey Light Traps (NJLT) captured 528 mosquitoes during October and November 2020 (413 trap nights), which was on average 2.5-fold lower than the same period of 2018 and 2019.
- A total of 3848 mosquitoes were captured in traps and identified to species during October and November 2020.

Arbovirus Monitoring

- WNV was detected in two American crows that were collected in Livermore and one California towhee that was collected in Oakland.
- None of the mosquitoes that were collected during 2020 contained WNV, Saint Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) or Western equine encephalitis virus (WEEV).
- None of the sentinel chickens in Livermore seroconverted during 2020, indicating that mosquitoes infected with WNV, SLEV, or WEEV were not present in the area. Arbovirus monitoring using the chicken colony ended during November and the chickens donated to the community.

Native Mosquito Abundance

- Over the course of 304 trap nights, a total of 3320 mosquitoes were captured in EVS traps (Figure 1). There were on average 10.9 mosquitoes captured per trap night during October and November 2020; for the prior month, there were 19.9 mosquitoes captured per trap night (a 45% decrease). *Culex erythrothorax*, which is a WNV vector, was the most common species collected in the EVS traps during October and November 2020, representing 60% of the mosquitoes that were collected (Figure 2 and Figure 3A). EVS traps captured approximately 1.5-fold more mosquitoes relative to the same period of 2019 and 2.2-fold more than 2018.
- Mosquito abundance in the areas of Livermore where the WNV-positive birds were collected was very low, but each WNV vector species was detected in the region. The EBMUD Wastewater Treatment Plant where the WNV-positive California towhee was collected had atypically high abundance of adult *Culex pipiens* (47 mosquitoes per EVS trap night). None of the collected mosquitoes contained WNV.
- Approximately 12% of the EVS CO₂ traps that were placed during October and November did not capture any mosquitoes. Consequently, adult mosquito monitoring using EVS traps will cease for the remainder of 2020 except for sites where *Cx. erythrothorax* abundance remained high (Figure 3B).
- Mosquito abundance, as measured using NJLT, remained very low for October / November 2020 (1.3 mosquitoes / trap night; total of 528 mosquitoes over 413 trap nights; Figure 4). *Culex tarsalis*, a WNV vector, was the most abundant species collected in NJLT during that period (Figure 5). The greatest number of mosquitoes were collected in the Berkeley NJLT (n = 372; Figure 6). The number of mosquitoes captured in NJLT during October / November 2020 was on average 2.5-fold lower compared to the same period of the prior two years.

FIGURES

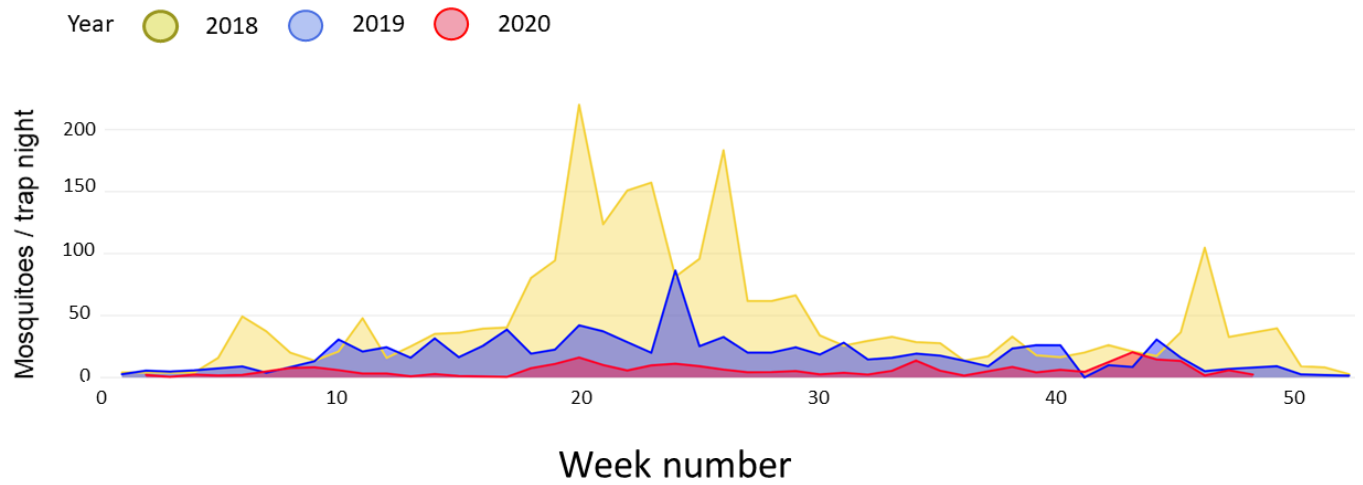


Figure 1. Mosquitoes captured in EVS CO₂ traps from 2018 – 2020. A total of 3320 mosquitoes were captured in EVS CO₂ traps during October and November 2020 and identified to species.

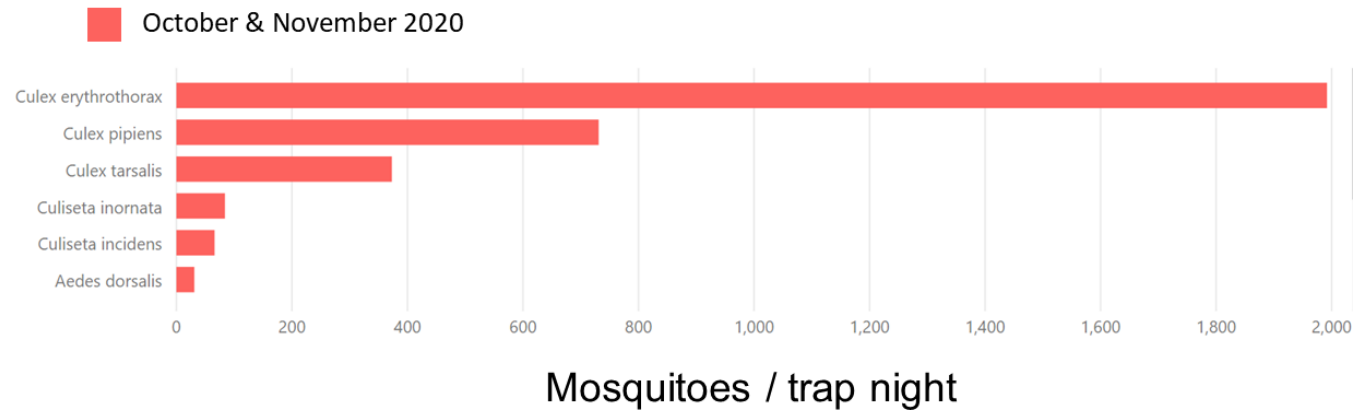
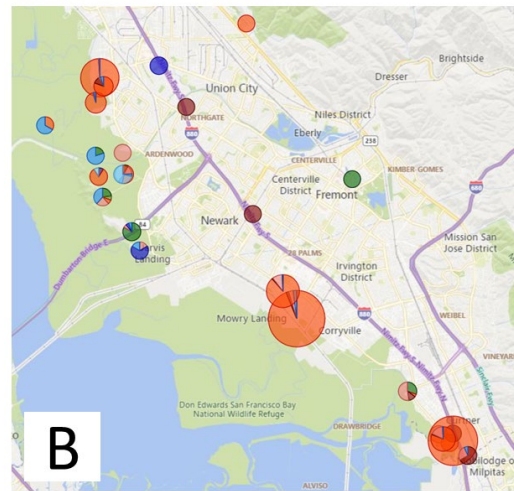
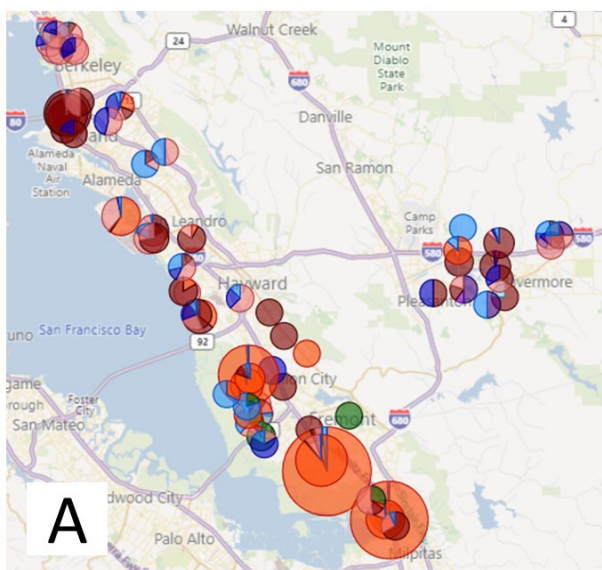


Figure 2. The most abundant species of mosquito captured using EVS CO₂ traps.



- Species**
- *Aedes dorsalis*
 - *Aedes washinoi*
 - *Anopheles franciscanus*
 - *Anopheles freeborni*
 - *Culex erythrothorax*
 - *Culex pipiens*
 - *Culex tarsalis*
 - *Culiseta incidens*
 - *Culiseta inornata*
 - *Culiseta particeps*

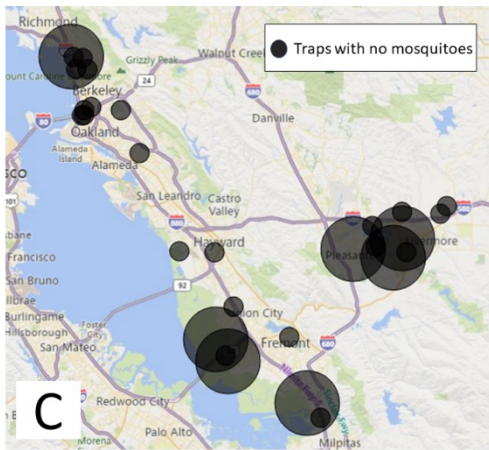


Figure 3. Mosquito abundance by trap site evaluated using EVS CO₂ traps. Pie charts over trap sites indicate the distribution of mosquito species collected at the trap site. The size of the pie charts indicates the relative number of mosquitoes at each site during October and November 2020. (A) Entirety of Alameda County. The largest orange pie chart in the bayside region of Union City represents 567 adult *Cx. erythrothorax*. (B) South county region where *Cx. erythrothorax* abundance remained high. (C) EVS traps that did not contain mosquitoes. The largest circle represents two traps and the smallest indicates one trap.

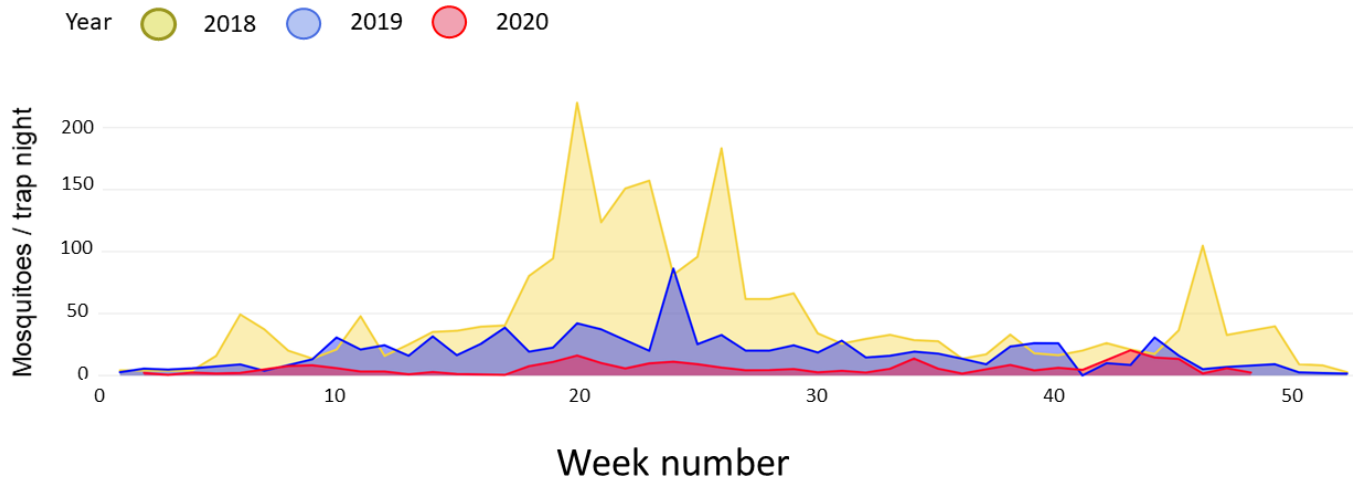


Figure 4. Mosquitoes captured in NJLT from 2018-2020. A total of 528 mosquitoes were captured in NJLT.

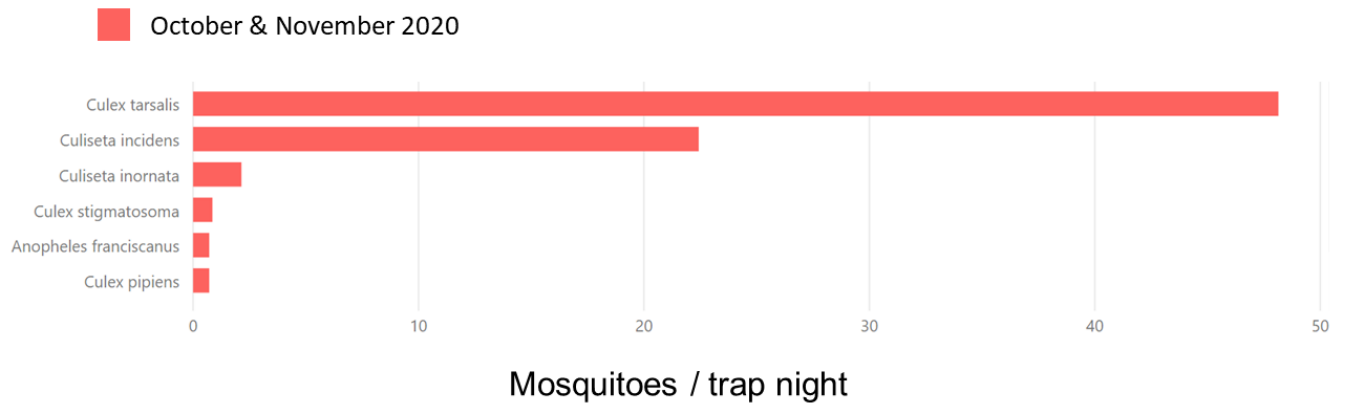


Figure 5. The most abundant species of mosquito captured in NJLT.

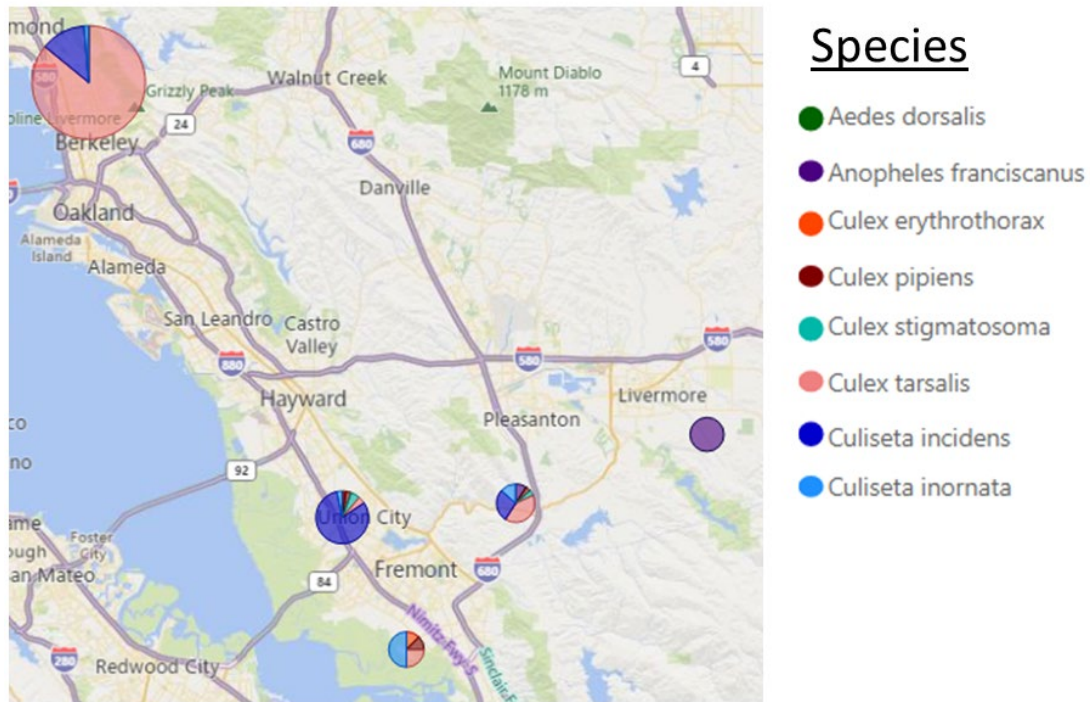


Figure 6. Geographic distribution of mosquito abundance in Alameda County evaluated using NJLT. Pie charts over trap sites indicate the distribution of mosquito species collected at the trap site. The largest pie chart in north Berkeley represents 372 adult mosquitoes.

3. PUBLIC EDUCATION

A. Events

i. Upcoming

- None

B. Google Analytics

Audience Overview

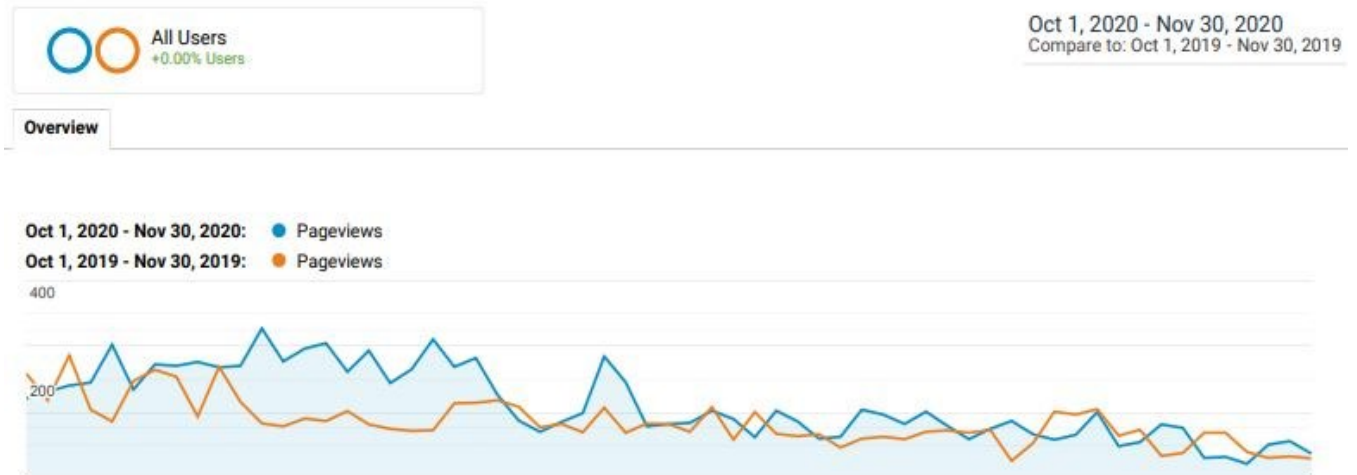


Figure 1. October and November website users for 2020 compared to 2019.

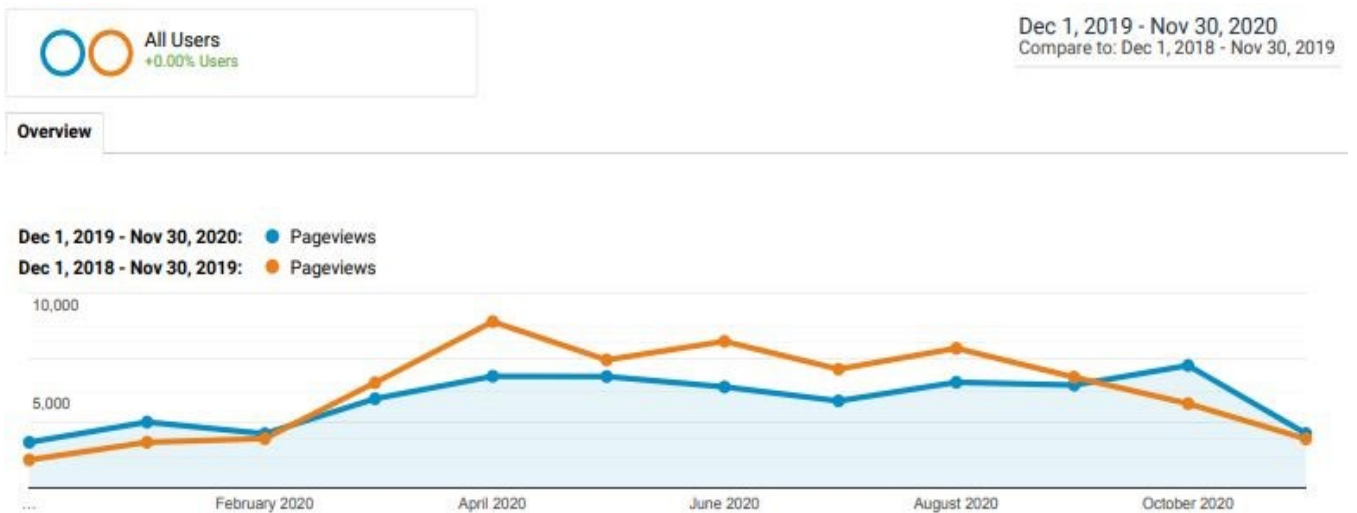
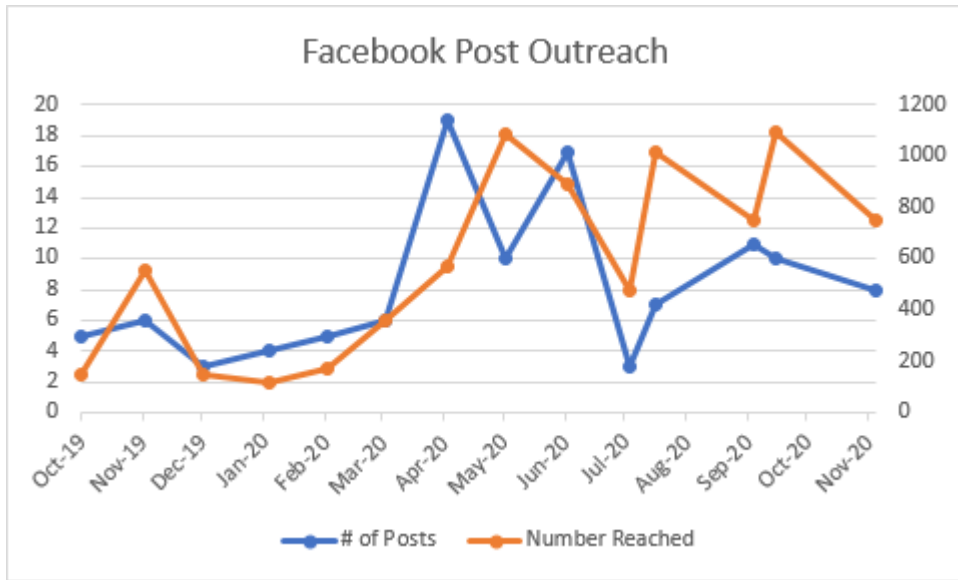


Figure 2. Comparison of website users over the past two years.

C. Facebook



Total Number of Followers: 285 (30 added in October and November)

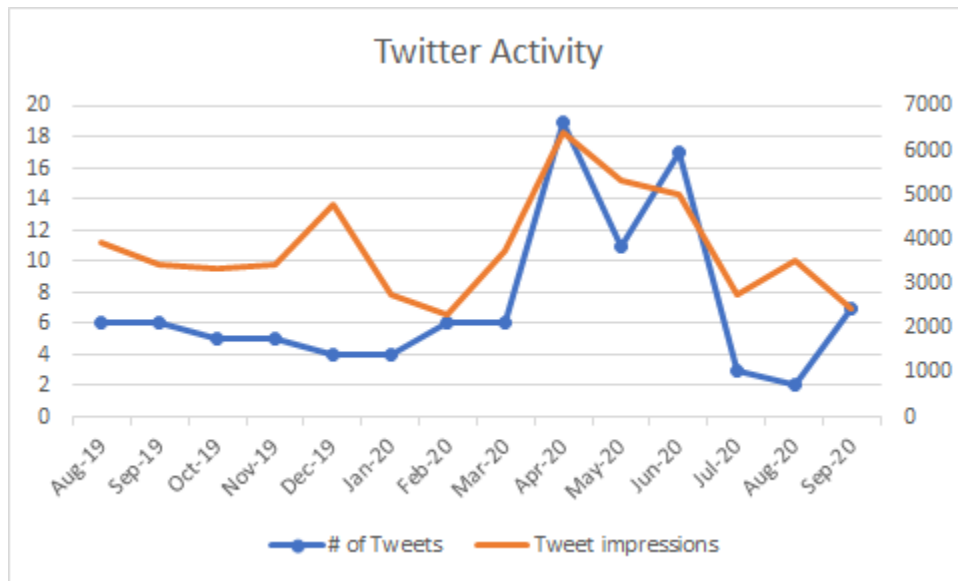


October's Most Popular Post: What do a butterfly, a cat burglar, a maniac mechanic and Grover have in common? A desire to fight invasive mosquitoes in Alameda County! An odd commonality, but it's true. Happy Halloween!




November's Most Popular Post: Have you recently seen insects that you couldn't identify? Ask our experts at Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District! Give us a call or service request via our website, www.mosquitoes.org

D. Twitter




Number of Profile Visits in October and November: 99 (44 in September)
Total Number of Followers: 742 (8 added since September)

Did you know? There are over 22 species of mosquitoes in Alameda County



**Smack it
and
Trap it!**


Seeing the mosquito allows us to determine the species, even if it's squished




Top October Tweet: Keeping a sample of a mosquito helps us identify which species is bothering you. Smack it, save it in a bag or a piece of tape, and our team will pick it up.

DYK? Many mosquitoes seek shelter during the winter.

Your home is nice and warm, can I stay here during the winter?

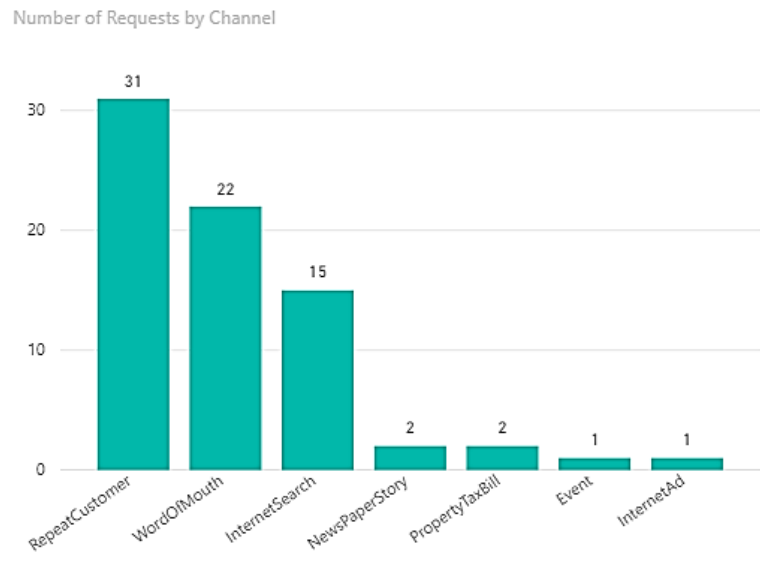


Storm drains, garages and homes are some of their favorite places. Lower your risk of unwelcome visitors by repairing broken screens and tipping or tossing any standing water nearby

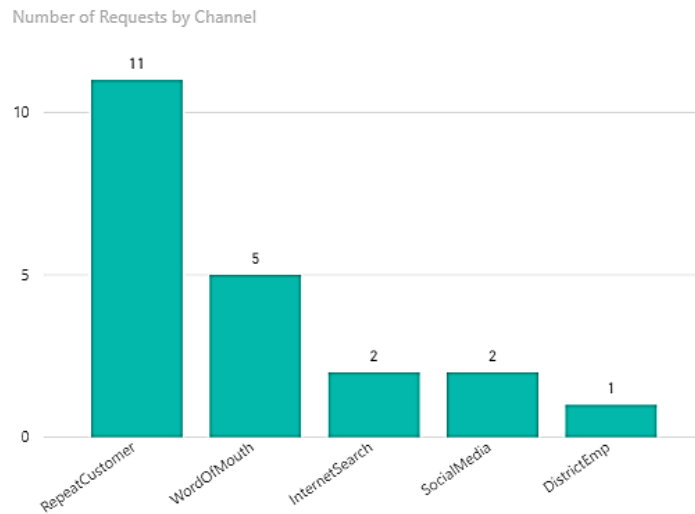


Top November Tweet: Have you noticed mosquitoes around your home? You're not the only one...

E. Service Request Referral Summary

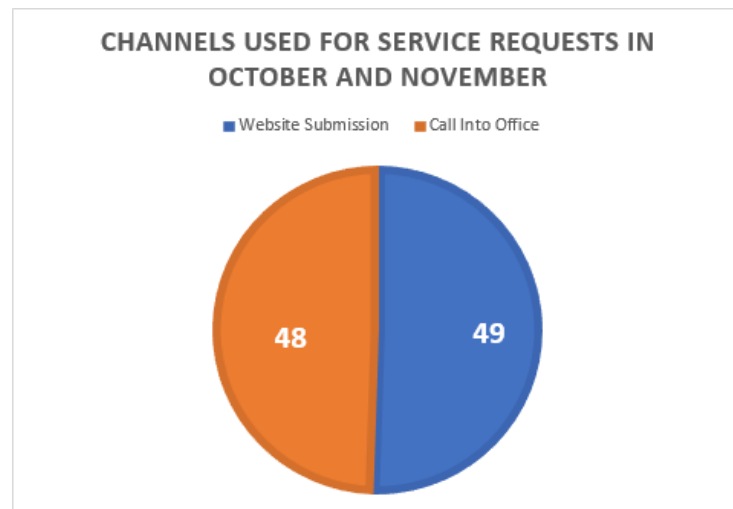


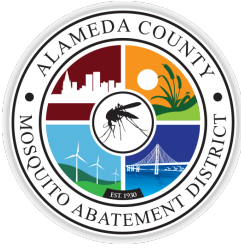
October



November

F. Channels Used by Residents to Request Service





23187 Connecticut Street
Hayward, CA 94545

T: (510) 783-7744
F: (510) 783-3903

acmad@mosquitoes.org

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Union City

Ryan Clausnitzer

General Manager

ACMAD is pleased to recognize and thank the following trustees and staff on their anniversary in November & December.

Employee	Job Title	Years of Service	Anniversary Date
Neil Campbell	Vector Biologist	17	November 17th
Trustee	City	Years of Service	Anniversary Date
Betsy Cooley	Emeryville	4	December 6 th



ADVERTISEMENT

CALIFORNIA

Costa Mesa's Fairview Park Wetlands, once seen as a boon, is bogged down by deficiencies



Costa Mesa's Fairview Park Wetlands includes a pond system whose pumps were intended to maintain flow. But poor recirculation is causing plant overgrowth and algae — and attracting mosquitoes. (Raul Roa / Times Community News)

By SARA CARDINE | STAFF WRITER

NOV. 15, 2020 | 8:04 PM



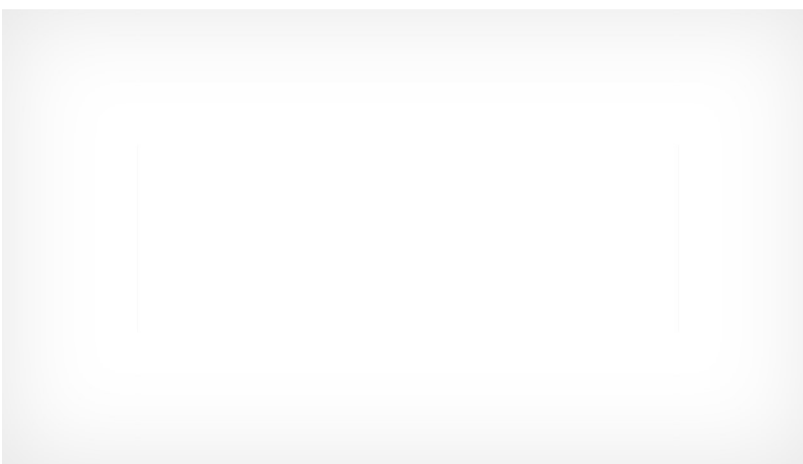
When Costa Mesa opened a 37-acre wetland complex at Fairview Park in 2013, the project was celebrated as an environmental accomplishment. City officials at the time described it as a “perfect marriage” of engineering and ecology.

Its 23 acres of riparian habitat would provide refuge to species threatened or endangered by years of Orange County development, and a recirculating pond system would draw urban runoff from nearby Greenville Banning Channel and suffuse flows throughout a web of interconnected streambeds.

Residents could recreate on trails that would provide vistas of rock-lined streams, overflowed by red-tailed hawks and Northern harriers, while mosquitofish would keep pesky insect populations at a tolerable level.

But seven years into the project — and just one year before Costa Mesa is to negotiate a final conservation agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Orange County's Flood Control District and Transportation Authority — the project has become mired in problems.

ADVERTISING



Reported deficiencies in the design and construction of the water delivery system have resulted in poor water circulation that has caused algae to overbloom, while cattails and duckweed are growing like wildfire along pond shores, creating conditions ripe for mosquitoes.





Neighbors of Costa Mesa's Fairview Park Wetlands Complex say they cannot enjoy their yards for all the mosquitoes that thrive from nearby algal waters and overgrown ponds. (Raul Roa / Times Community News)

Costa Mesa City Council members convened in a study session Tuesday to address the issue of mosquito abatement at Fairview Park, where at least one insect sample tested positive for West Nile virus in August. During the discussion, many issues with the area rose to the surface.

Fairview Park administrator Cynthia D'Agosta said maintenance costs have ballooned far beyond the annual \$40,000 anticipated at the outset of the work.

"The [conservation] agreements stated initially that the maintenance and management would require little to no investment from the city, but shortly into the development of the project the system became more costly and challenging," she told the council Tuesday.

D'Agosta said the city spends some \$350,000 annually on clearing overabundant cattails and performing other necessary maintenance. In 2018, the city removed 16 tons of cattails over eight weeks in summer and had to return in winter with mowing equipment.





Poor water circulation at Costa Mesa's Fairview Park Wetlands has caused algae to overbloom, while cattails grow like wildfire along pond shores, creating conditions ripe for mosquitoes. (Raul Roa / Times Community News)

Meanwhile, data provided by the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District show mosquito counts are on the rise. In 2015, when the wetland area was still new, the district counted fewer than 200 insects in Fairview Park traps. By the following year, the count rose to 1,684.

Although only 262 mosquitoes were counted last year, in 2020 more than 800 insects have so far been reported in traps. Higher populations could pose a health risk to residents as Orange County West Nile cases also rise.

As of Monday, 329 mosquito samples countywide had tested positive for West Nile virus — a 37% increase over 2019 totals and 68% above figures calculated in 2018. Some 17 human cases of the virus have been reported so far this year, compared with seven last year and 11 the prior year.

In Costa Mesa this year, three mosquito samples and three dead birds have tested positive for West Nile, and one

nonlethal human case has been recorded. No insects or birds were found with the virus inside city limits in 2018 and 2019.

Costa Mesa resident Bill Turpit has been following the wetlands project since plans started coming to fruition in 2007. On Tuesday, he blamed faulty design and construction for “fundamental deficiencies” in the wetland system that have contributed to the mosquito problem.

City staff estimated Thursday that Costa Mesa spent about \$4.7 million to build the wetland area. The ponds and water delivery systems were completed by Orange County contractor Land Forms Landscape Construction, which has since closed operations.

Turpit said improper soil elevation on the site prohibits gravitational flow, and plant overgrowth leaches from the water vital oxygen mosquitofish need to survive.

A float valve and pump intended to recirculate water from one end of the system to the other were never installed, he continued, causing excess flows to spill out onto a western portion of the property near adjacent Talbert Park that residents call “The Swamp.”

“It’s kind of like building a highway but forgetting to build the bridges,” he said. “It appears that the city accepted the wetland system without it being constructed according to plan.”

Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens said several neighbors have told him they cannot go outside their homes without being swarmed by mosquitoes. The situation is not only creating a health issue but draining city finances.

“I think this could be one of those situations where if we don’t make a capital investment, we’ll continue to suffer a year-over-year operating loss,” he said. “The time is now to be aggressive about it.”

City officials agreed to form a working group with neighbors and experts who could determine the most economic and effective way to immediately address the problems.

Mayor Katrina Foley asked to convene a closed session later this month to discuss possible legal remedies, and said she favored taking decisive action.

“I actually was on the council in 2007 when they made those promises to us,” Foley said. “We need to have an action plan ... so that the council knows sooner rather than later what we need to do to move forward to fix the problem.”

Cardine writes for Times Community News.