

Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District (ACMAD)'s use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS, or "drones")

Q: Why is ACMAD using UAS technology?

A: The District utilizes the most efficient and effective tools when monitoring and controlling mosquitoes. UAS technology has now advanced to a level that will augment our already robust mosquito inspection and treatment programs.

Q: How will ACMAD use UAS technology?

A: We will inspect ground surfaces for standing water in difficult to access, and sometimes sensitive habitats, such as in remote marshlands. Another application will be long-term monitoring of wetland restoration projects to evaluate their impacts on mosquito breeding. With the passage of AB 527 in 2017, mosquito and vector control districts will soon be allowed to apply mosquito control products via UAS technology. Regulations concerning these applications are expected to be finalized in late 2018.

Q: Where will ACMAD use UAS technology, e.g., will ACMAD fly the UAS over my house?

A: ACMAD will not fly their UAS over residential communities. The focus of ACMAD's UAS work is in remote wetlands where access is difficult, and mosquitoes are more likely to be found.

Q: What ACMAD UAS technology will ACMAD be using?

A: Currently, ACMAD only has one rainbowed-colored DJI Matrice 210 RTK UAS with an RGB camera along with a multi-spectral image camera used for finding water under vegetation.

Q: What is ACMAD's policy on images captured that contain people, vehicles, or other Personally Identifiable Information?

A: The District has strict policies on deleting images that contain PII. Most images will be taken in remote locations and may only capture light wavelengths that allow water to be visualized (people would not be visible in such images).

Q: Will these images be available to anyone upon request?

A: After completing a flight mission, the Pilot will review the flight imagery and delete all images that may contain Personal Identifying Information or are not relevant to the mission objectives.

Q: How can I obtain more information about mosquito control in Alameda County?

A: The District's website is easy to remember: www.mosquitoes.org, where you can sign up for press alerts, and/or our quarterly newsletter. We are also active on social media through Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. You can also call us at 510-783-7744, email at ACMAD@mosquitoes.org, or visit us at 23187 Connecticut St, Hayward, CA 94545.