

## News 10/KXTV

### MOSQUITO DISTRICT CRITICIZED BY GRAND JURY

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In San Joaquin County, an agency has been criticized on how it holds public meetings and more importantly, how it spends public money. The grand jury isn't the first group here in Stockton to be critical of the Mosquito District Board of Trustees because they voted back in 2009 to give themselves and family members full health benefits even though they meet just once a month.



San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District

STOCKTON, CA - There are new criticisms of the San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District, this time by the local grand jury.

The agency with a \$7 million budget and staff of 35 works to control mosquitoes in San Joaquin County to prevent the spread of West Nile virus.

But the San Joaquin County Grand Jury reports the mosquito district board has its problems.

"The Grand Jury discovered violations of the Brown Act regarding the failure to conduct its public business in an open and transparent manner," read part of the report.

"The Grand Jury found that Trustees failed to understand the health benefit resolutions on which they voted," read another section.

The report comes after a local taxpayers association repeated its criticism of the board's recent decision to renew medical benefits for board trustees and their family members. The board meets just once a month.

"It's unconscionable that the taxpayers have to pick up that kind of bill. They signed up for community service. It was never meant to be an open checkbook for taxpayers," said association President Dave Renison.

Renison said more than \$110,000 has been paid out to the few trustees who took the medical benefits offer.

Board President Marc Warmerdam refused to answer questions from News10 about the benefits and abruptly hung up mid-conversation. An attorney for the board said the benefits are needed partly to help attract willing participants.

"A lot of them voted without taking it themselves. It's necessary to get good performance on the board," said attorney Chris Ely.

The grand jury found of the 68 mosquito control districts in California, only three voted themselves medical benefits. The other two are in Yolo and Stanislaus counties.

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