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09/16/2004 GAAS:414:04 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Governor Schwarzenegger Signs Bill to Provide Funds to Fight West Nile Virus Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today signed AB 1982 and SB 1545 appropriating \$750,000 and to reduce the number of mosquitoes in California and improve coordination between the State and local mosquito abatement districts. "These bills provide essential funding to help fight the spread of the West Nile virus through improved coordination between the Department of Fish and Game and mosquito abatement districts," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "With this legislation we will protect wetland habitats as we shrink the mosquito population, and reduce the future cost of mosquito abatement."

These bills require the Department of Fish and Game to coordinate wetland management activities in Wildlife Management Area's with local mosquito

abatement districts. Best management practices will be designed to reduce mosquito production and at the same time, maintain wetland habitat values. The funds provided under AB 1982 and SB 1545 will further ongoing efforts to help fight the spread of the West Nile Virus in California. These efforts include: \$1 million appropriated in the current state budget to support continued West Nile Virus surveillance and public education efforts through the Department of Health Services, an additional \$1 million (\$650,000 in annual funding and \$442,000 in additional funding recently secured by the Administration) in federal funds for surveillance and public education efforts, an interagency taskforce created by the Governor to coordinate West Nile Virus monitoring, prevention and intervention efforts and more than \$27 million in local funding for local mosquito abatement districts.

San Joaquin County Mosquito and Vector Control District - \$100,000 for mosquito control and \$8,923 for surveillance.

"What I labeled the need to justify to fly"
While other agencies had to cut back our district was given