



MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL
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NPDES PERMIT INHIBITS MOSQUITO CONTROL MEASURES
Public health is likely to suffer due to new regulations

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) regrets the U.S. Senate's inability to rectify the inclusion of public health pesticide applications under a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirement. As of November 1, 2011, mosquito and vector control agencies must secure a permit before any further public health pesticide applications near or over U.S. waters. MVCAC members worked diligently to educate California's Congressional Delegation on the incompatibility of the NPDES permit requirements and pesticide applications applied to control mosquito populations in the protection of both public health and the environment. All applications of pesticides done by mosquito and vector control agencies are already applied according to their EPA-approved label.

"Applying the NPDES requirements to public health pesticide applications is like trying to fit a round peg into a square hole," said Robert Gay, MVCAC President. "Public agencies charged with protecting California's citizens from mosquito-borne diseases are being burdened with costly regulations that show no guarantee of any additional environmental benefit."

MVCAC was part of a national coalition working to amend the new federal permit requirements to recognize that public health pesticide applications should be exempted. There was bipartisan support for various proposals such as H.R. 872, but none were acted upon before the permit requirement was triggered on November 1.

For nearly four decades, water quality concerns from pesticide applications were addressed within the registration process under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), rather than a Clean Water Act permitting program. H.R. 872 would amend both the Clean Water Act and FIFRA in order to restore the previous regulatory framework and exempt mosquito and vector control agencies from the requirements of the NPDES permit.

"Cost estimates for MVCAC members to comply with the new NPDES permit are upwards of \$1.3 million in fees, staff hours, monitoring and related expenses," stated Gay. "Our members are already seeing reduced revenues from decreasing property values and this permit is not only expensive, but may prohibit our members from doing their job and the public is likely to suffer." This cost estimate was provided by the California Department of Public Health.

Gay stated, "It isn't too late for Congress to act to protect public health pesticide applications, but time is definitely not on our side at this point as many of our members still need to make vital applications."

MVCAC represents more than 65 special districts and other subdivisions of local government responsible for mosquito and vector control, surveillance of West Nile virus and other vector-borne diseases, and public education programs to help Californians protect themselves from disease. MVCAC advocates safe, effective and environmentally friendly methods of mosquito and vector control.

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