

GREUEL TAPS FEDERAL GRANTS FOR WEST NILE FIGHT.

Print

Date: Sep 16, 2004

Words: 246

Publication: Daily News (Los Angeles, CA)

ISSN: 0279-8026

Byline: James Nash Staff Writer

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Wendy Greuel on Wednesday earmarked \$100,000 in federal grants to repair damaged gutters in her San Fernando Valley district, saying the work will help prevent the spread of the West Nile virus.

Greuel ordered the Bureau of Street Services to reconstruct damaged gutters in the North Hollywood and Valley Glen areas. She said drainage blockages that result from damaged gutters create pools of water where West Nile-carrying mosquitoes breed.

Officials from the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, which has spearheaded the fight against the West Nile virus locally, were not available to comment Wednesday about the relationship between damaged gutters and the West Nile virus.

Greuel said many damaged gutters are concentrated in areas populated by senior citizens, who are most at risk for West Nile disease. The disease has infected 186 people in Los Angeles County this year, with six deaths, according to the Department of Health Services.

"We are looking at short-term and long-term measures for permanently addressing the sources of standing water in our streets," Greuel said.

Although the gutter-fixing effort is limited to about 50 locations in North Hollywood and Valley Glen, it could be broadened to other parts of Los Angeles, aides to Greuel said.

The funding for the repairs comes from federal community development block grants, which are awarded to state and local government for improvements in low-income neighborhoods.

James Nash, (213) 978-0390

james.nash(at)dailynews.com

COPYRIGHT 2004 Daily News

Copyright 2004, Gale Group. All rights reserved. Gale Group is a Thomson Corporation Company.