

**DELTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR  
CONTROL DISTRICT**

Dr. Mustapha Debboun  
*General Manager*

Post Office Box 310 \* Visalia, California 93279-0310

Mir Bear-Johnson  
*Assistant Manager*

Hector Cardenas  
*Operations Program Manager*

1737 West Houston Avenue \* Visalia, California 93291

Phone (559) 732-8606 \* (877) 732-8606 \* Fax (559)-732-7441

Crystal Grippin  
*Scientific Program Manager*

www.deltavcd.com

Sheri D. Davis  
*Administrative Assistant*

Andrea Troupin  
*Biologist*

Javier Valdivias  
*Biologist*

Mark Nakata  
*Biologist*

**DATE:** Friday, May 7, 2021

**TO:** Board of Trustees, Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District

**FROM:** Dr. Mustapha Debboun, General Manager

**SUBJECT:** Regular Meeting of the District's Board of Trustees

**TIME:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** District Boardroom, 1737 West Houston Avenue, Visalia

**AGENDA:**

**1. Roll Call**

**2. Employee Introduction**

The General Manager will introduce Mr. Mario Sanchez, Vector Control Technician III/Mechanic to the Board of Trustees.

**3. SCI Survey Presentation to Board of Trustees**

SCI Consulting Group will present results from the survey phase of the Assessment Benefit Analysis for the invasive Yellow fever mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*.

**ACTION**

**4. Resolution 2021-01**

The General Manager will present a Resolution Initiating Proceedings For The Formation Of A Benefit Assessment For Mosquito Abatement And Disease Prevention Services For The Delta Vector Control District.

**ACTION**

**5. Consent Calendar**

- a. April Minutes
- b. April Bills (Board Order #27, #28)
- c. May Payroll (Board Order #29)
- d. May Bills (Board Order #30)

**6. Public Forum**

Members of the public may address the Board of Trustees.

**7. Staff Report**

The General Manager will report on items of operational interest.

**ACTION**

**8. Resolution 2021-02**

The General Manager will present Resolution 2021-02 confirming the District name change from Delta Vector Control District to Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District.

**9. Oxitec/Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) Pilot Project in California**

The General Manager will provide information on Oxitec's/SIT efforts to conduct its field trials against *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in California to reduce their populations and protect the public from mosquito-borne diseases.

**ACTION**

**10. Adjournment**

Adjourn meeting of the Board of Trustees to reconvene on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District Boardroom, 1737 W. Houston Ave., Visalia, CA.

**Note:** Items designated for information are appropriate for Board action if the Board wishes to take action.

# **1. Roll Call**

## **2. Employee Introduction**

The General Manager will introduce Mr. Mario Sanchez, Vector Control Technician/Mechanic III to the Board of Trustees.

### **3. SCI Survey Presentation to Board of Trustees**

# Delta Mosquito & Vector Control District *Aedes aegypti* Survey and Opinion Research Findings

---



Presented by:

Sonia Ortega, Consultant

John Bliss, President

May 12, 2021

# Survey Objectives

---

- Evaluate **support, desires and priorities** of property owners regarding current and potential services provided by the Delta Mosquito & Vector Control District
- Gauge the **level of support** for a local funding measure to maintain or improve year-round control of invasive mosquito, *Aedes aegypti* and other mosquitoes and vector-borne diseases

# Scope of Work – Survey Methodology

- The survey tested 2 proposed annual rates, representing 2 service levels:
  - \$8.24 per single family home, with tiered rates for other types of property
  - \$12.50 per single family home, with tiered rates for other types of property
- Survey mailed to about 16,000 property owners using randomized, stratified samples
- Surveys mailed on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and returned up to April 16, 2021
- 1,972 respondents = 12.4% return rate and margin of error of  $\pm 2.17\%$
- Results include all types of property owners, and are adjusted to reflect weighted ballot features of a benefit assessment



# Survey Documents

**DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**  
**OFFICIAL SURVEY**  
**DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**  
 Information Fact Sheet

**Local Mosquito Control in your Community**  
 The Delta Vector Control District ("the Mosquito District") has been protecting the public from mosquito-borne diseases and mosquito nuisances in northern Tulare County including Visalia, Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Woodlake, Cutler, Orosl, and Ivanhoe areas since 1942. The Mosquito District is the sole provider of year-round mosquito and vector control services where your property is located. It is an independent special district, not part of the County or any City, and is governed by a local seven member Board of Trustees.



**Encephalitis Virus Surveillance (EVS) traps** are typically placed in rural areas like orchards or along river banks. They are used to catch female mosquitoes that are looking for a host to bite.

**Emergence of the Yellow Fever Mosquito**  
 Beginning in 2019, there has been a significant increase in local population of *Aedes aegypti*, "the yellow fever mosquito," in Tulare County. This mosquito can spread dengue fever, chikungunya, Zika fever, Mayaro and yellow fever viruses, and other disease agents. *Aedes aegypti* can be recognized by white markings on its legs and a marking in the form of a lyre on the upper surface of its thorax, as shown in the photo below. Controlling *Aedes aegypti* requires focused monitoring, testing and treatment, and the Mosquito District is seeking input from the community regarding additional resources to combat this emerging mosquito. We appreciate your participation.



Elevated mosquito abundance, such as an increase in *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, and the presence of West Nile virus in other mosquitoes require treatments to reduce risks to Public Health

**Our Current Mosquito Control Services**  
 An annual mosquito and vector control assessment would enable the District to provide improved *Aedes aegypti* mosquito and disease control services. Following are some of these services:

- Provide free mosquito-eating fish to property owners for backyard ponds and other water features.
- Control mosquito sources with environmentally sound products wherever mosquito larvae or pupae are found.
- Testing for diseases that can be carried by mosquitoes.
- Respond rapidly to service requests concerning mosquitoes, insects, and other vectors.
- Conduct environmentally safe adult mosquito control when necessary to protect public health.
- Investigate and identify flies, fleas, ticks and rodents.
- Provide community education on how to treat and prevent vector sources.

Want to learn more about the surveillance, vector management, and community education the Mosquito District Provides? Visit us at [www.deltavcd.com](http://www.deltavcd.com)

**Español al revés de esta página**

**DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**  
**OFFICIAL SURVEY**  
**DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**

This short survey has been mailed to property owners in the Delta Vector Control District to gather information and opinions. This information will help the District make decisions about future mosquito control, surveillance, and education services. After completing the survey, simply mail it back in the postage paid return envelope provided.

0000 015776 3 98 1 \*\*\*\*\*MIXED AADC 945  
 [REDACTED]  
 [Barcode]

**Survey Instructions:**  
 1) Read each question listed below.  
 2) Fill in the circle for your response. Please use a pen and completely fill in the circle.  
 3) Detach the bottom portion of this sheet containing your answers.  
 4) Place the bottom portion of this sheet in the return envelope and mail (no postage needed).

Detach Here \_\_\_\_\_ Fill Below Portion, Detach at this Line, and Mail Back in Return Envelope \_\_\_\_\_ Detach Here

To take this survey online please visit [www.inputlocal.com](http://www.inputlocal.com) and enter the SURVEY NAME: "DELTA2", and your SURVEY CODE: [REDACTED] to log in.

1. Property owners in your area may be asked to vote by mail on a local ballot measure. Following is a summary of the proposal:

In order to:

- Provide year-round, focused, rapid, and comprehensive control of invasive mosquitoes, such as *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever mosquito, and other pests, and the diseases they carry;
- Improve monitoring and responding to public health issues, such as yellow fever and West Nile virus and other emerging diseases,

would you support a yearly annual assessment on your property(s)\* in the amount of \$25.00 ?

Definitely YES  Probably YES  Probably NO  Definitely NO

[Barcode]

\*Assessment amount listed is the proposed total combined annual amount for all properties you own.

Now, please read the following arguments and statements regarding the proposed Mosquito, Vector and Disease Control assessment. For each one, please indicate whether they make you more or less likely to support the assessment:

	Much More Likely	Somewhat More Likely	No Impact	Somewhat Less Likely	Much Less Likely
2. This measure will help prevent future outbreaks of West Nile virus and other diseases .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. This measure will continue the use of mosquito traps to measure mosquito populations, and expand focused, surveillance-based control programs .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. This measure will help suppress the emergence of invasive species, such as <i>Aedes aegypti</i> (Yellow Fever Mosquito), that can carry life-threatening diseases..	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. The District will educate residents about how to protect themselves from diseases carried by mosquitoes and other vectors .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. This measure will reduce mosquito populations using environmentally-sound methods.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. None of the proceeds from this measure could be taken by the State or County, and can only be used directly for mosquito and vector control services .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please write any reasons why you support or oppose this proposed measure:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

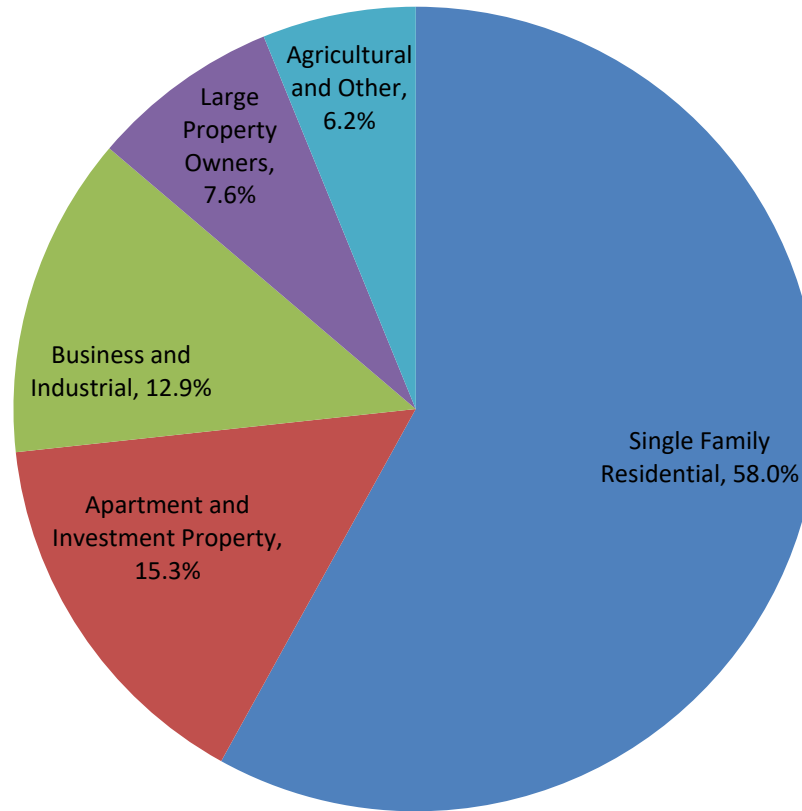
# Benefit Assessment Overview

---

- Decided by all property owners in a mailed ballot proceeding, including business, apartment, and other property owners
- All returned ballots are counted
- Requires weighted majority of returned ballots
- Assessments are based on type of property, size, and dwelling units (this is not a flat-rate parcel tax)
- Most common local funding option for Mosquito and Vector Control Districts in California

# Weighted Assessment “Votes” by Property Type

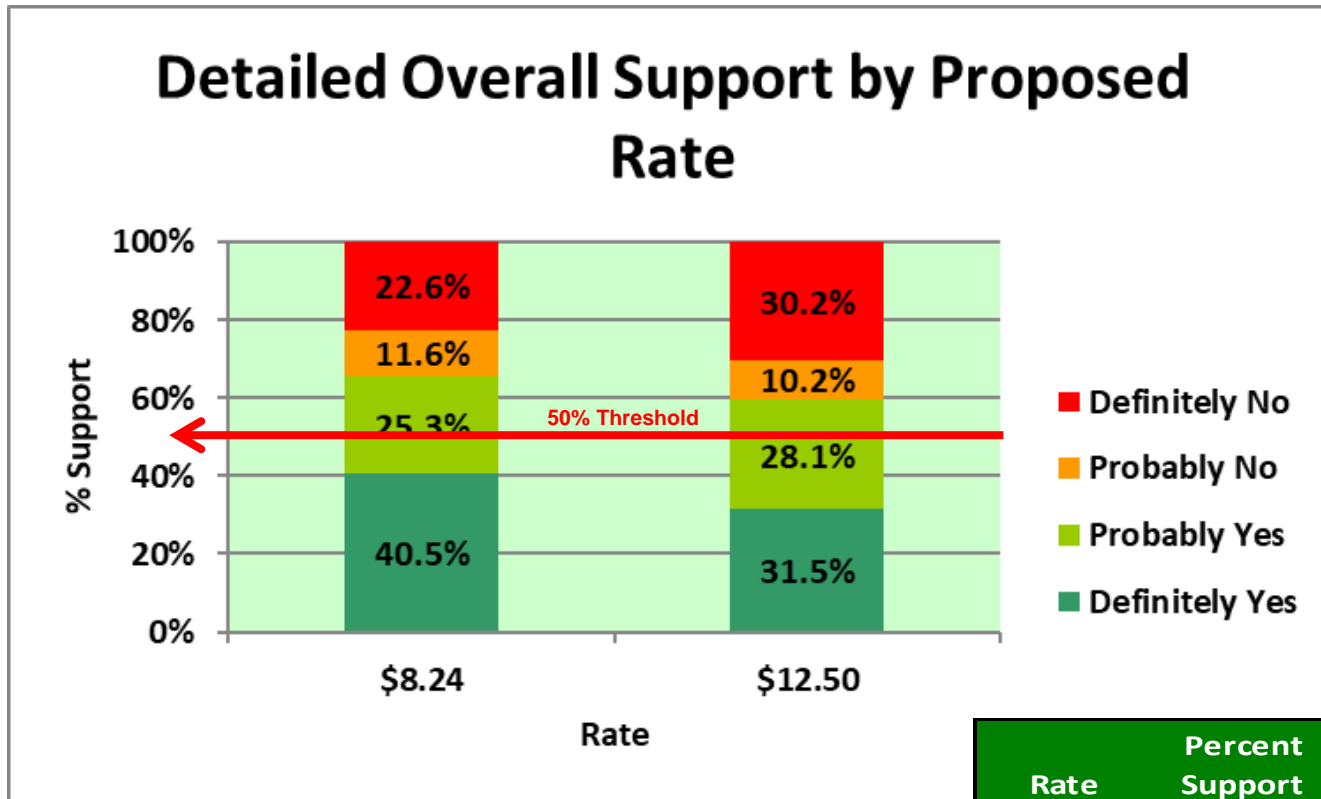
---



# Overall Support by Property Type

<b>Property Type</b>	<b>Percent of Vote</b>	<b>Weighted Support</b>
<b>Single Family Residential</b>	<b>58.0%</b>	<b>73.7%</b>
<b>Apartment and Investment Property</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>35.7%</b>
<b>Business and Industrial</b>	<b>12.9%</b>	<b>51.7%</b>
<b>Large Property Owners</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>25.8%</b>
<b>Agricultural and Other</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>60.8%</b>

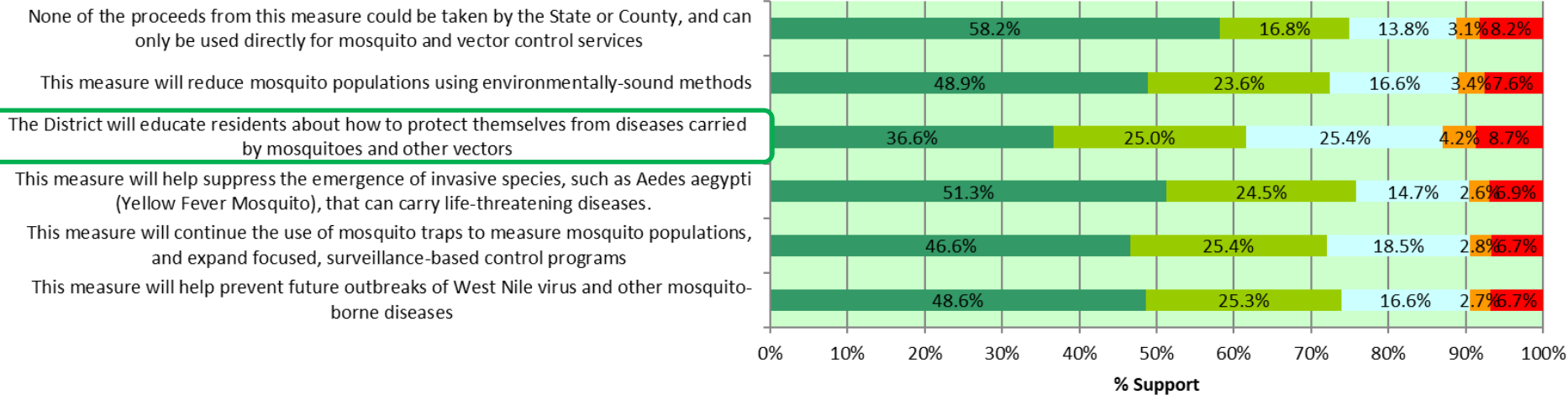
# Overall Property Owner Support



Rate	Percent Support	Percent Oppose
\$8.24	65.9%	34.1%
\$12.50	59.6%	40.4%

# Support by Projects and Issues

## Detailed Support by Projects and Issues for All Respondents



■ Much More Likely   
 ■ Somewhat More Likely   
 ■ No Impact   
 ■ Somewhat Less Likely   
 ■ Much Less Likely

# Summary of Findings

---

- Property owners in the District **support** a measure to continue both providing control of mosquitoes and to monitor and respond to public health issues.
- **Top Priorities are:**
  - To help suppress the emergence of invasive mosquito species, such as *Aedes aegypti* (Yellow Fever Mosquito), that carries life-threatening diseases
  - Ensuring none of the proceeds from this measure could be taken by the State or County, and can only be used directly for mosquito and vector control services
  - To help prevent future outbreaks of West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases

# Recommendations

---

- Proposed rate should be around \$12.50 per Single Family Home per year based on projects and operational needs
- Fiscal responsibility including all possible accountability and oversight provisions
- Emphasis on disease prevention including *Aedes aegypti*, West Nile virus, and other emerging mosquito-borne diseases
- **Implement an informational outreach approach and consider proceeding with a funding measure**



# Next Steps: Community Engagement and Informational Outreach

---

- Work with local stakeholders, including elected officials, community leaders, senior community, and other stakeholders
  - Conduct targeted outreach to apartment, business, and large property owners
  - Work with local media and social media to reach community members
  - Address key issues and form a consistent message
    - le.** All funds will be spent locally within the district to maintain or improve year-round control of mosquitoes and vector-borne diseases such as West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis, Western equine encephalitis, Dengue, Zika, etc.
-

# Most Effective Outreach Methods

---

- Clear and authentic messaging
  - Transparent budget
  - Local media, social media
  - Socially- distanced community interactions
  - Community Meetings
-

# Timeline Considerations

---

- Sufficient time for successful outreach
- Balloting mail date?
- Potential conflicts (e.g. local elections)
- High vacation season / Holidays
- Mosquito populations and activity
- Property Tax Bills / Income Tax Returns

# Proposed Balloting Timeline for FY 2022-23

---

- Summer 2021                      Resolution directing the mail of ballots
- **Fall 21** (*Spring 22*)              **Mail ballots**
- + 45 days                              Close balloting period
- Winter 21 (*Spring 22*)              Ballot tabulation
- Winter 21 (*Spring 22*)              Resolution announcing ballot results & levy assessments for FY 2022-23
- August 2022                          Submit assessment roll to Tulare  
County Auditor
- December 2022                      1st apportionment revenues received

# Proposed Balloting Timeline for FY 2021-22

- 
- **June 9** **Board Meeting:** Resolution directing the mail of ballots + prelim ER
  - **June 18** **Mail ballots** (ballots must be out at least 45 days – Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> )
  - **August 4** **Special Board Meeting/Public Hearing:** Close balloting period & order tabulation
  - **August 4-5** **Ballot tabulation**
  - **August 6** **Special Board Meeting:** Resolution announcing ballot results & levy assessments for FY 2021-22
  - **August 10** Deadline to Submit assessment roll to Tulare County Auditor
  - **December 2021** 1st apportionment revenues received
-

# \*Proposed Balloting Timeline for FY 2021-22

---

- **May 26** **Special Board Meeting:** Resolution directing the mail of ballots + prelim ER
- **June 4** **Mail ballots** (ballots must be out at least 45 days – Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> )
- **July 21** **Special Board Meeting/Public Hearing:** Close balloting period & order tabulation
- **July 22-27** **Ballot tabulation**
- **July 28** **Special Board Meeting:** Resolution announcing ballot results & levy assessments for FY 2021-22
- **August 10** Deadline to Submit assessment roll to Tulare County Auditor
- **December 2021** 1st apportionment revenues received



**DELTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**

**OPINION RESEARCH AND *Aedes Aegypti* SURVEY  
OF PROPERTY OWNERS**

APRIL 2021

PREPARED FOR:

**DELTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

PREPARED BY:

**SCIConsultingGroup**

4745 MANGELS BOULEVARD

FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA 94534

PHONE 707.430.4300

FAX 707.430.4319

[www.sci-cg.com](http://www.sci-cg.com)





## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

---

This Opinion Research and Survey was prepared by SCI Consulting Group under contract with the Delta Vector Control District.

The work was accomplished under the general direction of the following persons:

- Dr. Mustapha Debboun, General Manager
- Mir Bear-Johnson, Assistant Manager
- Sheri Davis, Administrative Assistant
- Mary Ellen Gomez, Administrative Analyst
- Rick Alvarez, Vector Control Supervisor
- Paul Harlien, Foreman
- Michael Cavanagh, Board of Trustees Member

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including any photocopying, recording, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems, without permission of SCI Consulting Group.

**SCI Consulting Group**  
4745 Mangels Boulevard  
Fairfield, CA 94534  
Phone: 707.430.4300 | Fax: 707.430.4319

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
PURPOSE.....	1
<b>METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>2</b>
SAMPLE .....	3
DATA COLLECTION METHOD.....	3
ACCURACY .....	4
<b>BENEFIT ASSESSMENT FUNDING OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>5</b>
BENEFIT ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW .....	5
COMPARISON OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENT WITH SPECIAL TAX.....	6
SURVEY RESULTS ADJUSTED TO PROJECT WEIGHTED BALLOT OUTCOME .....	7
<b>SURVEY FINDINGS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
TYPES OF PROPERTY AND WEIGHTED VOTES THEY HOLD .....	8
SURVEY VERSIONS - FIRST SURVEY QUESTION.....	9
SUPPORT BY RATE, FROM SINGLE FAMILY HOMEOWNERS ONLY.....	10
OVERALL WEIGHTED SUPPORT BY OWNER TYPE .....	11
OVERALL SUPPORT .....	12
SERVICE PRIORITIES.....	13
OTHER FINDINGS.....	16
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>17</b>
MOSQUITO, VECTOR AND DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES ARE DESIRED.....	17
RATE RECOMMENDATIONS .....	17
INFORMATIONAL OUTREACH .....	17

## LIST OF FIGURES

---

FIGURE 1 – COMPARISON OF PARCEL TAXES AND BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS .....	7
FIGURE 2 – WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT BY PROPERTY TYPE .....	8
FIGURE 3 – OVERALL SUPPORT BY RATE, SINGLE FAMILY HOMEOWNERS ONLY .....	10
FIGURE 4 – SUPPORT BY RATE, SINGLE FAMILY HOMEOWNERS ONLY .....	11
FIGURE 5 – DETAILED SUPPORT BY RATE, SINGLE FAMILY HOMEOWNERS ONLY .....	11
FIGURE 6 – WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORT BY OWNER TYPE .....	12
FIGURE 7 – SUPPORT BY PROPOSED RATE, OVERALL .....	132
FIGURE 8 – DETAILED SUPPORT BY RATE, OVERALL .....	13
FIGURE 9 – PROPERTY OWNER PRIORITIES .....	15
FIGURE 10 – COMMENTS RECEIVED IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED MEASURE .....	16
FIGURE 11 – COMMENTS RECEIVED AGAINST THE PROPOSED MEASURE .....	16

## INTRODUCTION

---

### PURPOSE

This report presents the findings of a scientific survey of property owners and voters within the Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) conducted by SCI Consulting Group (SCI). The District is currently funded by a small portion of local property taxes, and is seeking additional revenue due to a prior ten year assessment that expired in 2019. The District is interested in replacing that expiring funding source with a new benefit assessment that would help continue, or potentially improve, the existing vector control services presently provided.

#### The primary purposes of the study were to:

- Evaluate the support, desires, and priorities of property owners within the District with respect to the proposed mosquito, vector and disease control services.
- Measure the relative level of support and priorities of property owners and voters overall in the area by type of property owner and voter.
- Measure the level of financial support for the proposed mosquito, vector and disease control services.

The surveys were sent out with an informational page that provided an overview of the District's mosquito, vector and disease control services. There were two versions of the survey, each presenting one of two annual rates of assessment, \$8.24 and \$12.50 (corresponding to two different levels of proposed services) per single family home, and proportional rates based on property use, size and other characteristics for other types of properties. The total proposed amounts for each unique owner were independently calculated and individually printed on each survey.

After a brief overview of the methodology employed in the survey, this report presents a summary of the key survey findings. The survey utilized a mailed survey approach because SCI has found this survey technique to more closely, and accurately, model actual ballot results for a property owner mailed ballot proceeding.

## METHODOLOGY

---

The Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District is an independently funded public agency (separate from any city or the County) that provides mosquito and disease control services in northern Tulare County, including Visalia, Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Woodlake, Cutler, Orosi, Ivanhoe and other unincorporated areas since 1922.

The District is currently funded by a small portion of local property taxes, and is seeking additional revenue due to a prior ten year assessment that expired in 2019.

In order to respond to the combination of this expiring assessment and an alarming increase in *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, a local funding source is required to continue financing the existing mosquito, vector and disease control services provided by the District.

The District is also interested in the possibility of providing more comprehensive services to the community. Following are some of the proposed enhanced services:

- Control mosquito sources with environmentally sound products wherever mosquito larvae or pupae are found
- Testing for additional mosquito-borne diseases that can be carried by mosquitoes
- Respond rapidly to service requests concerning mosquitoes, insects, and other vectors.
- Conduct environmentally safe adult mosquito control when necessary to protect public health.
- Increase control and treatment of "green pools," which is a major mosquito-breeding source.
- Provide community education on how to treat and prevent mosquito-breeding sources.
- Conduct and evaluate new safe techniques to control this invasive mosquito species

This survey was designed to gather property owner input for a proposed annual assessment to continue funding the services currently provided (\$8.24, tested on survey version 1), as well as a proposed increased annual assessment to fund expanded services (\$12.50, tested on survey version 2).

The survey was designed to simulate the property owner ballot measure response pool and data collection method of the actual assessment approval procedures as closely as possible. In this way, the survey results will be predictive in evaluating the support an assessment measure would likely receive in the actual mailed-ballot election.

It should be noted that a benefit assessment is the only local funding alternative that gives a vote to all property owners who are being asked to support mosquito, vector and disease control services. This type of local funding mechanism is discussed in further detail in the following section.

### **SAMPLE**

SCI created a stratified sample pool that included most of the qualified property owners in the District. The sample was designed to draw from the property owners eligible to participate in the mailed ballot proceeding for this funding mechanism, and in proportion to their representation of property ownership throughout the area.

Next, two sub-samples were created from this pool. Each sub-sample was designed to test different levels of support at two annual assessment levels (\$8.24 and \$12.50 per single family dwelling) corresponding to two different levels of service. All sub-samples for this research project were created using a randomized, stratified approach designed to replicate the profile of property ownership within the District.

### **DATA COLLECTION METHOD**

The surveys were designed as a mail-based survey to replicate the mailed-ballot proceeding that would be used if the District moves forward with a benefit assessment measure. On February 26, 2021, about 16,000 surveys were mailed to unique property owners within the District. The survey mailings included general information about the mosquito, vector and disease control services, and a questionnaire with an enclosed postage-paid return envelope. This data collection method closely mirrors the mailed-ballot proceeding, and has proven to be highly reliable for predicting the results from an actual benefit assessment ballot measure.

Survey recipients were also given the option to respond to the survey online, where translations of the questionnaire in Spanish were also available.

To date, over 1,970 surveys have been received from the property owners, representing a response rate of 12.4%. This response rate is generally consistent with SCI's experience

from other similar survey projects, and is significantly higher than the typical response rate of approximately 5% for a telephone survey.

#### **ACCURACY**

The statistical margin of error for the results presented in this report is about 2.17%. This margin of error means that there is a 95% certainty that the actual levels of support in the area are  $\pm 2.17\%$  from the results presented in this report.

## BENEFIT ASSESSMENT FUNDING OVERVIEW

---

### BENEFIT ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

As noted, the funding mechanism being considered in this study is a benefit assessment. Benefit assessments are a common local funding alternative for mosquito, vector and disease control services, and such assessments have been approved in many other areas in California. Benefit assessments are levies on real property that are based on the "special benefit" each property receives from the mosquito, vector and disease control services to be funded by the assessments. Such assessments for the mosquito, vector and disease control services have a long history of use in California.

The application of special benefit generally means that the amount of proposed assessment will not be uniform for all properties. Properties that are deemed to receive greater benefit (larger properties and properties with higher numbers of dwelling units) will typically have relatively higher assessments.

The benefit assessment is different from other revenue vehicles in its makeup, design, and voter participation. In short, there are charges levied upon parcels of real property to pay for benefits the parcels receive from local improvements and services. The charge is derived from the "special benefit", or a particular and distinct benefit over and above general benefits conferred on real property located in the District or to the public at large. All property owners who would pay the proposed assessments are eligible to vote. Furthermore, the method of voting is through a mailed ballot procedure by which every property owner receives a ballot indicating the total amount of the proposed assessment for their property. The property owners who cast their ballots are voting based on the total dollar amount of their proposed assessment. Therefore, the results are determined by a weighting of total proposed assessments of the returned ballots. In order for the benefit assessment to pass, a majority of the weighted amount of the proposed assessments of the returned ballots is needed.

In other words, the weighting of assessment ballots is the equivalent of one vote per dollar of proposed assessment. If the proposed assessment is \$5 per home and \$2.50 per quarter acre for business properties, an owner of a single home could cast a ballot that is worth \$5 in weighted votes and the owner of a ¼ acre business could cast a ballot that is worth half as much, or \$2.50 in weighted votes.



## COMPARISON OF BENEFIT ASSESSMENT WITH SPECIAL TAX

The primary local funding alternatives for the proposed services are a special tax (parcel tax) or a benefit assessment. A parcel tax is decided by registered voters in the proposed service areas, typically in a one-day election, and it requires 66.7% voter support. As noted, a benefit assessment is decided by all property owners in the proposed service areas, including business owners, apartment owners, and agricultural property owners, and it requires a weighted majority support from property owners.

In an election to approve a parcel tax, only registered voters are eligible to vote. This includes tenants who will not pay the proposed tax, and excludes property owners such as business owners, apartment owners and others who will have to pay the tax. Because non-owner voters have a significant say in parcel tax elections and many other property owners who would pay the taxes are excluded from the voting, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (“HJTA”), via Proposition 13, established a two-thirds (super-majority) requirement for parcel tax elections.

Conversely, all property owners being asked to support an assessment, including the owners of businesses, apartments and agricultural property, can vote on benefit assessments, and these property owners have a “say” that is proportional to their proposed assessment. Therefore, because all property owners who own property within the proposed service areas can vote, and each owner’s vote is proportional to how much they are being asked to pay, the HJTA established a weighted majority threshold for these mailed ballot measures (via Proposition 218).

Figure 1 on the next page provides a further comparison of parcel taxes and benefit assessments:

FIGURE 1 – COMPARISON OF PARCEL TAXES AND BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS

	<i>Parcel Tax</i>	<i>Benefit Assessment</i>
Who Votes?	Registered Voters	Property Owners
Who Created Requirements?	Jarvis Taxpayers	Jarvis Taxpayers
Election Venue	Polling Booth	Mail Ballot
Election Period	1 Day	45 Days
Does Everyone Who Will Pay Get a Vote?	No	Yes
Are Votes Proportional to How Much You Will Pay?	No	Yes
Tax/Assessment Amounts Based on Benefit?	No	Yes
Threshold of Vote Required for Success	Super Majority	Weighted Majority
Common For Mosquito and Vector Control Agencies?	Yes	Yes

#### SURVEY RESULTS ADJUSTED TO PROJECT WEIGHTED BALLOT OUTCOME

This survey was specifically designed to predict the outcome of a benefit assessment mailed-ballot proceeding, including the relatively higher weighted ballots for the owners of larger business and investment properties and the likely participation rates for various types of property owners. Unless otherwise noted, the level of support presented in this study is the projected actual weighted ballot result for the overall measure, including ballots from the owners of residential property, businesses, apartments, investment property and other properties.

## SURVEY FINDINGS

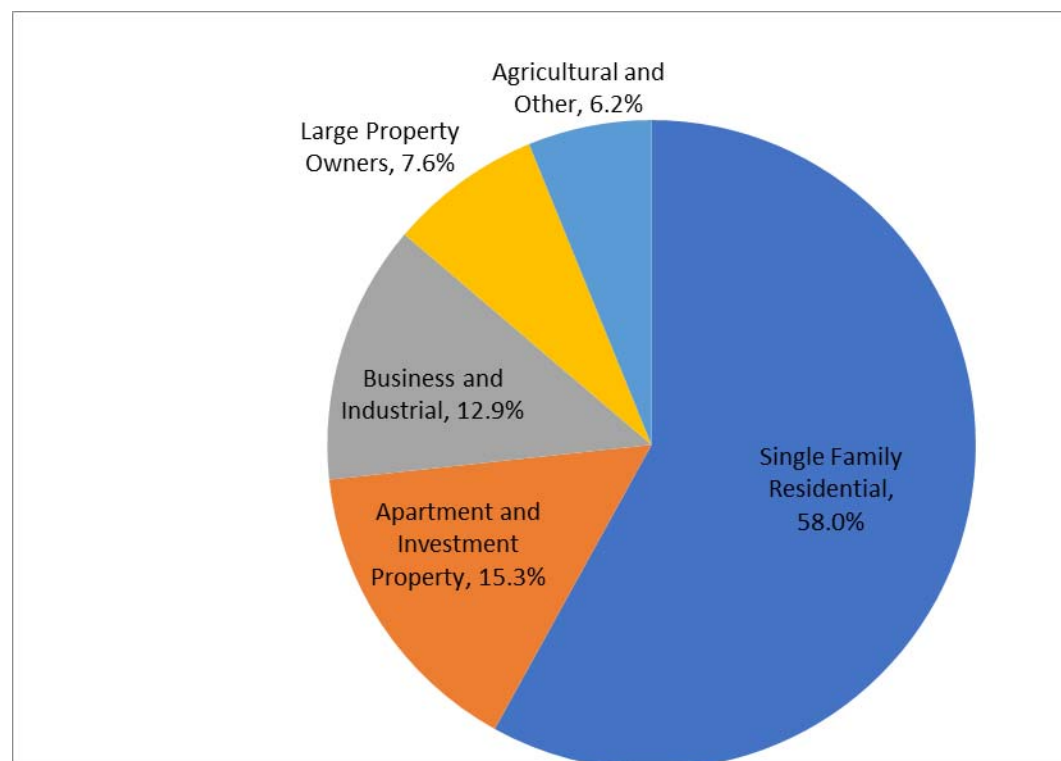
Two rates were tested for this project in the amounts of \$8.24 and \$12.50. The overall level of support for the \$8.24 rate is at 65.9%, and the overall level of support for the \$12.50 rate is at 59.6%. Both rates are supported well above the required ballot threshold of 50% plus 1, even accounting for the margin of error.

Before discussing the survey/ballot findings, it is helpful to review the types of property in the District and “weighted” votes.

### TYPES OF PROPERTY AND WEIGHTED VOTES THEY HOLD

The following Figure presents the percentage of overall weighted “votes” for each type of property surveyed. As shown, in the District, single family residential owners represent approximately 58.0% of the overall weighted vote; apartments and investment properties represent approximately 15.3%; business and industrial properties represent 12.9%; large property owners represent 7.6%; and agricultural and other properties (which are primarily rangeland and vacant parcels) represent 6.2%.

FIGURE 2 – WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT BY PROPERTY TYPE



Note: Weighting of assessments and “votes” is based on likely assessment methodology based on experience by SCI.

## SURVEY VERSIONS - FIRST SURVEY QUESTION

After the potential assessment rates and potential weighted votes were calculated for each property, the survey questionnaire and informational sheets were finalized and mailed. The survey documents were mailed to a stratified sample of property owners within the District boundaries. In the survey, property owners were first asked whether they would support or oppose a proposal to pay an annual property assessment for mosquito and disease control services.

The first survey question on the proposed local funding measure for mosquito and disease control services was as follows:

### ***Version 1 – Question #1 (First Survey Question for continuing services, \$8.24 rate)***

*In order to:*

- *Provide year-round control of newly invasive mosquitoes, such as *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever mosquito, and other mosquitoes, and the diseases they carry;*
  - *Continue monitoring and responding to public health issues, such as yellow fever, dengue, chikungunya, and zika viruses, and other emerging diseases,*
- would you support a yearly assessment on your property(s)\* in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_?*

\*(Note the specific amount of proposed assessment for all of the properties owned by each surveyed owner was printed on each survey in the area underlined)

\_\_\_\_\_

### ***Version 2 – Question #1 (First Survey Question for improving services, \$12.50 rate)***

*In order to:*

- *Provide year-round, focused, rapid, and comprehensive control of invasive mosquitoes, such as *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever mosquito, and other pests, and the diseases they carry;*
- *Improve monitoring and responding to public health issues, such as yellow fever, dengue, and West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis, and other emerging diseases,*

*would you support a yearly assessment on your property(s)\* in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_?*

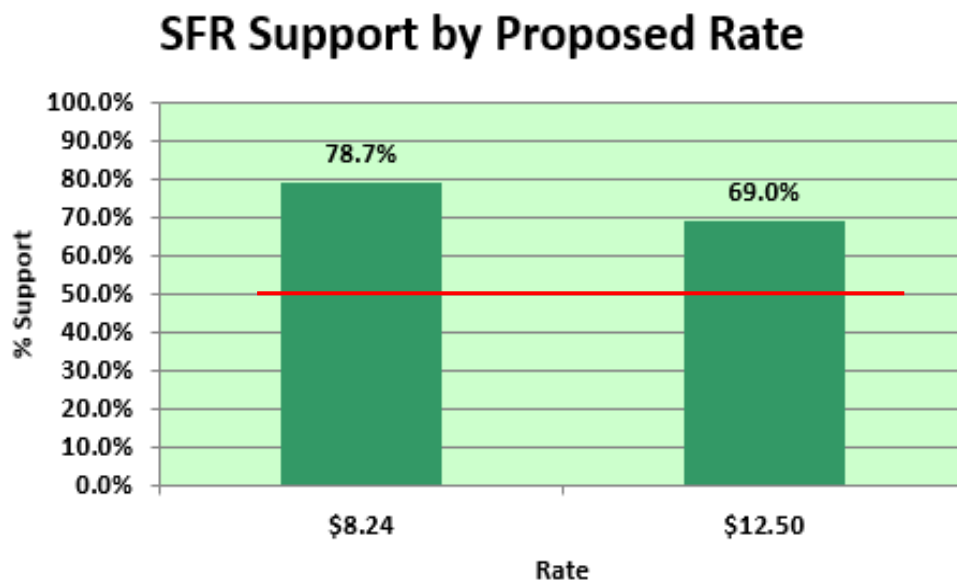
\*(Note the specific amount of proposed assessment for all of the properties owned by each surveyed owner was printed on each survey in the area underlined)

### SUPPORT BY RATE, FROM SINGLE FAMILY HOMEOWNERS ONLY

Figure 3 below summarizes the level of support from single-family homeowners only combined across the two proposed annual assessment rates tested (\$8.24 and \$12.50) for the proposed mosquito and disease control services measure. It is important to note that the percentage of support displayed in these tables does not include other property owners, such as business, vacant and apartment owners. (The analysis for single-family homeowners only is presented as an important datum to evaluate levels of support versus other measures, areas, etc.)

As shown in this figure, support from single family homeowners in the District overall was 78.7% at the proposed rate of \$8.24 per year, and dropped to 69.0% at the proposed rate of \$12.50.

FIGURE 3 – OVERALL SUPPORT BY RATE, SINGLE FAMILY HOMEOWNERS ONLY



Figures 4 and 5 below present further detail about the degree of support or opposition from single family owners in the District.

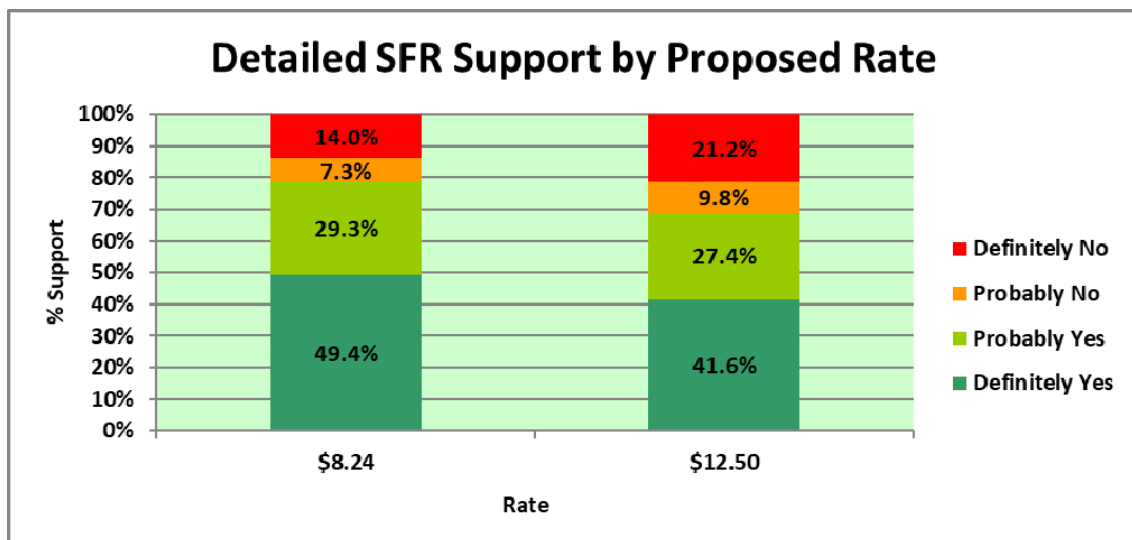
These figures show that many of the property owners are in the “Probably Yes” category, which may indicate that property owners could be influenced by a community outreach campaign. A moderate percentage of negative respondents were in the “probably no” category. Unfortunately, SCI has found that most often these respondents will vote no on the actual ballot measure regardless of any further information presented to them.

For the respondents that were somewhat undecided, additional information and outreach to more fully inform residents and property owners about the need for continued funding for mosquito and disease control services should serve to improve support over time.

**FIGURE 4 – SUPPORT BY RATE, SINGLE FAMILY HOMEOWNERS ONLY**

Rate	Definitely Yes	Probably Yes	Total Yes	Probably No	Definitely No	Total No
\$8.24	49.4%	29.3%	78.7%	7.3%	14.0%	21.3%
\$12.50	41.6%	27.4%	69.0%	9.8%	21.2%	31.0%

**FIGURE 5 – DETAILED SUPPORT BY RATE, SINGLE FAMILY HOMEOWNERS ONLY**



### OVERALL WEIGHTED SUPPORT BY OWNER TYPE

Figure 6 summarizes the survey findings for all property owners, and the overall projected support for the two proposed alternate survey rates combined. As shown, the overall projected weighted level of support is projected to be 66.2%, and support from single family home owners is at 73.7%.

FIGURE 6 – WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT AND SUPPORT BY OWNER TYPE

Property Type	Percent of Vote	Weighted Support
Single Family Residential	58.0%	73.7%
Apartment and Investment Property	15.3%	49.0%
Business and Industrial	12.9%	61.7%
Large Property Owners	7.6%	32.8%
Agricultural and Other	6.2%	67.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>66.2%</b>

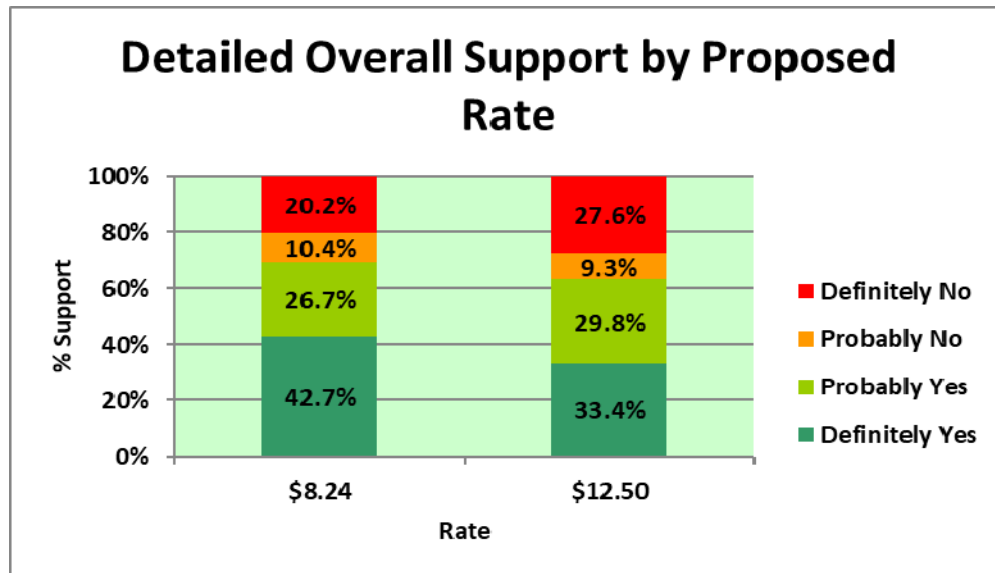
### OVERALL SUPPORT

As noted, two rates were tested for this project in the amounts of \$8.24 and \$12.50. Figure 7 and Figure 8 below shows the overall level of projected weighted support for each rate tested. This chart shows that the overall level of support for the \$8.24 rate is at 65.9%, and the overall level of support for the \$12.50 rate is at 59.6%. Both rates are supported well above the required ballot threshold of 50% plus 1, even accounting for the margin of error.

FIGURE 7 SUPPORT BY RATE, OVERALL

Rate	Percent Support	Percent Oppose
\$8.24	65.9%	34.1%
\$12.50	59.6%	40.4%

FIGURE 8 – OVERALL DETAILED, SUPPORT BY PROPOSED RATE



#### SERVICE PRIORITIES

After indicating their degree of support for the measure, property owners were presented with a list of mosquito, vector and disease control services, and were asked to indicate their degree of support for each service. These questions were asked even of those owners who indicated that they intended to vote against the measure. This ensures that the mosquito, vector and disease control service priority ratings reflect the overall community priorities, not just the interests of those who intend to vote for the measure. As the figure on the following page illustrates, the top priorities and features, garnering 70+% favorable responses or better, were:

- This measure will help suppress the emergence of invasive species, such as *Aedes aegypti* (Yellow Fever Mosquito), that can carry life-threatening diseases.
- None of the proceeds from this measure could be taken by the State or County, and can only be used directly for mosquito and vector control services
- This measure will help prevent future outbreaks of West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases

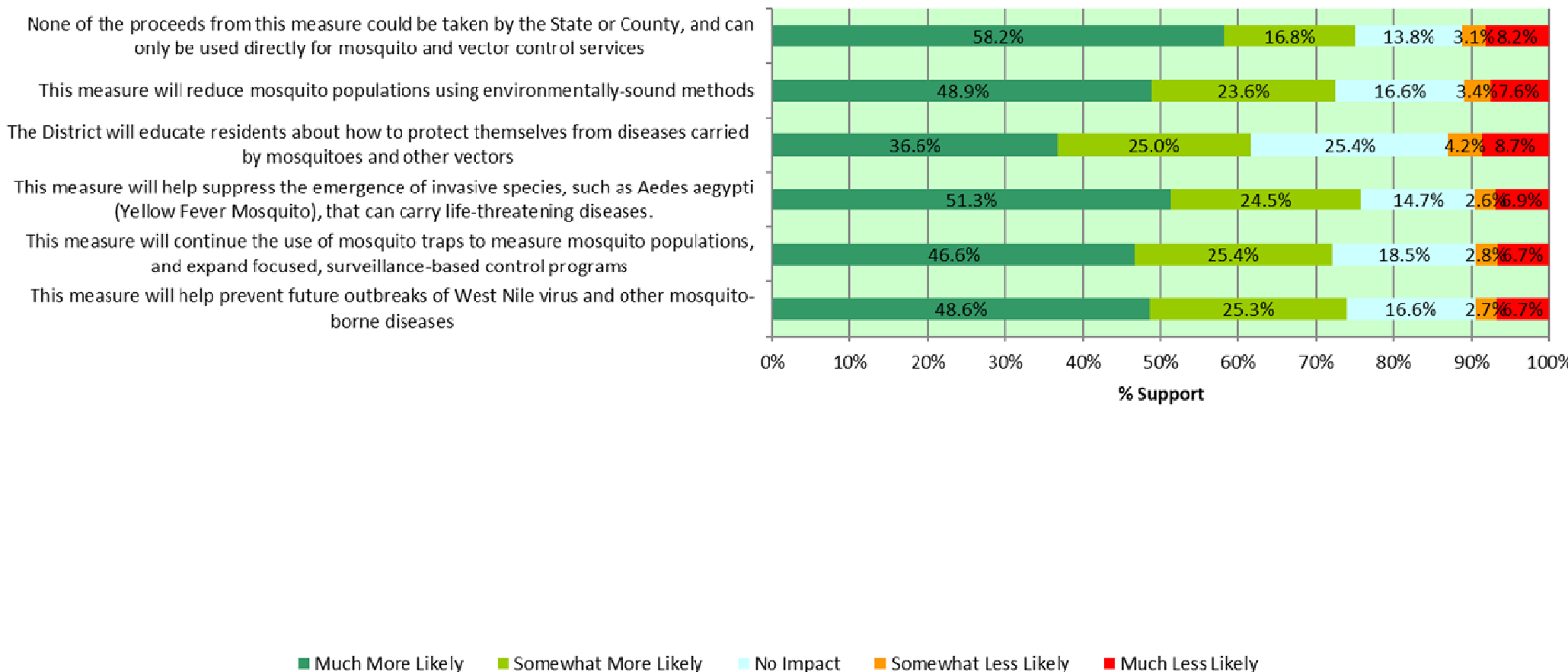
These project priorities provide important insight to the community. The top priorities relate to reducing mosquito populations and the diseases they carry. Fiscal responsibility is also



a great concern in the community; survey respondents indicated that they want assurances that the funding will be used solely by the District for mosquito and vector control services. The results for all the projects, issues and arguments are summarized in Figure 9.

FIGURE 9 – PROPERTY OWNER PRIORITIES

### Detailed Support by Projects and Issues for All Respondents



## OTHER FINDINGS

The survey included a section for respondents to indicate their other opinions and feedback regarding the proposed funding measures. Following is a summary of the comment categories. Figure 10 shows the comment categories received from respondents in favor of the proposed measure. Figure 11 lists the comment categories received from respondents who were against the proposed measure.

FIGURE 10 – COMMENTS RECEIVED IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED MEASURE

Comments from Respondents <b>In Favor</b> of an Assessment <b>(Total)</b>	
<b>Comment Topic</b>	<b># of Comments</b>
Public Health is important	93
More mosquitoes than ever before	92
Money should come from County and/or State	65
Money needs to be spent properly	36
Need more information on assessment	22
Education needed to solve mosquito nuisances	16
West Nile outbreak concerns	8
<b>Total in Favor Comments</b>	<b>332</b>

FIGURE 11 – COMPARISON OF PARCEL TAXES AND BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS

Comments from Respondents <b>Not In Favor</b> of an Assessment <b>(Total)</b>	
<b>Comment Topic</b>	<b># of Comments</b>
Anti Tax	67
Government Mistrust	66
Cannot Afford	53
State - County Financial Responsibility	43
Mosquitos are not that bad	21
Non- Property Owners should also pay	14
Disgruntled towards District	11
Environmental Concerns	4
<b>Total Not in Favor Comments</b>	<b>279</b>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

---

This survey found that a strong majority of property owners in the District currently support an annual assessment to fund continued and expanded services at the proposed rates of \$8.24 and \$12.50.

The survey respondent pool closely parallels the likely universe of property owners who will vote in the mailed-ballot proceeding, and the survey results presented in the Report have been adjusted to account for the projected ballot participation and ballot weighting aspects of a benefit assessment ballot proceeding. Therefore, the overall results presented in this survey should be reflective of the actual weighted ballot outcome from a benefit assessment ballot proceeding, assuming the measure does not receive organized opposition.

SCI makes the following recommendations for moving forward with a benefit assessment ballot proceeding to fund the proposed improved services, at or below \$12.50 per single family equivalent per year:

### MOSQUITO, VECTOR AND DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES ARE DESIRED

The survey findings indicate that mosquito, vector and disease control services are currently desired by the community. These services are supported financially at both rates tested. Support for both continued and improved mosquito control services is quite strong, which indicates that property owners highly desire to continue receiving mosquito control services, particularly with the risk of new invasive mosquito species, such as *Aedes aegypti*, and the diseases they carry.

### RATE RECOMMENDATIONS

The level of support at each of the assessment rates proposed was strong. Therefore, the District should consider an assessment rate at \$12.50 or less per single family home, plus an annual rate adjustment limited by the annual change in the consumer price index. This rate adjustment would provide the District with additional ongoing revenue flexibility. If this rate was approved, on a yearly basis the District could establish a rate that is equal to or less than the maximum authorized rate, as increased by the CPI adjustment.

### INFORMATIONAL OUTREACH

If the District decides to proceed with a funding measure, efforts must be taken to inform all property owners, including single family homeowners, and the business, agriculture and

apartment owner communities, about the types of services that would be provided and how these services would be provided.

#### ADDRESS THE KEY ISSUES AND FORM A CONSISTENT MESSAGE

The District will need to address the key issues raised in the survey and form several concise messages to present to the public during the coming months of informational outreach. These messages should be designed to further inform the public on the proposed improved services. It is most important to focus on the basic message that the proposed services would fund the regular and ongoing control of mosquitoes using environmentally safe approaches. In addition, the proposed improved public health services would allow the District to regularly test for and help suppress the emergence of new invasive mosquito species and prevent life-threatening diseases carried by mosquitoes such as West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis, Western equine encephalitis, Dengue, Zika, etc.

#### ESTABLISH STRONG FISCAL CONTROLS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

This measure must include strong fiscal controls and accountability provisions. Property owners must be educated to understand that all revenues will be spent within the District for mosquito control services, budgets will be audited annually, government processes will be transparent and incorporate citizen input, etc.

#### EXPLAIN THAT ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL BE USED LOCALLY

The District should include in all messaging a statement that all of the funds raised by this assessment will be used for services and projects in the District, and that none of the money raised can be appropriated by the County or the State.

#### ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Providing service using environmentally safe approaches is a concern among some property owners. The District will need to clearly explain how its services are provided in an environmentally safe manner. If property owners demonstrate resistance to the measure based on environmental concerns, the District could consider forming an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure that any new mosquito control services are provided in a manner that best protects the environment.

#### USE MEDIA AS CONDUIT

Work with local media, particularly newspapers, to raise community awareness of the proposed services. The message to the media should be consistent with the main message summarized previously.

#### INVOLVE COMMUNITY LEADERS

Identify important community leaders and enlist them to assist with the planning and outreach efforts.

#### INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

Community Stakeholders are those who may benefit most significantly from the improved services to control mosquitoes. These stakeholders could include seniors, property owners near large sources of mosquitoes, and people and organizations in the public health field.

#### INFORM THE BUSINESS, APARTMENT AND AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND ENLIST SUPPORT

While the survey found modest support from the owners of businesses, apartments and agricultural property, SCI's experience has shown that providing sufficient information and establishing dialogue with the owners of these types of property can translate into higher levels of understanding and even support for the funding measure. These property owners typically require more detailed information in order to make an informed decision on this issue. SCI's experience has shown that with additional information and personal contact, such owners will likely support the proposed assessment for mosquito and disease control services. These owners typically recognize that their property and the local economy benefit from being free from high levels of mosquito nuisances and bites.

## **4. Resolution 2021-01**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**DELTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**  
**COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-01**

**A RESOLUTION INITIATING PROCEEDINGS**  
**FOR THE FORMATION OF A BENEFIT ASSESSMENT**  
**FOR MOSQUITO ABATEMENT AND DISEASE PREVENTION SERVICES**  
**FOR THE DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District (the "District"), in County of Tulare, State of California, as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the District provides vector control services which includes a system of public projects, programs, public improvements and services intended to provide for the surveillance, prevention, abatement and control of vectors and vector-borne diseases throughout its boundaries ("Services"); and

**WHEREAS**, the District desires to maintain and enhance the Services currently provided throughout the District;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of the Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District, that

1. The abatement of mosquitoes and other vectors and vector-borne disease prevention services is of urgent importance throughout the District.
2. A benefit assessment is an effective way by which to fund the proposed Services.
3. SCI Consulting Group is hereby designated as Engineer of Work for purposes of these proceedings and is hereby ordered to prepare an Engineer's Report in accordance with the Government Code, Health and Safety Code and Article XIID of the California Constitution. Upon completion, the Engineer shall file the Engineer's Report with the Secretary of the Board for submission to the Board.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Trustees of the Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District at its regular meeting on May 12, 2021 by the following vote:



	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Greg Gomez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Belen Gomez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rosemary Hellwig	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Larry Roberts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Cavanagh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kevin Caskey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linda Guttierrez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
President

## **5. Consent Calendar**

**DELTA MOSQUITO & VECTOR**  
**CONTROL DISTRICT**

Dr. Mustapha Debboun  
*General Manager*

Post Office Box 310 \* Visalia, California 93279-0310

Mir Bear-Johnson  
*Assistant Manager*

1737 West Houston Avenue \* Visalia, California 93291

Phone (559) 732-8606 \* (877) 732-8606 \* Fax (559)-732-7441

www.deltavcd.com

Hector Cardenas  
*Operations Program Manager*

Crystal Grippin  
*Scientific Program Manager*

Sheri D. Davis  
*Administrative Assistant*

Mark Nakata  
*Biologist*

Andrea Troupin  
*Biologist*

Javier Valdivias  
*Biologist*

Minutes of the Board of Trustees – Wednesday, April 14, 2021

**1. Roll Call:**

Present: Greg Gomez, President; Belen Gomez, Secretary, Michael Cavanagh, Linda Guttierrez, Rosemary Hellwig, and Kevin Caskey.

Absent: Larry Roberts.

Staff: Dr. Mustapha Debboun, General Manager; Mir Bear-Johnson, Assistant Manager; Sheri Davis, Administrative Assistant.

**2. New Employee Introduction:**

General Manager, Dr. Mustapha Debboun introduced Biologist, Andrea Troupin and Operations Program Manager, Hector Cardenas. Each gave a brief biography and were welcomed by the Board of Trustees.

**3. Consent Calendar:**

The Administrative Assistant provided information on the following items:

Board Order #24 – 35098 WestAmerica Bank; Lease payment for fish facility and offices.

Board Order #25 – 35099 Mark Dynge; Vacation payout.

Board Order #27 – 35190 EMD Networking Services, Inc; IT services.

Following discussion, it was moved by Michael Cavanagh, seconded by Kevin Caskey, and the Board members unanimously approved the consent calendar as presented.

**4. Public Forum:**

None.

**5. Staff Report:**

The General Manager reported that seasonal employees were hired and are being trained. This year it has proved to be a challenge recruiting seasonal employees, and we still need two more. The starting wage will be increased slightly in an effort to retain employees.

COVID-19 update – The COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) was updated to provide guidelines for vaccinated employees.

Enterprise Fleet Management – Enterprise agreed to waive the delivery fee of \$1,750.00. We are scheduled to take delivery of the vehicles by January 2022.

N & R Publications – The General Manager provided a copy of the newspaper insert that will be in local publications next week.

Sewer Line Repair/Replace – The main sewer line near the wash bay and lounge needs to be repaired or replaced. The area to access it is in a neighboring property, and we are working with the property owner to gain access and evaluate the situation. We are waiting on Parker and Parker Plumbing to provide a quote.

Visalia City Council – The General Manager and Assistant Manager will attend the Visalia City Council meeting on April 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to provide information on our mosquito control services.

**6. IT Management Services:**

Systems Administrator, Mark Dynge, retired on March 31, 2021. The Assistant Manager reached out to EMD Networking Services, Inc. to provide basic support. They provide three tiers of excellent and timely service. The Assistant Manager requested approval to contract with EMD Networking Services, Inc. at the top tier, Total Care Plan, which includes a 25% discount for special projects.

Following discussion, it was moved by Michael Cavanagh, seconded by Kevin Caskey, and the Board members unanimously approved contracting with EMD Networking Services, Inc.

**7. Quarterly Revenue/Expense:**

The Administrative Assistant presented the financial information through March 31, 2021. According to Tulare County revenue estimates, the current secured property tax is projected to have approximately \$95,000.00 in unanticipated revenue. We will have a clearer picture of this projection after April distribution. There will also be additional revenue in other line items.

The expenses are projected to stay within the budget resulting in a slight carryover.

**8. Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB):**

The Administrative Assistant presented the engagement letter received from MacLeod Watts, Inc. for the 2021 update to the Biannual Actuarial Valuation and related reports on behalf of the District.

This valuation is required by the State Controller and CalPERS. Information goes to them and our own auditor as part of GASB 75 (Accounting and Financial Reporting for Post-Employment Benefit calculations). The price increased by \$100.00 than the last valuation of \$6,950.00.

Following discussion, it was moved by Belen Gomez, seconded by Michael Cavanagh and unanimously approved to accept the engagement letter as outlined.

**9. Assessment Benefit Analysis for Invasive *Aedes aegypti*:**

The General Manager provided an update on the Assessment Benefit Analysis. The survey has been sent to 16,000 random property owners within the District. As of April 9, 2021, SCI Consulting Group reported that 1,543 surveys have been returned. Two versions of the survey were sent out with different rates:

Version 1 \$8.44 rate -	Yes 547	No 230
Version 2 \$12.50 rate -	Yes <u>484</u>	No <u>282</u>
	1,031	512

John Bliss of SCI Consulting Group will attend the May Board meeting to present the final results from the survey.

**10. Delta Vector Control District Name and Logo Update:**

The General Manager requested approval to update the District name and logo to Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Following discussion, it was moved by Rosemary Hellwig, seconded by Michael Cavanagh, and the Board members unanimously approved to update the District name and logo.

**11. Delta Vector Control District 100-Year Celebration:**

The General Manager requested approval to plan a milestone 100-year celebration in the spring of 2022.

Following discussion, it was moved by Rosemary Hellwig, seconded by Belen Gomez, and the Board members unanimously approved to proceed with planning a 100-year celebration.

**12. Social Media Policy:**

The Assistant Manager presented the Social Media Policy for approval.

Following discussion, it was moved by Michael Cavanagh, seconded by Linda Gutierrez, and the Board members unanimously approved the Social Media Policy as presented.

**13. Board Travel Calendar:**

The General Manager provided a list of available conferences for Trustees in the 2021/22 fiscal year. Trustees will notify the District by the May Board meeting if they wish to attend so that the cost can be included in the upcoming budget.

**14. Closed Session §54957:**

Public Employee Performance Evaluation – General Manager

**15. Adjournment:**

The meeting of the District Board of Trustees was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

---

Dr. Mustapha Debboun, Recording Secretary

CLAIM #	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	Budget Line Item	AMOUNT
35167	JORGE LOPEZ	Vector Control Tech II		1,933.02
35168	ALEXANDER WARD	Vector Control Tech II		1,533.77
35169	ADRIAN SIFUENTES	Vector Control Tech II		1,672.43
35170	ALEJANDRA GILL	Lab Tech I		1,112.57
35171	SABRINA GALBAN	Lab Tech I		974.80
35172	JAYSON CABRAL	Lab Tech I		990.94
35173	LUIS GONZALEZ	Lab Tech I		988.36
35174	MADISON LAWTON	Lab Tech I		999.44
35175	PATRICIA BIENIEMY	Lab Tech I		465.44
35176	ADRIENNE CANTU	Lab Tech I		109.93
35177	AYLSIA INGRIM	Vector Control Tech I		378.17
35178	JACKIE JACKSON	Vector Control Tech I		413.72
35179	ROSEMARIE ANTUNA	Vector Control Tech I		206.86
35180	AARON WINSTON	Vector Control Tech I		184.24
35181	PAUL RAPER	Vector Control Tech I		465.44
35182	KORY WILSON	Vector Control Tech I		470.45
35183	DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DIST - EFTPS	Social Security/ Medicare/ Federal Income Tax		2,994.26
35184	DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DIST - EFTPS	State Income Tax		139.42
35185	DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DIST - EFTPS	CalPERS Retirement		929.04
		<b>TOTAL PAYROLL</b>		<b>\$16,962.30</b>
35186	AGUIRRE PRINTING & EMBROIDERY	Hats w/Delta logo	Clothing	697.04
35187	AUTOZONE	Starter, Brake Cables, Water Pump	Auto Supplies/Maint	170.08
35188	BIOQUIP	BG Lures	Lab Supplies	1,187.09
35189	CENTRAL VALLEY BUSINESS FORMS	Printed Security Window Envelopes	Office Supplies	334.94
35190	EMD NETWORKING SERVICES, INC.	IT Management Services	Maint Contracts	3,033.00
35191	HARBOR FREIGHT			91.42
		Aluminum Springs,	51.21	Auto Supplies/Maint
		Magnets, Digital Scale	40.21	Lab Supplies
35192	NACCHO	Membership Dues - Dr. Debboun	Dues	65.00
35193	NAPA AUTO PARTS			1,101.34
		Batteries, Spark Plugs, Hose & Clamps, Thermostat, etc.	424.55	Auto Supplies/Maint
		Mask Air Filters, Safety Readers, Hand Sanitizers, etc.	676.79	Safety Supplies
35194	N & R PUBLICATIONS	Newspaper Inserts - Printing and Insertion	Public Relations	2,828.74
35195	RUSSELL BROYLES	Backflow Prevention Annual Test & Report	Bldg/Yard Maint	55.00
35196	SOVE	Membership Dues - Dr. Debboun & Mir	Dues	140.00
35197	TARGET SPECIALTY PRODUCTS	Altosid and SumiLarv	Spray Material	2,985.66
35198	VALLEY PACIFIC PETROLEUM	Gasoline	Gasoline	880.86
35199	VERIZON	Cell Phones	Telephone/Cell Phones	635.91
		<b>TOTAL BILLS</b>		<b>\$14,206.08</b>
		<b>TOTAL BOARD ORDER #27</b>		<b>\$31,168.38</b>

CLAIM #	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	Budget Line Item	AMOUNT
35200	JORGE LOPEZ	Vector Control Tech II		1,924.01
35201	ALEXANDER WARD	Vector Control Tech II		1,533.76
35202	ADRIAN SIFUENTES	Vector Control Tech II		1,653.96
35203	ALEJANDRA GILL	Lab Tech I		1,112.56
35204	SABRINA GALBAN	Lab Tech I		920.98
35205	JAYSON CABRAL	Lab Tech I		1,040.98
35206	LUIS GONZALEZ	Lab Tech I		959.64
35207	MADISON LAWTON	Lab Tech I		999.43
35208	PATRICIA BIENIEMY	Lab Tech I		1,033.75
35209	CHRISTIAN COTTO	Lab Tech I		886.97
35210	THOMAS HOWARD	Vector Control Tech I		879.72
35211	LORRAINE GONZALEZ	Vector Control Tech I		841.43
35212	AYLSIA INGRIM	Vector Control Tech I		908.75
35213	JACKIE JACKSON	Vector Control Tech I		832.00
35214	PAUL RAPER	Vector Control Tech I		698.17
35215	KORY WILSON	Vector Control Tech I		945.63
35216	ROSEMARIE ANTUNA	Vector Control Tech I		1,061.60
35217	AARON WINSTON	Vector Control Tech I		797.08
35218	DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DIST - EFTPS	Social Security/ Medicare/ Federal Income Tax		4,512.48
35219	DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DIST - EFTPS	State Income Tax		247.21
35220	DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DIST - EFTPS	CalPERS Retirement		925.33
		<b>TOTAL PAYROLL</b>		<b>\$24,715.44</b>
35221	AGILIS SYSTEMS, LLC	GPS	GPS	659.67
35222	AT&T	Long Distance/Tollfree	Telephone/Cell Phones	22.78
35223	CALIF WATER SERVICE	Utilities	Utilities	84.61
35224	CARVALHO CONSTRUCTION INC.	Final Payment - Retention Amount	Bldg Project	4,000.00
35225	EMD NETWORKING SERVICES INC.	Total Care - May 2021	Maint Contracts	1,833.00
35226	HARBOR FREIGHT	Outlet, Scale, Folding Platform Truck	Fish Supplies	126.79
		Ball Hitch and Mount, Pin Lock w/Keys	Auto Supplies/Maint	
35227	HECTOR CARDENAS	Moving Expenses	Misc. Expense	991.46
35228	KAST & COMPANY	The Good Life May/June 2021	Public Relations	475.00
35229	MISSION LINEN	Uniforms		2,383.39
		Janitorial		197.17
35230	OFFICE DEPOT	Copy Paper and Sharpies	Office Supplies	73.58
35231	PARKER & PARKER PLUMBING	Camera Sewer Line	Bldg/Yard Maint	395.00
35232	PURE SUN	Solar Panel Cleaning	Bldg/Yard Maint	165.00
35233	SBC/AT&T	Office Phone/Fax	Telephone/Cell Phones	204.67
35234	SMART & FINAL	Sugar & Yeast	Lab Supplies	144.43
35235	SO CAL GAS COMPANY	Utilities	Utilities	218.63
35236	STAR MILLING CO.	Fish Food	Fish Supplies	98.40
35237	US BANK	3M - Respirator Evals	Professional Services	4,607.99
		AMCA - Conference Registration Dr. Debboun & Mir	Travel	50.00
		Google Suites	Subscriptions	143.21
		Dream Host - Web Hosting (annual)	Subscriptions	149.40
		Walmart - USB Cable Extensions	Office Supplies	20.18
		Pentair Aquatic - Fish Nets	Fish Supplies	98.84
		Play It Koi - Head Kits, Extension Poles, Power Cyclone	Fish Supplies	981.20
		Memphis Net & Twine - Nets	Fish Supplies	55.40
		Aquarium Co-op - Ich, Paracleanse, Mardel Maracyn	Fish Supplies	377.43
		Target - Isopropyl	Lab Supplies	6.03
		Forestry Suppliers - Solo Sprayer Straps	Sprayer Supplies	62.89
		B & H Photo - Plastic Trays	Lab Supplies	92.60
		The Webstaurant Store - 24 Basters	Lab Supplies	38.54
		Morris 4x4 - Jeep Parts	Auto Supplies	9.14
		Indeed - Job Ads	Public Relations	535.43
		Amazon - Nozzles, Brush Heads, Filaments	Fish Supplies	210.11
		Amazon - Fax Machine Ink (Black & Colors), Expanding Files	Office Supplies	169.64
		Amazon - Charging Cords, Phone Cases & Screen Protectors	Telephone/Cell Phones	96.47
		Amazon - Tripod Stands, Colored Masking Tape	Lab Supplies	97.27
		Amazon - Graduated Dispensers	Spray Materials	43.40
		Kaiser Willys Auto - Exhaust Manifold for Jeep	Auto Supplies	111.50
		Quadratec - Front Axle Seals, Washer & Nut Kit	Auto Supplies	24.90
		Hyatt Resort at Squaw Creek - 1 night pre-pay Dr. Debboun	Travel	217.04
		CSDA - Conf Registration (CSDA Scholarship will reimburse \$625)	Travel	725.00
		Pita Kabob - Lunch w/Greg	Travel	31.37
35238	VALLEY INDUSTRIAL MEDICAL GROUP	Pre-Employment Exams	Professional Services	625.00
35239	VALLEY PACIFIC PETROLEUM	Gasoline	Gasoline	2,526.26
35240	VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE ACCOUNT	Recertification Fees	Continuing Ed	1,963.00
		<b>TOTAL BILLS</b>		<b>\$21,598.66</b>
		<b>TOTAL BOARD ORDER #28</b>		<b>\$46,314.10</b>



VOUCHER	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	Budget Line Item	AMOUNT
35241	MUSTAPHA DEBBOUN	MANAGER		7,434.89
35242	MIR BEAR-JOHNSON	ASSISTANT MANAGER		4,568.24
35243	CRYSTAL GRIPPIN	SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM MANAGER		4,614.36
35244	HECTOR CARDENAS	OPERATIONS PROGRAM MANAGER		5,081.37
35245	MARK NAKATA	BIOLOGIST		5,166.39
35246	JAVIER VALDIVIAS	BIOLOGIST		4,231.48
35247	ANDREA TROUPIN	BIOLOGIST		4,618.00
35248	SHERI DAVIS	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT		5,042.18
35249	MARY ELLEN GOMEZ	ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST		3,875.06
35250	PAUL HARLIEN	FOREMAN		4,967.90
35251	RICK ALVAREZ	VECTOR CONTROL SUPERVISOR		5,136.21
35252	BRYAN RUIZ	VECTOR CONTROL TECHNICIAN III		5,095.10
35253	BRYAN FERGUSON	VECTOR CONTROL TECHNICIAN III/MECHANIC		4,404.70
35254	MARIO SANCHEZ	VECTOR CONTROL TECHNICIAN III/MECHANIC		3,698.03
		<i>Sub-Total Full-Time Payroll</i>		<b>\$67,933.91</b>
35255	VSP	Vision Plan Premium for May 2021		459.32
35256	DELTA DENTAL PLAN	Dental Plan Premium for May 2021		1,315.24
35257	LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP	Life/STD & LTD Insurance for May 2021		1,089.83
35258	DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DIST - EFTPS	CalPERS Health Insurance Premium for May 2021		20,584.79
35259	DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DIST - EFTPS	Social Security/ Medicare/ Federal Income Tax	Employee 71% - District 29%	27,612.14
35260	DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DIST - EFTPS	State Income Tax	Employee 100%	4,182.05
35261	DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DIST - EFTPS	CalPERS Retirement	Employee 40% - District 60%	10,362.60
35262	DELTA VECT CONT DIST	Flex Benefit Plan	Employee 100%	1,022.63
35263	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	Deferred Retirement Trust	Employee 77% - District 23%	1,172.80
		<i>Sub-Total for Payroll Taxes &amp; Benefits</i>		<b>\$67,801.40</b>
		<i>Total Regular Payroll &amp; Benefits</i>		<b>\$135,735.31</b>
35264	JORGE LOPEZ	Vector Control Tech II		1,924.03
35265	ADRIAN SIFUENTES	Vector Control Tech II		1,672.43
35266	ALEX WARD	Vector Control Tech II		1,533.75
35267	ALEJANDRA GILL	Lab Tech I		1,112.57
35268	SABRINA GALBAN	Lab Tech I		868.80
35269	MADISON LAWTON	Lab Tech I		999.44
35270	LUIS GONZALEZ	Lab Tech I		959.64
35271	JAYSON CABRAL	Lab Tech I		1,040.99
35272	PATRICIA BIENIEMY	Lab Tech I		986.32
35273	CHRISTIAN COTTO	Vector Control Tech I		999.44
35274	THOMAS HOWARD	Vector Control Tech I		999.43
35275	LORRAINE GONZALEZ	Vector Control Tech I		869.97
35276	AYLSIA INGRIM	Vector Control Tech I		943.00
35277	JACKIE JACKSON	Vector Control Tech I		991.61
35278	PAUL RAPER	Vector Control Tech I		1,102.14
35279	KORY WILSON	Vector Control Tech I		1,090.81
35280	ROSEMARIE ANTUNA	Vector Control Tech I		1,061.59
35281	AARON WINSTON	Vector Control Tech I		981.68
35282	DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DIST - EFTPS	Social Security/ Medicare/ Federal Income Tax		4,875.48
35283	DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DIST - EFTPS	State Income Tax		294.64
35284	DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DIST - EFTPS	CalPERS Retirement		929.04
		<i>Sub-Total for Seasonal Payroll &amp; Taxes</i>		<b>\$26,236.80</b>
		<i>Total All Payroll and Benefits</i>		<b>\$161,972.11</b>

35285	ADMINISTRATIVE SOLUTIONS INC	Flexible Benefit Plan Admin Fee		Professional Services 91.00
35286	AT&T	Backup Internet		Telephone/Cell Phones 42.80
35287	AUTOZONE	Alternators, Battery, Brakes, Fuel Filter, etc.		Auto Supplies 467.69
35288	BATTERY SYSTEMS	Batteries for Traps		Lab Supplies 121.57
35289	CENTRAL VALLEY BUSINESS FORMS	Business Cards for Seasonals (no name)		Office Supplies 79.16
35290	CITY OF VISALIA	Solid Waste Disposal		Utilities 126.85
35291	COMCAST BUSINESS	Internet		Telephone/Cell Phones 210.73
35292	DVCD - REVOLVING FUND			728.24
		Vector-Borne Disease Acct. - Exam Applications	589.00	Continuing Ed
		Office Depot - Printer Toner, Legal Pads, Markers, etc.	139.24	Office Supplies
35293	FRESNO OXYGEN	Dry Ice		Lab Supplies 274.32
35294	HOME DEPOT			132.32
		Paint, Handles, Outlet Strip	61.32	Fish Supplies
		Auto-Feed Drain Cleaner - Rental	71.00	Bldg/Yard Supplies
35295	LOWE'S			197.83
		Purified Water for Eye Wash	10.76	Safety Supplies
		Spray Paint, Air Filters, Cutting Shears	59.60	Bldg/Yard Supplies
		Rosincore, Tinning Flux, Acid Brushes, Acidcore (Jeep)	27.75	Auto Supplies
		Silicone Grease, Epoxy, Chains, Strainer, etc.	99.72	Fish Supplies
35296	MVCAC	2021 Yearbooks (2)		Misc. Expense 46.50
35297	NAPA AUTO PARTS	Batteries, Motor Mount		Auto Supplies 235.65
35298	PACIFIC WEST CONTROLS	Monthly Service Contract		Maint Contracts 250.00
35299	SMART & FINAL			161.49
		Sugar	115.96	Lab Supplies
		Hand Soap, Paper Towels, Dish Soap	45.53	
35300	SO CALIF EDISON	Utilities		Utilities 1,846.99
35301	TF TIRE & SERVICE	2 Tires		Auto Supplies 274.91
35302	VALLEY INDUSTRIAL MEDICAL CLINIC	Pre-Employment Exams		Professional Services 1,125.00
35303	VALLEY PACIFIC PETROLEUM	Gasoline		Gasoline 3,125.85
				<b>Total Bills \$9,538.90</b>
				<b>TOTAL BOARD ORDER #29 \$171,511.01</b>
	<u>Bills Added After 5/7/2021:</u>			
	HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS			751.67
		Wrench Sets, Screwdriver Sets, Diagonal Cutters, Cut & Crimp, Chains for Jeep	686.66	Auto Supplies
		Hard Hats, Orange Safety Vests	65.01	Safety Supplies
	VERIZON	Cell Phones		Telephone/Cell Phones 500.45
				<b>\$1,252.12</b>



## **6. Public Forum**

Members of the public may address the Board of Trustees.

## **7. Staff Report**

The General Manager will report on items of operational interest.

# **DELTA MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**

Dr. Mustapha Debboun  
*General Manager*

Post Office Box 310 \* Visalia, California 93279-0310

Mir Bear-Johnson  
*Assistant Manager*

1737 West Houston Avenue \* Visalia, California 93291

Phone (559) 732-8606 \* (877) 732-8606 \* Fax (559)-732-7441

www.deltavcd.com

Hector Cardenas  
*Operations Program Manager*

Crystal Grippin  
*Scientific Program Manager*

Sheri D. Davis  
*Administrative Assistant*

Andrea Troupin  
*Biologist*

Javier Valdivias  
*Biologist*

Mark Nakata  
*Biologist*

## **REPORT OF THE MANAGER APRIL 2021**

### **I. Water and Weather**

The temperature remained low throughout the month of April. The average high temperature was 79.7°F with an average low of 50°F. Data from the Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District (DMVCD) Weather Station reported 0.18 inches of rainfall. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1981-2010 seasonal averages for high and low temperatures in April were 73.4°F and 49.2°F respectively, with average rainfall of 0.94 inches.

Water storage at Pine Flat Reservoir increased to 328,143 acre-feet by the end of the month. By April 30, 2021 Pine Flat Reservoir's inflow had increased to 1,342 cubic feet per second (CFS) and its release increased to 264 CFS. The Lake Kaweah Reservoir ended the month with more water than the previous month, with 46,246 acre-feet on April 30, 2021. Lake Kaweah's inflow increased to 408 CFS and its release was increased to 59 CFS.

### **II. Narrative**

Seasonal vacancies in both the laboratory and operations continued to be filled during the month, with all current positions filled by the end of April, and training completed. Safety training took place in batches to ensure COVID-19 compliance. Staff began field work in earnest during the month, with field staff starting in early April and urban staff starting mid-April. Staggered start times began to ensure COVID-19 compliance and allow staff to avoid the worst of the heat where possible.

Routine mosquito trapping surveillance began in the first week of April. Approximately 259 mosquito traps were set per week. Of these, 239 were set in urban and suburban areas with 4 gravid traps and 1 BG Sentinel trap set per square mile of populated area. The remaining 20 Encephalitis Virus Surveillance (EVS) traps were set in rural areas of historically high mosquito and arbovirus activity.

The Dead Bird Hotline (1-877-968-2473) re-opened on April 12, 2021, allowing residents to report dead birds to the DVCD for arbovirus testing.

Dr. Debboun and Mir Bear-Johnson attended the Mosquito and Vector Control Association Virtual Legislative Day and spoke to Assembly member Patterson and Assembly member Mathis regarding the importance of the VectorSurv system and Vector Control as a whole.

Dr. Debboun was invited and attended a Visalia City Council Member Meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>, prompting an article in the Visalia Times-Delta, a brief interview and news segment on the CBS Eyewitness Channel 47 news the following week, and a recent article in early May in the Exeter Sun-Gazette Newsletter.

An aerial flyover for green pools was conducted near the end of the month. The photos and results are anticipated to be sent to the District in early May.

Larviciding aerial treatment of the Kaweah River Rock Plant began for the year, following high trap counts. The first treatment took place on April 27<sup>th</sup>, and subsequent treatments are planned every four weeks for the remainder of the mosquito season, dependent on trap results. Management is likely to change for the site, and the District has been in contact with the new management to ensure a smooth transition and no gaps in larviciding coverage.

Throughout April, employees who were not fully vaccinated continued to complete the online screening of COVID-19 survey and take paid time off to seek test results when required. The District will continue to be proactive in keeping employees and the public safe, with no planned rollback of any of the safety precautions that have been put in place. Staff are encouraged to be fully vaccinated and allowed to take work time to do so.

There were sixty-eight service requests in April:

2021 Service Request Summary

<b>2021</b>	<b>Fish</b>	<b>Inspection</b>	<b>Mosquito</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Inquiries</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>January</b>	0	0	1	2	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>February</b>	0	0	0	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>March</b>	0	0	7	17	1	2	<b>27</b>
<b>April</b>	21	0	14	31	1	1	<b>68</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>

**III. Vector and Disease Surveillance**

**Delta VCD Summaries**

Humans: There were no human cases of an arbovirus reported by the local public health department for the month of April.

Birds: No dead birds were reported within the District boundaries in the month of April.

Mosquitoes: The average number of female mosquitoes per trap night in April was 2.51, which is 77.8% lower than the 5-year average. A total of 48 mosquito samples, containing 10 to 50 mosquitoes each, were collected in April and tested for West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis virus, and Western Equine encephalitis virus on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

**State Surveillance:**

Humans: No human cases were reported in April. At this time in 2020, no human cases were reported.

Birds: No birds were positive for an arbovirus out of the 215 submitted for testing. At this time in 2020, 3 dead birds were positive out of 125 tested.

Mosquitoes: No mosquito samples were positive out of the 1,619 tested. At this time in 2020, no mosquito samples were positive out of 1,400 tested.

**IV. Expenditures & Revenues – 2020/21**

TOTAL BUDGET \$3,516,071.89

EXPENDITURES – July 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021

Salaries	\$1,961,609.09
Services & Supplies	\$517,992.17
Tax Admin Fee	\$61,380.00
Capital	\$9,765.74
Building Improvements	\$351,882.69
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$2,902,629.69</b>

REVENUE RECEIVED – July 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021

July	\$1,011.30
August	\$0.00
September	\$22,679.32
October	\$4,651.34
November	\$62.67
December	\$1,551,138.77
January	\$296,201.40
February	\$2,082.40
March	\$19,522.97
April	\$861,016.79
<b>TOTAL REVENUE TO DATE</b>	<b>\$2,758,366.96</b>

**V. Time Sheet Summary**

Month	Available Work Hrs	Sick Hrs Used	Total Hrs Available for Work	Pct. Of Hrs Avail for Work
July	5,632	50.25	5,581.75	99.10
August	5,376	133.25	5,242.75	97.53
September	4,816	99.75	4,716.25	97.93



October	3,520	123.25	3,396.75	96.50
November	2,016	132.00	1,884.00	93.46
December	1,960	100.00	1,860.00	94.90
January	1,950	146.00	1,804.00	92.52
February	2,100	30.25	2,069.75	98.55
March	2,576	93.25	2,482.75	96.38
April	3,664	88.00	3,576.00	97.60

The District has a vacation policy that requires 24-hour notice in order to ensure the operational integrity of the workforce. Sick leave for doctor, dentist and/ or family medical necessity also requires advance notice- in so much as it is possible. Illness is unplanned and therefore unscheduled. Attendance records for the current year are shown in the table.

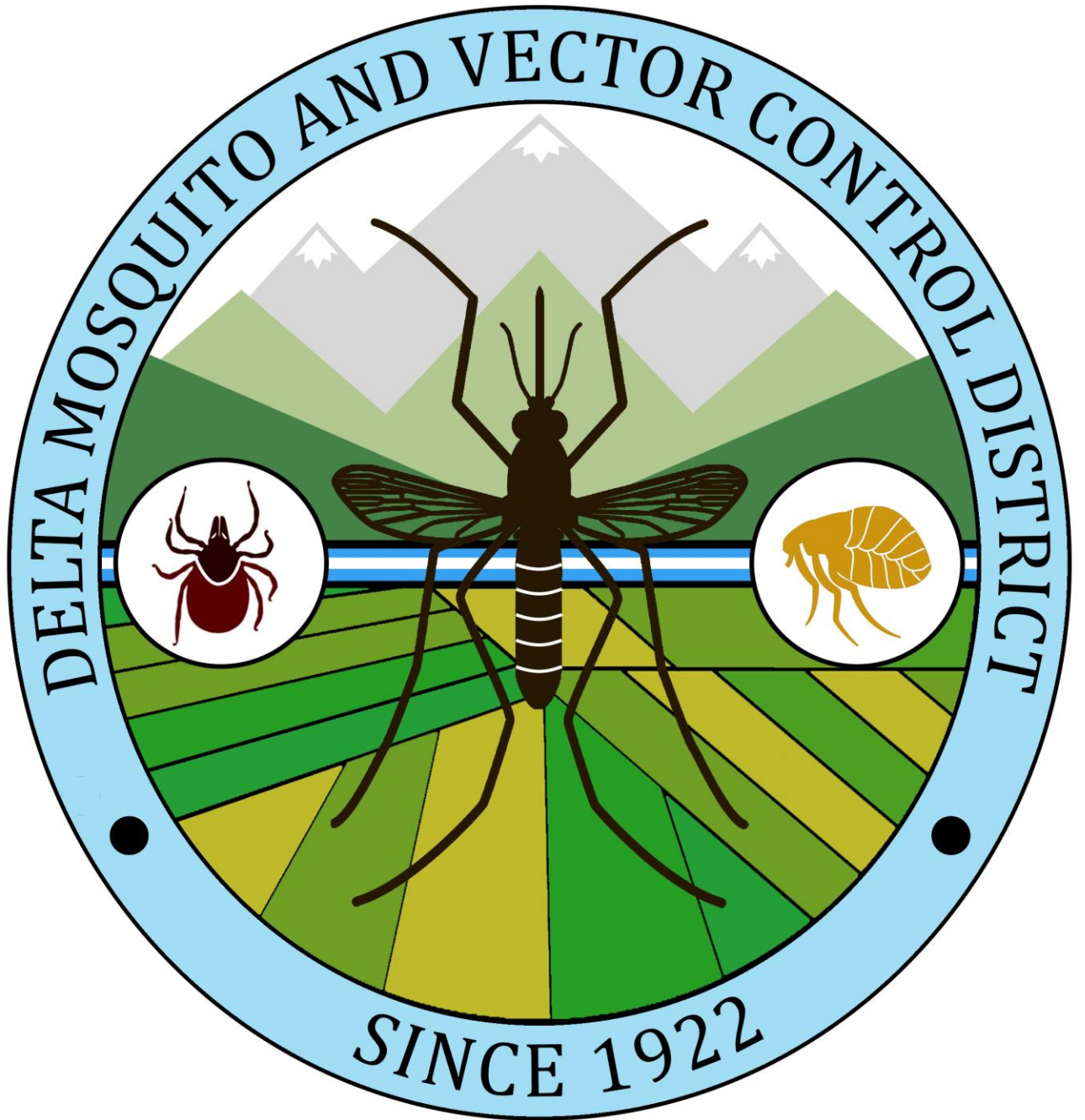




PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

Above: The Delta Vector Control District was formed in 1922 to protect the public from the spread of mosquito borne illnesses like malaria through monitoring and treatment. Below: This month, the district may seek a tax increase to help fight a new invasive breed that carries yellow fever, dengue, West Nile and zika viruses.

# Invasive mosquito breeds discontent

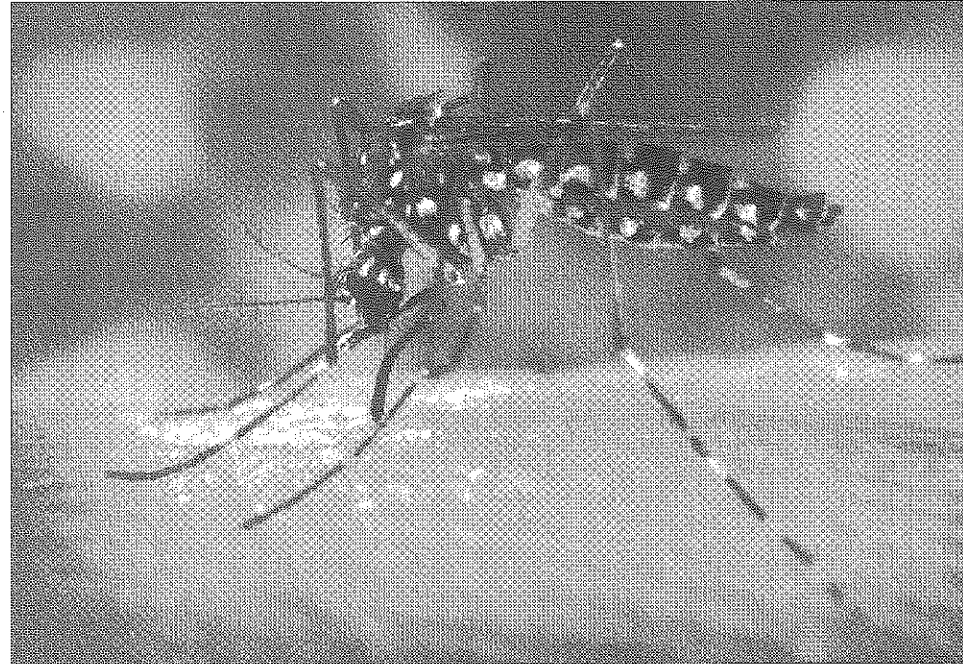
■ Visalians consider taxing themselves to get rid of yellow fever mosquito which feeds almost exclusively on humans, carries many deadly diseases

By Reggie Ellis  
@TheSunGazette

VISALIA — An aggressive breed of mosquito is affecting the quality of life for many Visalians who have stayed indoors the last two summers to avoid being bitten.

The problem has gotten so bad the Delta Vector Control District, a special tax district which handles mosquito abatement for northwestern Tulare County, will decide this month if it will ask residents to pay more in property taxes to control the *aedes aegypti* mosquito, also known as the yellow fever mosquito.

Mir Bear-Johnson, assistant manager of the district, said unlike mosquitoes native to California, this smaller breed prefers to feed on human blood rather than animals and has adapted to its food. Native mosquitoes are much larger and prefer to feed on cattle, which have trouble swatting away the mosquitoes, while they take long drinks of blood. The *aedes aegypti* is smaller, so it is harder to see, and takes many tiny sips quickly and usually around the mid back or ankles. This makes them harder to swat and gives the appearance there is a swarm of mosquitoes, when in reality it might be one mosquito biting your ankles a dozen times. They also bite day and night, and not just at dawn and dusk, because hu-



mans are active at all hours.

"They are often called 'ninja' or 'secret' mosquitoes," she said.

The Visalia City Council invited Dr. Mustapha Debboun, general manager of Delta Vector Control District, to its April 19 meeting to give a presentation on the issue after receiving complaints from constituents about the massive mosquito problem. Debboun said the mosquito first appeared in 2013 and carries deadly diseases such as yellow fever, chikungunya, dengue, West Nile and zika virus.

The invasive mosquito lives in urban habitats, lays its eggs just above the water surface in small containers such as flower pots, plant saucers, pet bowls, and bird baths. Debboun said the best way to deal with the mosquito is to dump and drain any standing water, be sure to avoid over watering your lawn and shrubs and check for leaks in sprinklers and drip lines.

"Not everybody dumps the water or fol-



## MOSQUITO:

Continued from page B1

lows the rules, that's why we have the problem," Debboun said.

Councilmember Brian Poochigian said he agreed with Debboun's claim the invasive pest was becoming a huge problem in Visalia. The councilman said he has lived in Visalia nearly his whole life and has never seen the pest problem as bad as it has been in the last two years.

"I'm scared to send my kids outside," Poochigian said. "We can't eat in our backyard, because we get eaten every time we go out. And I know I'm not the only household here, I received tons of emails about this."

Several community members agreed with Poochigian during the public comment period of Debboun's presentation. Ernest Cogan, who lives on West Vine Avenue in Visalia, said he has been overwhelmed by mosquitoes the last two years. He said the only difference he sees is that the district doesn't spray insecticide as often.

"The last two years, I go outside, and they're on me all the time, which they never were because they used to spray," Cogan said.

Debboun admitted Delta Vector no longer does nightly sprays around storm drains and ponding basins because the adult mosquitoes are resistant to the poison.

Another Visalia resident, Kristen Butler, asked Debboun what the district was doing with the money they used to spend on spraying.

"How, in 101 temperature, are we supposed to go around in full clothing and try to do anything outside?" she said. "You can't even step out to your car."

Debboun said the money for additional insecticides treatments was from a property assessment that began in 2009 to fund construction of a lab to test mosquitoes for diseases and bridge the gap between property taxes and operational expenses. He said the assessment lasted for 10 years and then expired in 2019, along with funding. The

lab helped Delta Vector discover the arrival of the aedes aegypti mosquito in 2014 and test dead animals to discover the arrival of West Nile, Yellow Fever, and Zika virus in Tulare County. The lab also allows the district to breed mosquito eating fish which it offers free to property owners to put in ponds and water features to eat the larvae before they grow into chemically-resistant adults.

"I am not saying that we don't want to spray ... but it doesn't really do anything, because it only adds to the problem of insecticide resistance [in adults]," Debboun said.

Currently, the district's only source of funding is the original assessment which formed the district nearly a century ago, which amounts to about \$8 per parcel once every two years.

Mayor Steve Nelsen questioned the need for additional funding if there is no need to spray and if staffing levels are relatively the same. Debboun said the assessment would be used to hire additional personnel to inspect homes for standing water, outreach to educate residents on how to protect themselves from the mosquitoes and the diseases it carries, develop and deploy innovative techniques to combat the emergence of the mosquito and to hire a technician to breed more mosquito-eating fish for the community.

"I do need additional people to go and do more surveillance and talk to the community, but I don't have the money for that," Debboun said.

Gil Torres said the mosquito issue has become a quality of life issue for both longtime and new Visalia residents. He did an informal survey on Facebook asking people throughout the city to share their experiences with mosquitoes in their part of town. He shared about a dozen comments with the council including people who had just moved to town who were eating up while taking out the trash, some who had so many bites they couldn't sleep at night, others who have scars from the bites, and some who said they have considered moving out of Visalia because

the problem has been so bad.

"This is at a crisis stage and our quality of life is being affected," Torres said.

Poochigian asked what the district was going to do differently if they were successful in getting a tax increase if all he was proposing was to have residents get rid of standing water.

Debboun said the district is planning on using the money to respond to additional calls for service, educate the public on protecting their homes and themselves from mosquitoes as well as develop and deploy new techniques in combating the mosquito. He said there are new techniques already in use in other parts of the world making their way to the United States, including releasing sterilized males into the population to negate breeding, males that might carry a lethal protein or exposing the mosquitoes to low levels of radiation.

"The Environmental Protection Agency is looking into approving these new, novel techniques to help in the augmentation of managing disease invasive yellow fever mosquito," Debboun said. "Once EPA approves them, then districts are going to start using them. But they're going to cost a lot of money."

In order to fund new employees, new education campaigns and new techniques, Debboun said Delta Vector is considering a property tax increase. He said the district randomly selected 16,000 residents in Visalia, Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Woodlake and Cutler-Orosi to survey in the beginning of April. The survey asked if residents would support a yearly property assessment to help control invasive mosquitoes, such as Aedes aegypti, and monitor mosquito born illnesses, such as Yellow Fever and West Nile virus. Residents were also asked if they thought the assessment would help prevent future outbreaks of these illnesses, expand control programs, suppress the emergence of mosquitoes, educate residents on ways to protect themselves from the diseases, and if it will reduce the mosquito populations.

Results of the survey will

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

be presented to the district's seven-member board on May 12 which will then vote on whether or not to seek the assessment. Bear-Johnson said the board will consider increasing the property tax bills by either \$8.24 or \$12.50 per year. Their vote to move forward would trigger a Proposition 218 process which allows those owning property within the district to block the increase if 50% plus one property owner vote against it on a mailed ballot or sign a petition against it.

"I'm optimistic that the residents because they know this mosquito, especially the invasive yellow mosquito needs to be managed," Debboun told the council.

Mayor Nelsen said questioned the timing of a tax increasing on the heels of one of the most devastating health and financial crises in the nation's history.

"If I was just impacted with COVID, I lost my job, or furloughed, and I get a survey in my mail that says I'd like to increase your tax assessment, what do you think the answer would be?," Nelsen asked.

Debboun said asking the public to remove standing water is obviously the most inexpensive and effective way

of handling the situation, but people don't have enough time to deal with it. Instead, he said providing additional funding to the Delta Vector Control District would not only help educate residents on how best to protect themselves but also develop more effective treatments when district employees respond to calls for mosquito abatement.

"It's a big issue here and we're here to work together to solve it," Debboun said. "Partnership, community engagement, education, and source reduction will help get us to where we need to go."

## NEWS

# Invasive mosquito terrorizes some Visalia neighborhoods. Vector control urges community support

**Joshua Yeager** Visalia Times-Delta

Published 1:55 p.m. PT Apr. 28, 2021 | Updated 7:24 p.m. PT Apr. 28, 2021

An invasive mosquito species that feasts on humans during the day has seen an uptick in Visalia neighborhoods.

The special district that manages the pests may seek a property tax assessment to help control the mosquito menaces, called *Aedes aegypti* or Yellow Fever Mosquito.

The species was rediscovered in Tulare County in 2017 and its population has exploded in the years since. The aggressive mosquito is a daytime biter — unlike most native California species — and can breed on any source of freshwater, including plant trays and pet water dishes.

The mosquito can carry deadly diseases, such as Yellow Fever, Dengue, and Zika. None of these viruses have been transmitted within California, yet, according to the Department of Public Health, but have become widespread in other parts of the world where the mosquito is active.

"In 2019, it really became a problem because it established and everyone started complaining about this mosquito," said Dr. Mustapha Debboun, general manager of the Delta Vector Control District. "Well, the whole world is complaining about this mosquito because it is so difficult to manage."

Debboun presented at a recent Visalia City Council meeting, urging the public to do their part to control the aggressive mosquito population.

Traditional pesticides are not effective against adult mosquitos because the species has built up a tolerance to most chemicals, Debboun said. The most effective way to drive the mosquitos out of Visalia, Debboun said, is to eliminate its breeding habitats.

That means removing all standing water from your front and back yard and inside your home. If you need advice on how to mosquito-proof your home, you can visit the district's website or call them for a demonstration, Debboun said.

"If we don't remove that container, if we don't deny that mosquito from laying eggs on that water, we're going to have that mosquito. The problem with this mosquito is it doesn't bite you one time; it bites multiple times," he said, urging residents to use EPA-approved repellants to prevent bites.

Visalia City Councilman Brian Poochigian said the issue is one that's close to home. He and his family are "getting stung six or seven times" every time they leave their home, he said.

"I'm scared to send my kids outside without spraying them down," he said. "We can't eat outside in our backyard because we get bitten, and I know I'm not the only household here. It's a big issue, and it's not getting any better."

Several residents spoke at the council meeting, saying that the mosquitos have terrorized their homes and families.

"The mosquitos the last few years here have been awful," said Bill Doors of Visalia. "In our neighborhood, the kids can't even play outside and the adults can't enjoy the outdoors."

His neighbors have scars on their ankles from mosquito bites while others have been forced to stay indoors, except to get the mail and take out the garbage, Doors said.

"We don't have time for a bailout measure. This is at a crisis stage," he said.

In order to manage the invasive mosquitos, Debboun says the Delta Vector Control District will gauge public interest in a new property tax assessment. The district has already sent about 16,000 surveys asking residents if they would support a ballot measure increasing the district's biennial assessment by a few dollars to deal with the pests.

If the surveys come back positive, Debboun says the measure will move to the ballot for a vote. The ballot would be sent to property owners within the District and will require 51% support to be authorized. The district is currently funded by a small property tax fee that for most single-family homes amounts to less than \$8 every two years, according to a district representative.

The proposed assessment might increase your property tax bill by an additional \$12.50 if approved. A previous assessment of \$6.50 funded the construction of a lab to test for West

Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis and other mosquito-borne diseases currently found in the district. It expired in 2019, officials said.

Visalia Mayor Steve Nelsen said he doubted the community would support a tax measure in light of the economic hardships caused by the coronavirus pandemic. While Delta Vector services Visalia, it is not run by the city.

The district covers northern Tulare County, including Visalia, Dinuba, Woodlake, Orosi, Ivanhoe, Farmersville, Exeter and unincorporated communities. It will celebrate its 100th-year anniversary in 2022.

*Joshua Yeager covers water, agriculture, parks and housing for the Visalia Times-Delta and Tulare Advance-Register newspapers. Follow him on Twitter @VTD\_Joshy. **Get alerts and keep up on all things Tulare County for as little as \$1 a month. Subscribe today.***



## **8. Resolution 2021-02**

**DELTA MOSQUITO & VECTOR**  
**CONTROL DISTRICT**

Dr. Mustapha Debboun  
*General Manager*

Post Office Box 310 \* Visalia, California 93279-0310

Mir Bear-Johnson  
*Assistant Manager*

1737 West Houston Avenue \* Visalia, California 93291

Phone (559) 732-8606 \* (877) 732-8606 \* Fax (559)-732-7441

Crystal Grippin  
*Scientific Program Manager*

www.deltavcd.com

Hector Cardenas  
*Operations Program Manager*

Sheri D. Davis  
*Administrative Assistant*

Andrea Troupin  
*Biologist*

Javier Valdivias  
*Biologist*

Mark Nakata  
*Biologist*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
Delta Vector Control District  
CHANGING THE DISTRICT NAME**

**WHEREAS**, the Delta Vector Control District was formed and reorganized by action of the Delta Vector Control District Board of Trustees in 1922 pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 5, Section 2200 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past, the focus of the Delta Vector Control District , has historically and primarily, been on the surveillance, control and abatement of mosquitoes in order to protect the public's health and safety from vector-borne diseases including West Nile virus and nuisance caused by mosquitoes; and

**WHEREAS**, State law confers authority upon Mosquito Abatement Districts to engage in the surveillance and control of other vectors which are capable of transmitting the causative agents of human disease, discomfort and injury; and

**WHEREAS**, the District now desires to reflect its services and responsibilities to include both mosquito and vector surveillance and control activities, which may include, but not necessarily limited to, ticks and Lyme disease, flies, yellow jackets, Imported Fire Ants, Africanized Honeybees, rodents, Hantavirus and plague disease surveillance, vector control insecticide resistance testing, insect identification and information; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the implementation of these services and responsibilities, the District desires that the name of the District be changed to add the words "Mosquito and" to reflect and better publicize the primary purposes and goals of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, since the surveillance, control and abatement of mosquitoes will remain the main priority of the District, the District desires to add the reference to “mosquito” in the name of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, California Health and Safety Code Sections 2043 authorize the change in the name of a mosquito abatement district to more correctly describe and reflect its area of activity;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of the Delta Vector Control District as follows:

1. For the reasons set forth in the foregoing recitals, the Board finds, determines and declares that there is good cause, and that it is advisable, to change the name of the District to, **Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District**.

2. Pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code Chapter 1. Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control Districts, Article 4. Powers, Section 2043 (b), the name of the Delta Vector Control District is hereby changed to the following:

### **Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District**

3. The District Manager is hereby authorized and directed in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Chapter 1. Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control Districts, Article 4. Powers, Section 2043 (b), to within 10 days of its adoption of this Resolution to forthwith transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the following;

A. Delta Vector Control District Board of Trustees;

B. California Secretary of State;

C. Tulare County Clerk;

D. Tulare/Visalia Local Agency Formation Commission.

4. The District Board of Trustees Clerk, under the direction of the Board Officer Secretary, is hereby authorized and directed within ten days after the effective date of the name change, prepare and file an updated Statement of Facts and Roster of Public Agencies filing with the California Secretary of State and Tulare County Clerk.

5. The change in the name of the District shall take effect from and after the date of the filing of this certified copy of the order of the Delta Vector Control District Board of Trustees adopted pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Chapter 1. Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control Districts, Article 4. Powers, Section 2043 (b), and after such date the new name shall be the official name of the District.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Delta Vector Control District on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Greg Gomez	☉	☉	☉	☉
Belen Gomez	☉	☉	☉	☉
Larry Roberts	☉	☉	☉	☉
Kevin Caskey	☉	☉	☉	☉
Rosemary Hellwig	☉	☉	☉	☉
Michael Cavanagh	☉	☉	☉	☉
Linda Guttierrez	☉	☉	☉	☉
Vote Totals:( )Yes ( )No ( )Abstain ( )absent ( )vacant				

**APPROVED AND DATED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021 after its passage.

Greg Gomez

Board President

**ATTEST AND DATED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021 after approved.

Belen Gomez

Board Secretary

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Belen Gomez, Secretary of the Delta Vector Control District Board of Trustees, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution of the Board of Trustees was duly passed and adopted by a two-thirds vote at a regular meeting of the Board held on May 12, 2021.

Belen Gomez

Board Secretary

**9. Oxitec/Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) Pilot Project in California**

The General Manager will provide information on Oxitec's/SIT efforts to conduct field trials against *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in California.

## **10. Adjournment**

Adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees to reconvene on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the Delta Vector Control District Boardroom, 1737 W. Houston Ave., Visalia, CA.