MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

319-7491
Tom Micka

September 21, 2004

Linda Moulton-Patterson, Chair
California Integrated Waste Management Board
1001 I Street
PO Box 4025
Sacramento, CA 95812-4025

Re: Waste Tires and West Nile Virus

Dear Chairperson Moulton-Patterson,

As you are aware, California is currently experiencing an outbreak of West Nile virus. This mosquito-borne disease has been detected throughout the state, infecting over 500 residents, and killing 17. This destructive disease has also infected hundreds of horses and killed thousands of wild birds throughout the state.

Mosquitoes transmit West Nile virus to humans. Mosquitoes breed in standing water. Water-filled waste tires provide a breeding site for mosquitoes that transmit West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases.

Waste tires present a largely uncontrolled mosquito-breeding source due to their wide dispersion and the difficulty in controlling them due to limited resources and poor accessibility. CIWMB can help control mosquitoes that transmit West Nile virus by supporting proven mosquito control activities performed by over 50 mosquito and vector control agencies in California. The California Mosquito and Vector Control Research Foundation would administer central coordination of the surveillance, control, and outreach activities.

Funding from CIWMB could be devoted to several areas that will considerably lessen the impact that waste tires have on mosquito development and the spread of West Nile virus. These areas include:

1) **Surveillance** of the various mosquito species capable of transmitting West Nile virus that breed in waste tires. This component would fund established mosquito and vector control agencies to conduct surveillance of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases associated with waste tires. Work would include locating waste tires, mapping locations of waste tires, determining larval and adult mosquito abundance, and testing mosquito populations for West Nile virus. Additionally, waste tire pile locations would be communicated to local

environmental health departments and solid waste management agencies for their information and follow-up. Labor and materials for an estimated 35 districts to participate would be up to $13,000 per district: $455,000 total.

2) **Control** of mosquitoes in waste tires by programs that otherwise would not be provided through regular district operations. Due to tire design, it is difficult to eradicate mosquitoes in water-filled waste tires, and generally requires multiple applications of public health pesticides if the tires cannot be drained. These materials are generally applied by hand-held or vehicle mounted equipment, and if necessary, by aircraft. Labor and materials for an estimated 35 districts would be up to $10,000 per district: $350,000 total.
3) **Public education and outreach** to insure California's residents manage waste tires appropriately and eliminate mosquito breeding. This component would fund labor and materials for the preparation and distribution of information by local mosquito and vector control districts that describes proper methods of storing and disposing of waste tires to prevent mosquito development. Additionally, information would be disseminated to local environmental health departments, solid waste management agencies, tire dealers, and related waste tire industries on waste tire mosquito prevention techniques. Waste tire management information would be posted on MVCAC and individual district websites and updated as new information is developed. Estimated cost for 54 districts would be up to $5,000 per district: $270,000 total.

The Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) proposes that these items be funded through a CIWMB grant of $1,075,000 to the California Mosquito and Vector Control Research Foundation. Both MVCAC and the Research Foundation are 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organizations devoted to research and control of mosquitoes and other vectors. The Research Foundation was formed in 1990 and is suitably organized for the management of this important project.

MVCAC has 54 members, all units of local government, either independent special districts or dependent units of city or county government. All agencies are signatory to a cooperative agreement with the California Department of Health Services that ensures mosquito surveillance and control activities meet are performed by state-certified technicians

Funding would be available for project purposes only to mosquito and vector control districts or other public agencies qualified and licensed by the California Department of Health Services to provide these public services. Project funding would be for one year. For continuity, we propose funding continue for at least three years in the same increments listed above. Any unused funds would be returned to CIWMB.

Sincerely,

Craig Downs
President