

PRESS RELEASE – Public Notice

Aerial Spraying in Tulare Mosquito Abatement District Scheduled To Reduce Mosquito Numbers after Flooding in Tulare Lake Basin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: June 28, 2023

State and Local Officials have scheduled an aerial spray operation for approximately 34,908 acres within the Tulare Mosquito Abatement District to help reduce the number of mosquitoes resulting from the Flooding of Tulare Lake Basin. The aerial application will begin July 1, 2023 in the areas of Allensworth and Alpaugh and continue on an as-needed basis. Aerial Adult mosquito control operations will be performed with Dibrom[®] applied at the rate of 0.66 fluid ounces per acre, and larval mosquito control applications will be performed using VectoMaxFG[®] at a rate of 10lbs/acre.

The aerial spray operation is being conducted in response to surveillance findings that indicate increased mosquito populations and also due to the limited road accessibility in portions of the Abatement District. Aerial spraying is necessary to combat and control mosquitoes where ground spraying is less accessible and effective. If there is a weather delay, applications will begin the following night.

Vector Disease Control, Inc. (VDCI), a mosquito control company operating out of Hanford, CA will be conducting the aerial spray operation. VDCI holds contingency contracts with multiple California Counties and FEMA to provide application of adulticides on an “as-needed” basis. In 2022, VDCI treated over 4 million acres to control mosquitoes resulting from the floodwaters left behind by heavy rains, West Nile virus or other emergencies.

VDCI will be using twin-engine aircraft flying at an altitude of approximately 300 feet to conduct the aerial application for adult mosquitoes. Each aircraft is equipped with an aerial spray guidance system specifically engineered for mosquito control operations. The planes are able to receive in real-time, meteorological conditions such as temperature, wind speed and wind direction. “This onboard equipment allows us to optimize the application within the intended treatment areas, while minimizing drift outside the target zone”, according to Broox Boze, Technical Director for VDCI.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires notification to the public when aerial spray operations are to occur.

For additional information and/or maps of the intended spray area please visit www.tularemosquito.com