



LAKE COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2011

AERIAL LARVICIDE TREATMENT PLANNED

LAKEPORT, Calif. - In an effort to reduce the number of biting adult mosquitoes emerging this spring, the Lake County Vector Control District will be making an aerial treatment of the marshlands adjacent to the lake between the Clear Lake State Park and Lakeport.

The District's winter mosquito surveillance program has detected a large number of mosquito larvae in the areas near the lake that become flooded as the lake rises in winter. These mosquito larvae are an early-season floodwater species (*Aedes increpitus*) that hatch from eggs laid in the mud last year as the lake receded. When winter rains flooded the eggs, the larvae hatched and began developing in the still, shallow water. As temperatures and day length increase in early spring, the *Ae. increpitus* mosquito larvae will pupate and then emerge as biting adults. These mosquitoes are the aggressive biters experienced every spring by people living and recreating near this area.

The treatment is planned for some time in the next two weeks. The weather conditions will determine when the District is able to make the application, so a definite date is not available at this time, but the District will post that information on its website (www.lcvcd.org) as soon as a planned application date

is set. If the application is cancelled or rescheduled, that information will also be posted on the District's website.

The application will be made by a yellow, bi-winged crop duster flying at a low altitude over these marshy areas. Some of the marshy areas are near homes and people may experience a brief noise nuisance from the plane.

The product applied will be Aquabac 200G, a biological larvicide used to control mosquito larvae in aquatic habitats. Aquabac is manufactured by Becker Microbial Products, Inc. Aquabac is based on the naturally occurring soil bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti). This highly effective and economical microbial insecticide is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency for the control of larval mosquitoes in nearly all aquatic habitats. Bti is highly selective for the control of mosquito larvae in water and does not affect plants, animals or beneficial insects that live in or drink the water. The formulation is a biodegradable solid corncob granule, similar to large sand particles, which are coated with the Bti, which breaks down rapidly in nature so there is no persistence of the active ingredient. The use of a solid formulation reduces the drift onto adjacent property.

The Lake County Vector Control District makes every effort to use the safest product available to minimize any health concerns the public may have. The larvicide label and the Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) are available from the Lake County Vector Control District's website <http://www.lcvcd.org/> or may be requested by calling 263-4770.

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