



Date: January 10, 2019

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager

From: Kelly Colopy, Director, Department of Health and Human Services \s\

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

**Subject: Mailed Questionnaire to Assess Potential Support for a Vector Control Assessment**

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On October 2, 2018, the City Council approved a contract with SCI Consulting Group to research the feasibility of establishing a benefit assessment to fund mosquito and vector control in areas of the City not currently covered by a benefit assessment. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the process of exploring a benefit assessment for vector control.

Currently, the Health and Human Services Department (Health Department) provides vector services for 58 percent of the City. These services are funded through the Health Department's Realignment funding with a budget of approximately \$627,000. Of this amount, \$100,000 is charged to other City departments through Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). Services are provided at no-cost to parcel owners and tenants. The remaining portion of the City is served by the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (GLACVCD) with a small portion (2 percent) covered by the Compton Creek Mosquito Abatement District (CCMAD). Residents served by the GLACVCD and CCMAD pay a nominal property tax assessment for vector control services (under \$13.00 per year). The proposed benefit assessment, if passed, would be similar to what is assessed in the remainder of the City and would cover the costs of vector services provided by the Health Department, reduce the costs to City departments, and allow for utilizing Health Realignment funding for other public health purposes.

As the first step of establishing the benefit assessment, the consultant determines the priorities and level of property owner and stakeholder support for the vector assessment. To that end, a questionnaire will be mailed to approximately 20,000 property owners in the unassessed areas of the City (see attached map). The questionnaire is scheduled to go out by January 18, 2019. It will provide information to property owners on the vector control program and determine their relative support for new or enhanced programs to control mosquitoes and other vectors in Long Beach. Attached is the information sheet that will be included. Two key scenarios will be explored in the questionnaire:

1. The first scenario would be to maintain *current* vector services (status quo) at an annual assessment of \$8.21. This level of service would provide year-round control of invasive mosquitoes and other pests using environmentally sound methods. Monitoring for public health issues, such as West Nile virus, Zika, Typhus and other emerging vector borne diseases would also continue at the current level.

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2. The second scenario would be to provide enhanced vector control services at an annual assessment of \$14.92. At this level, improved monitoring and response times to public health issues, such as West Nile virus, Zika, Typhus and other emerging diseases would be provided. The program would continue its year-round control of invasive mosquitoes and other pests. In addition, the enhanced program would provide increased education and awareness to residents about protecting themselves from diseases carried by mosquitoes and other vectors. Services would be expanded to include addressing rodent and bat populations, as well as rabies surveillance and investigation and would provide additional monitoring for other public health threats such as emerging mosquito species.

A report of the questionnaire findings is expected to be prepared for the City Council in late February. The report will include the study methodology, statistical analysis, and an interpretation of the findings. The City Council will be provided with a recommendation as to whether or not the City should proceed with a mosquito and vector control funding measure, and how to proceed if such a measure is deemed to have support in the community.

Please contact me at (562) 570-4016 or Nelson Kerr, Environmental Health Bureau Manager, at extension (562) 570-4170 with any questions.

Attachments

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY  
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR  
TOM MODICA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
REBECCA GARNER, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER  
DEPARTMENT HEADS

# Long Beach Mosquito and Vector Control Official Survey

Information Fact Sheet

## Local Mosquito and Vector Control

The Long Beach Health Department's Bureau of Environmental Health Mosquito and Vector Control Program has been protecting public health by providing mosquito, vector and disease control services to Long Beach residents for over 50 years. Each week, the Mosquito and Vector Control Program ("Mosquito Program") monitors and treats:

- *Over 75 known mosquito breeding sources (including storm drains, catch basins, persistent puddles, standing water, pump stations, ponds, wetlands, etc.), and*
- *Over 300 miles of streets and gutters throughout Long Beach.*

Additionally, the Mosquito Program provides rodent control inspections for residents, rabies surveillance and investigation, insect identification, insect control services, and related disease information and education.

## Mosquito Surveillance and Disease Testing

The Mosquito Program protects the public's health through a comprehensive mosquito surveillance program throughout the city that identifies all mosquitoes which can carry potentially life-threatening diseases, such as West Nile Virus, Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya and/or Yellow Fever. The Mosquito Program traps local specimens to be sent out for analysis including:

- *Collecting and identifying mosquito specimens and sending to the California State laboratory to test for disease.*
- *Continuously providing surveillance and inspection of water sources for mosquito egg, larval, and pupal populations.*
- *Identifying mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus, Zika, Yellow Fever and other diseases.*

Based upon the results of these efforts, the Mosquito Program strategically applies environmentally sound treatments to affected breeding areas.

The Mosquito Program is staffed by one (1) Vector Control supervisor, two (2) full-time and two (2) part-time vector control technicians, and one (1) part-time administrative assistant, all working under the Environmental Health Director and City Health Officer.

## A LONG-TERM APPROACH FOR LOCAL MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL SERVICES

### *This Survey Was Sent to You Because...*

The Mosquito Program is gathering local property owners' input on providing additional funding needed to ensure the current level of mosquito and vector control services and securing those services into the future.

The Mosquito Program is primarily funded by revenue from a small portion of state sales taxes and vehicle license fees. This funding fluctuates and is not reliable year to year.

Although the Mosquito Program has a small budget and has reduced its staffing, the current costs of operating the Mosquito Program are higher than the funding. Without additional funding, the Mosquito Program will have to cut services and staff. Further, the Mosquito Program's workload is increasing because of more un-maintained properties (e.g., "green" residential swimming pools and ponds) and additional surveillance and treatment costs resulting from an increase in invasive mosquito species (e.g., *Yellow Fever Mosquito and Asian Tiger Mosquito*). Overall the number of service requests in 2018 was more than three times higher than the previous year.

As a result, the Mosquito Program is considering proposing a benefit assessment initiative for a new dedicated revenue source. Funding could only be used on mosquito and vector control services, and could not be taken away by the State or other agencies.

### **What is a Vector?**

**A vector is any kind of animal that can carry and transmit diseases or cause harm to humans and other animals, including mosquitoes, rodents, fleas, ticks, ants, etc.**



*Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes were first detected in Long Beach in 2017. The *Aedes* can spread Dengue and Yellow Fevers, and other diseases

To respond online, scan the QR CODE or visit [www.inputlocal.com](http://www.inputlocal.com) and enter the codes found on the front of your survey

# Long Beach Mosquito and Vector Control

## Information Fact Sheet (continued)

### Continue Current Mosquito Control Services

An annual mosquito and vector control assessment would enable the Mosquito Program to continue to provide, and potentially improve current mosquito, vector and disease control services.

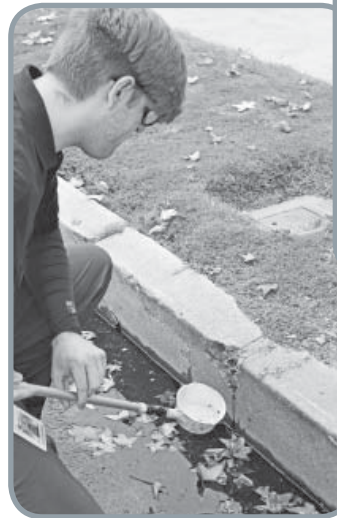
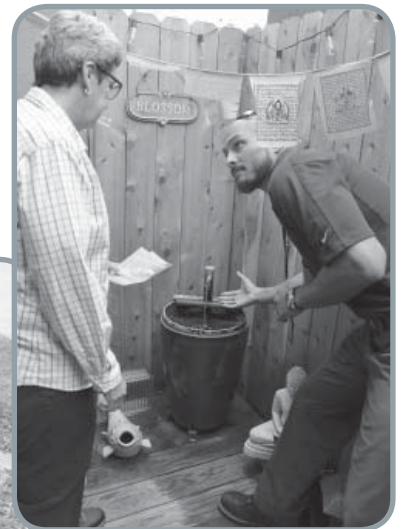
Services include:

- **Test for diseases** that can be carried by mosquitoes.
- **Monitoring for disease causing vectors** in the community; e.g., mosquitoes, fleas, ticks, rodents, etc.
- **Control mosquito sources** with environmentally sound products wherever mosquito larvae or pupae are found.
- **Rapidly respond to service requests** concerning mosquitoes, insects, rodents, and other vectors.
- **Investigate and identify flies, fleas, ticks and rodents.**
- **Provide community education** on vector borne disease and on how to treat and prevent vector sources.
- **Provide free mosquito-eating fish** to property owners for backyard ponds and other water features.

### A Proposed Benefit Assessment Initiative

If a local Mosquito Control benefit assessment initiative is approved by property owners, it would strengthen the current funding the Mosquito Program receives. With this funding, the Mosquito Program could continue to provide the current year-round services of surveillance and control of mosquitoes and other vectors, and potentially improve its testing for emerging diseases in Long Beach.

Vector Control specialists provide information to residents on how to prevent mosquito breeding sources



Mosquito surveillance: sampling standing water for mosquito larvae



Placing rodent traps (above) and mosquito traps (left) to monitor the presence of vectors or disease



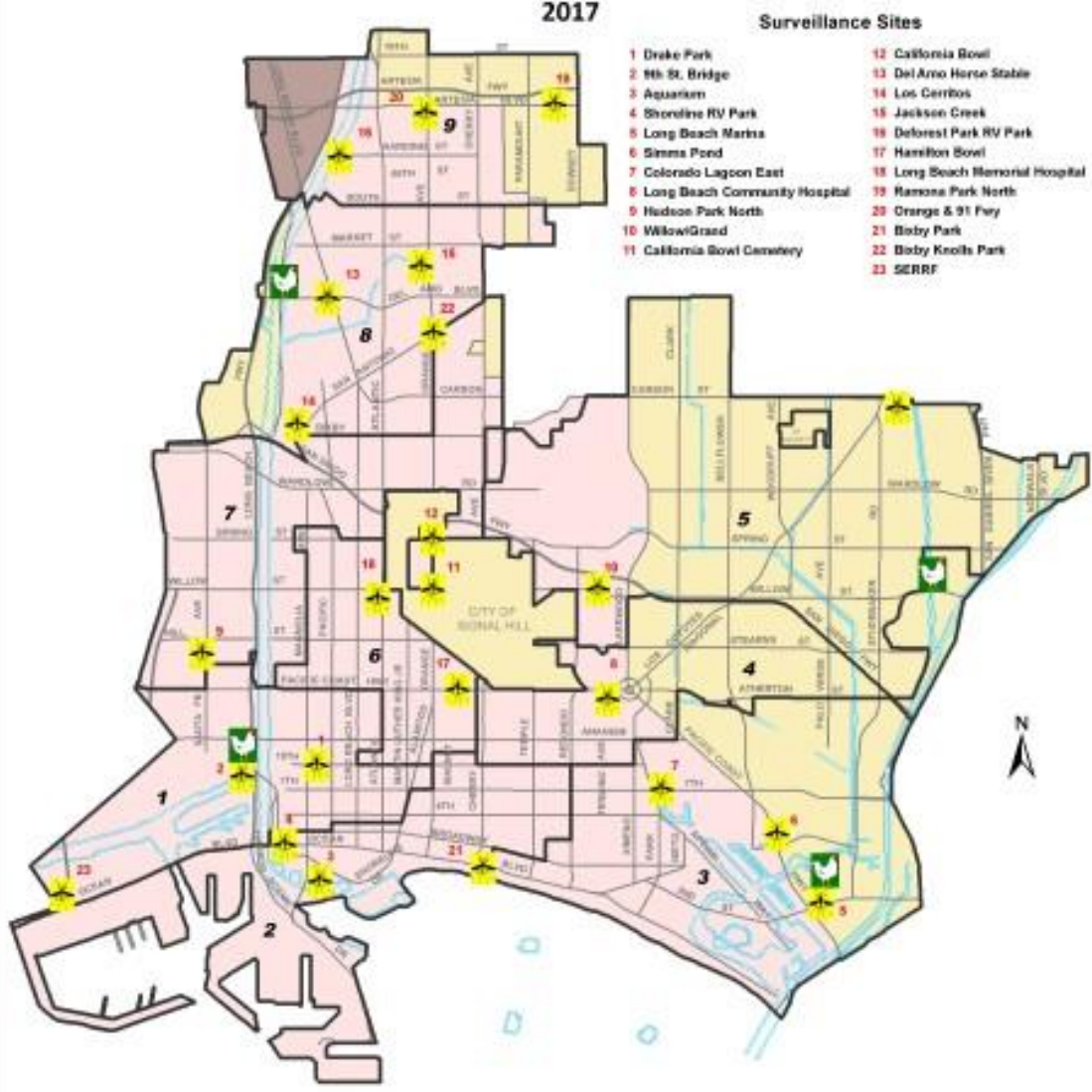
### Common Sources of Mosquitoes

Even a small amount of standing water can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Ponds, lakes, animal troughs, wetlands, and neglected “green” swimming pools are potential hot spots that need regular surveillance and are treated when necessary. Water can also collect in abandoned fountains, old tires, sewage leaks from faulty plumbing, and other stagnant water sources.

These sources of mosquito production reduce the quality of life around them because of increased mosquito biting and the threat of spreading disease to humans and animals. Remember, some local mosquito species can fly up to 20 miles to find a blood meal and are extremely aggressive.



**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL  
2017**



- Surveillance Sites**
- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Drake Park                    | 12 California Bowl              |
| 2 9th St. Bridge                | 13 DelArno Horse Stable         |
| 3 Aquarium                      | 14 Los Cerritos                 |
| 4 Shoreline RV Park             | 15 Jackson Creek                |
| 5 Long Beach Marina             | 16 DeForest Park RV Park        |
| 6 Simms Pond                    | 17 Hamilton Bowl                |
| 7 Colorado Lagoon East          | 18 Long Beach Memorial Hospital |
| 8 Long Beach Community Hospital | 19 Ramona Park North            |
| 9 Hudson Park North             | 20 Orange & 91 Ferry            |
| 10 WillowGrand                  | 21 Boby Park                    |
| 11 California Bowl Cemetery     | 22 Boby Knolls Park             |
|                                 | 23 SERRF                        |



TECHNOLOGY SERVICES - GIS

DATA PROVIDED BY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- COUNCIL DISTRICTS
- COMPTON MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
- GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT
- LONG BEACH HEALTH DEPT-VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM

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