

COMPTON CREEK MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

WEATHER

Temperatures at Noon: High – 88 Low – 72 Average – 74

Days Clear – 12 Overcast – 8

Service Requests – 3 Rain – None

OPERATIONAL REPORT

The District's inspection and spraying operations continued throughout the month. District personnel are in the field each day inspecting known mosquito-breeding sources, searching for unknown sources, speaking with residents about their roles in preventing mosquitoes, and using chemical control where and if necessary. September also marks the end of the District’s seasonal employee’s work for the year, his contract runs from April 1st through September 30th of each year.

The problems associated with neglected swimming pools remain minimal. This month, the District performed 1 swimming pool inspection, with no mosquito breeding found.

Public areas of the District are always the priority focus of the District every month. Now that mosquito breeding has been found in the District's street gutters, box drains, and catch basins in certain areas, District personnel are putting most of their time and efforts into containing these sources. Virtually all streets in the District have some standing water, and these areas are of the most concern to the District. This month, 321 inspections and treatments were performed in these public areas.

District personnel performed one inspection of the Compton Creek and found no mosquito breeding. Water continues to flow freely, eliminating any chance for mosquito breeding to occur.

Regarding mosquito-borne diseases, such as West Nile virus (WNV), historically, the late summer months produce the highest WNV results. After being bitten by a mosquito, it can take up to 6 to 8 weeks for the virus to take effect on humans, meaning that anyone impacted was bitten by a mosquito sometime in July or August, the warmest time of the summer throughout California and when mosquitoes are most prevalent. At the time of this writing, there are currently 183 human cases and 6 fatalities. There has been no evidence of WNV in the District and only a nominal amount in Los Angeles County. Most of the state's WNV infections originate in Tulare County in the San Joaquin Valley in Central California.

MANAGER'S REPORT

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The District has continued its public awareness campaign to promote public safety through effective mosquito control and shared public responsibility. Social media platforms are updated daily with information, stories, and examples of how to protect yourself from mosquitoes. District personnel are also in the field every day distributing mosquito awareness literature that promotes the District's message directly to residents. Finally, when available, the District participates in City-wide events with an informational booth, literature about mosquitoes, and swag for all attendees.

COVID-19

Both District employees are fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. However, as a health safeguard, District personnel continue to wear masks and gloves when out in public. District vehicles will continue to be equipped with soap bottles, disposable gloves, homemade masks, and respirators, if needed, for spraying purposes. District personnel are always masked and practice social distancing while working in the District shop and backyard.

NEW DISTRICT EMPLOYEE

On September 25th, Mr. John Franklin began working for the District. During the week, Mr. Franklin was provided study materials in anticipation of his taking the State Certification Applicators License test to be held on November 16th, 2023. Mr. Franklin and I have been talking about District operations and functions and he is being updated on all District activities now and in the future.

AGENDAIZED BOARD APPROVAL ITEMS

The one item is Board consideration and/or approval to amend the signature cards for the Districts' checking account and safety deposit box with the Bank of America branch located at 518 S. Long Beach Blvd. in Compton. With the General Manager preparing to retire and Board Secretary Comer as the only other signatory, I propose that these signature cards be updated. During the Board discussion of this item, it will need to be decided by the Board to nominate/volunteer someone to be added to these cards.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

The Mosquito & Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) will be holding its annual conference in Monterey, CA, January 21-24, 2024. The conference hotel has limited rooms. If anybody would like to attend this conference, please let me know so that arrangements can be made.

The American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) will be hosting their annual conference from March 4-8, 2024, at the Sheraton Downtown, Dallas Texas. Registration is open and if anyone would like to attend, please let me know.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER

DISTRICT BUILDING REHAHBILITATION PROJECT

In the August Board meeting, the Board was updated regarding the District Rehabilitation Project, notably, working with District Counsel to write a Request for Proposal (RFP) for architectural services. During October, Board President Ali and District staff conducted virtual meetings with District counsel to clearly define District needs and to finalize the RFP. The finalized RFP have been sent to various architectural firms with a due date back to the District of November 14. When the RFPs are received, District counsel, Board President Ali and District staff will confer and select the best proposal and this proposal will be presented to the Board at the November Board meeting for Board affirmation.

During the month, the motor to the front gate failed, the company that installed the motor was called and it was determined that the batteries that are charged from the solar panel have failed. The batteries have been ordered and we are waiting for them to be delivered to the gate company so they may install them on the gate for the District.

During the month, the District's Auditors visited the District office to compile all financial data so they may complete the audit for the fiscal year of 2022-2023. All information was presented to the auditor, including county financial data, the checkbook ledger, requisitions, accountant reports, state and federal tax reports and agendas and minutes of the fiscal year. Assistant to the General Manager Franklin was present during this time to learn what documents are needed and other details so that he will be able to work to produce the District audits in future fiscal years.

I would like to update the Board about the condition of the fishponds in the rear of the District building. About ten years ago, the south pond developed a water leak that left the pond unusable. At that time, a concrete contractor was hired to determine where the leak was and repair it. The contractor determined the leak was coming from the drain valve and drainpipe, which are located inside the ponds. Knowing both ponds are the same age and in the same shape, approximately fifty years, I had the contractor look and repair both ponds, which required cutting open the concrete, disabling the drain valve, replacing the drainpipes, and repairing the concrete.

About five years ago, the south pond began leaking again and I have kept it empty since then. Around the same time, the north pond, the pond with the fish, began leaking, but at a much smaller rate. When discovered, District personnel emptied the pond, cleaned it with a high-pressure washer and applied waterproof coating. This repair lasted for only a short time and since then, District personnel have had to put in water each day.

Regretfully, I should have brought this to the Board's attention so that the problem could be addressed and resolved, and for not bringing this to the board's attention, I am discomforted. To help see this project through, I will continue to stay on to get this project started.

During October, the District's operational fishpond began leaking at such a substantial rate that water needs to be added twice a day to keep the fish safe. This is a problem that needs to be addressed, possibly before or in conjunction with the beginning of the District's Rehab project. This will be discussed with District counsel.

The fishponds, like the building, were constructed in 1962 and needs obvious repairs and I am proposing that repairing and upgrading of the fishponds or finding a different solution to maintain the District's supply of mosquitofish be included with the Districts' Rehab project to upgrade and modernize the District building. I believe this matter will need to be addressed soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchel R. Weinbaum
General Manager