



**Notice of Availability (NOA) of a
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the
San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District's
Integrated Mosquito and Vector Management Program and Notice of Public
Meeting to Provide Comments**

SCH# 2012052063

Date: July 19, 2018

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible, Trustee, and Interested Agencies; and other
Interested Parties and Individuals

Draft PEIR: Notice is hereby given that the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District (District or SMCMVCD) as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has prepared a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). This Draft PEIR addresses the potential environmental impacts that would result from implementation of an updated range of vector control activities that would enhance the District's ongoing Integrated Mosquito and Vector Management Program (IMVMP or Program). The District prepared a Draft PEIR and circulated it for public review in March 2016. This revised Draft PEIR contains new information and revisions to the PEIR chapters and responds to public comments received on the previous Draft PEIR in a new Appendix F. The entire Draft PEIR is being recirculated, not just the revised portions. Because comment letters on the previously circulated Draft PEIR were addressed in Appendix F, they do not need to be resubmitted. After consideration of any new public comments received on this revised Draft PEIR, the Final PEIR, additional comments on the Final PEIR, the District Board of Trustees will decide whether to certify the Final PEIR and approve an updated IMVMP Plan.

Public Hearing: One public hearing will be held on **August 22, 2018, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm**, to receive agency and public comments on the content of the Draft PEIR for the Proposed Program at: Veterans Memorial Recreation Center, Community Room #2, 251 City Park Way, San Bruno, CA 94066. Comments received will be summarized by staff for inclusion in the Final EIR. Those who wish to have their verbatim comments incorporated into the Final EIR must submit their comments in writing.

Document Availability: The Draft PEIR is available on the District's website: www.smcmvcd.org, at the District's office (1351 Rollins Road, Burlingame, CA 94010) between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm (hard copy), as a CD upon request, and on CD at the following 12 public libraries:

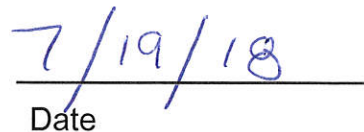
Belmont Library, 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont, CA 94002
Brisbane Library, 250 Visitacion Ave. Brisbane, CA 94005
Burlingame Library, 480 Primrose Rd. Burlingame CA 94010
Daly City Library, 40 Wembley Dr. Daly City, CA 94015
East Palo Alto Library, 2415 University Ave. East Palo Alto, CA 94303
Foster City Library, 1000 East Hillsdale Blvd. Foster City, CA 94404
Half Moon Bay Library, 620 Correas St. Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St. Menlo Park, CA 94025
Millbrae Library, 1 Liberty Ave Millbrae, CA 94030
Pacifica Sharp Park Library, 104 Hilton Way Pacifica, CA 94044
Portola Valley Library, 965 Portola Rd Portola Valley, CA 94028
Redwood City Library, 1044 Middlefield Rd. Redwood City, CA 94062
San Bruno Library, 701 Angus St. San Bruno, CA 94066
San Carlos Library, 600 Elm St. San Carlos, CA 94070
San Mateo City Library, 205 West Hillsdale Blvd. San Mateo CA 94403
San Mateo County Library, 55 West 3rd Ave San Mateo, CA94402
South San Francisco Library, 840 West Orange Ave South San Francisco, CA 94080
Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Rd. Woodside, CA 94062

The Draft IMVMP Plan (with appendices) is also posted on the website: www.smcmvcd.org. It is described in detail in Chapter 2 of the PEIR.

Documents referenced in the Draft PEIR may be viewed at the District office by appointment (call 650-344-8592) during normal business hours, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Project files will be maintained at this location.

Public Comment Period: Due to the time limits mandated by State law, **your written comments must be sent at the earliest possible date during the 47-day comment period and no later than by 5:00 P.M. on September 4, 2018** to be considered. Please send your comments in writing to: Dr. Chindi Peavey, District Manager, 1351 Rollins Road, Burlingame, CA 94010; or fax: (650) 344-3843; or email: peir@smcmvcd.org


Chindi Peavey, District Manager


Date

Project Location: The Integrated Mosquito and Vector Management Program’s project area or “Program Area” consists of the SMCMVCD’s “Service Area” boundaries, which includes all lands within the County of San Mateo. The Program Area also includes the adjacent counties of San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz where assistance may be provided upon request and under the auspices of the adjacent county’s mosquito and vector control agency. Under California law, the District can take direct but limited action in adjacent areas bordering its Service Area if needed to provide control of mosquitoes and other vectors originating in adjacent areas for the health and safety of residents of the immediate Service Area [California Health and Safety Code Section 2240].

Project Description: The District was established in 1913 to reduce the risk of vector-borne disease and discomfort to the residents of its Service Area. For over 100 years, the District has used a suite of control strategies and methods that consist of public education; surveillance;

vegetation management; physical, biological, and chemical controls; and other nonchemical control/trapping to protect the public from mosquitos and other vectors such as rats/other rodents, yellow jacket wasps, paper wasps, ticks and other stinging/biting insects, and noxious weeds (the current "Program"). The implementation of the current Program prioritizes the physical and biological control components, in part to reduce the use of chemical treatments pursuant to the District's integrated vector management philosophy.

In addition to being nuisances, by disrupting human activities and enjoyment of public and private areas, certain vectors can transmit a number of diseases. The diseases of most concern in the Program Area are West Nile virus (WNV), western equine encephalomyelitis (WEE), St. Louis encephalitis (SLE), dog heartworm, and malaria, which are transmitted by mosquitoes; rabies transmitted by skunks and bats; plague and murine typhus transmitted by fleas on rodents; leptospirosis and hantavirus pulmonary syndrome associated with house mice, deer mice and other rodents; and Lyme disease, Babesiosis, and Ehrlichiosis transmitted by ticks. District policy is to identify those species that are currently disease vectors, to recommend techniques for their prevention and control, and to anticipate and minimize any new interactions between mosquitoes/vectors and humans.

The District proposes to formalize and update its Program via the adoption of a Draft Integrated Mosquito and Vector Management Program Plan (IMVMP Plan). This plan describes the full scope of the District's current control strategies and methods which include six types of coordinated, technical activities called components, described in more detail below, along with public education: Surveillance, Physical Control; Vegetation Management; Biological Control; Chemical Control; and Other Nonchemical Control/Trapping.

The proposed Draft IMVMP Plan includes an updated range of vector control activities that would enhance the District's ongoing Program, by including additional herbicide, insecticide, and rodenticide formulations to ensure that the most effective physical and chemical methods are available for use if needed. New products have been developed to address pesticide resistance to some active ingredients, improvements in product safety, and cost. In addition, the District seeks to enhance its application methods by allowing for additional management/application equipment such as a tractor for earthwork and a fixed-wing aircraft for spraying large areas to control disease-carrying mosquitoes. The District has prepared a Draft PEIR to evaluate the potential environmental impacts that would result from the continuation of the existing Program along with the implementation of this updated range of vector control activities described in the Draft IMVMP Plan. No construction is proposed on any listed hazardous materials sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Surveillance is conducted for vector populations and habitats, disease pathogens, and public distress associated with vectors. Vector surveillance activities include field counting, and trapping, along with the laboratory analysis of vectors, their hosts, and pathogens to evaluate populations and disease threats; field inspection of known or suspected habitats where vectors live; maintenance of paths and the limited use of all-terrain vehicles to access vector habitat; analysis of public service requests and surveys; and other methods of data collection.

Physical Control is the management of vector habitat, especially through water control and maintenance or improvement of channels, tide gates, levees, and other water control facilities to improve circulation. Source control activities are designed to reduce mosquito and vector populations through changes in the physical environment which reduce its habitat suitability for vectors, or which improve habitat or mobility of natural predators of vectors. No construction is

proposed on any listed hazardous materials sites pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Vegetation Management includes activities which impact vector habitat through manipulation of vegetation using chemical and nonchemical methods to reduce the habitat value of sites for mosquitoes and other vectors or to aid production or dispersal of vector predators, as well as to allow District staff's access to vector habitat for surveillance and other control activities. Vegetation removal or thinning primarily occurs in aquatic habitats to assist with the control of mosquitoes and in terrestrial habitats to help with the control of other vectors.

Biological Control is the District's application of mosquitofish in mosquito breeding habitat is the most commonly used biological control agent for mosquitoes in the world. Due to concerns that mosquitofish may potentially impact red-legged frog and tiger salamander populations, District policy is to limit the use of mosquitofish to ornamental fish ponds, water troughs, water gardens, fountains, unused swimming pools, and other types of isolated man-made ponds that do not provide habitat that could support native species and that are not connected to natural waterways.

Chemical Control involves the application of nonpersistent, selective insecticides to directly reduce larval or adult mosquito populations and other invertebrate threats to public health (e.g., yellow jacket wasps and ticks); and the use of rodenticides to control rats. Secure, tamper-proof bait stations or other accepted methods of rodent baiting are conducted in areas with severe rodent infestations. If and when inspections reveal that mosquitoes or other vector populations are present at levels that trigger the District's criteria for chemical control – based on the vector's abundance, density, species composition, proximity to human settlements, water temperature, presence of predators, and other factors – District staff will apply pesticides to the site in strict accordance with the pesticide label instructions and District best management practices (BMPs).

Other Nonchemical Control/Trapping is primarily education on prevention and the trapping of rodents and nuisance wildlife that pose a threat to public health and welfare.

Alternatives to the proposed Program evaluated in the Draft PEIR include the following: No Program (continuing the existing Program without enhancements), Do Nothing Program, Reduced Chemical Control Program, Reduced Vegetation Management Program, and No Chemical Control Program.

Summary of Potentially Significant Impacts:

The PEIR evaluates potential environmental impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) and focuses on the following environmental resources and concerns: human health, ecological health, land use, public services/hazard response, water quality (surface and ground waters), air quality, climate change (greenhouse gas production), noise, and biological resources. The analyses conclude that most of the environmental impacts are either "no impact" or a "less-than-significant impact." One air quality impact was determined to be potentially significant but could be mitigated to less than significant. The Chemical Control Alternative could subject people to objectionable odors from a few active ingredients. The adult insect materials have been used in the current Program without complaints. However, it is possible that complaints could occur in the future. The potential use of the mosquito adulticide naled poses a potentially significant and unavoidable impact to surface water quality in a pesticide-impaired water body for a brief period. It would be used only if adult mosquitoes were resistant to the more commonly used pesticide formulations.