

Santa Cruz County Mosquito and Vector Control CSA 53

Mission Statement: To protect public health and quality of life through County-wide, professional, responsive and efficient services.

The County of Santa Cruz provides a program through the Agricultural Commissioner Department for the management of mosquitoes and disease vectors outside the home. Vectors are any insect or other arthropod, rodent or other animal of public health significance capable of causing human discomfort, injury, or capable of transmitting the causative agents of human disease. Besides mosquitoes these include wasps and yellowjackets, flies, other stinging insects, rats, flies, mites, ticks and the diseases they may transmit. The program uses environmentally sound integrated pest management techniques in the surveillance, prevention, abatement, and control of vectors and meets or exceeds all federal, state and local compliances.

Services Include:

- Mosquito control
- Surveillance for vector-borne diseases
- Residential yard and property inspections
- Stinging insect control in public places
- Mosquitofish for fish ponds, water troughs, unused pools and spas
- Public education outreach

The program puts response to resident requests before all other activities. Abatement powers are authorized within County Code (Chapter 1.14) and the California Health and Safety Code (Division 3, Chapter 1, Section 2000 *et seq.*). The program and services are integrated and cooperative with other related regional and state public health agencies.

Cost:

Available through an assessment levied annually and approved by non-exempt property owners; no impact on County General Fund; no additional cost to residents of the County.

Governed:

The SCCMVC is administered by the Board of Supervisors who approve an annual budget and assessment rates. The Agricultural Commissioner directs the program.

Formed:

SCCMVC was established in the South County by Board resolution in 1993 through CA Government Code (25210) in response to many years of public demand for relief from pestiferous mosquitoes. In August 2005 property owners approved expansion of the program County-wide including the annexation of remaining cities.

Hours:

Monday through Friday 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

The SCCMVC is subject to County furlough and holiday schedules.