



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

### February 4, 2015

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Michele Gardner, Town Clerk

**SUBJECT:** Presentation of a Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District Report by Fairfax Trustee Frank Egger

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Accept presentation

#### **DISCUSSION**

Frank Egger, Fairfax Trustee for the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District, ("M/SM&VCD"), asked that the attached report be included in the packet to accompany his oral presentation at tonight's Town Council meeting.

The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District is governed by a Board of Trustees, with each member representing a city or county at large. Trustees are appointed by their city council or county to serve a two or four year term. Mr. Egger was appointed by the Town Council in 2011 to a four-year term to represent Fairfax on the M/SM&VCD Board of Trustees.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District Report

RECEIVED

JAN 28 2015

TOWN OF FAIRFAX

To: Mayor and Town Council  
Re: Marin-Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District (M/SM&VCD)  
From: Fairfax Trustee Frank Egger

The biggest issue facing the M/SM&VCD is funding the operation and paying down unfunded pension (\$18+ million) and post employment benefit liabilities (\$7+ million). Last fiscal year the District overspent its revenues by \$924,219 and this year's deficit is projected at \$463,000. I have been saying we either have to change the way we do business and reduce expenses or raise taxes or a combination of both. I also suggested that we look at some form of consolidation with Mendocino and Napa counties. The direction the District is going is increasing next year's budget by 38% and raising taxes as much as 59% (which I disagree with). While the District's total tax rate is in the \$22 range the current proposals are to add from \$9 to \$12 in the form of a new benefit assessment district. The District is in the process of running a Prop 218 tax increase and all taxpayers will be receiving the proposed assessment in the mail.

One of the purposes of raising the taxes significantly is to pay down the MCERA's unfunded pension and post employment benefits liabilities. While we have read about San Rafael's, Novato Fire Protection District's and Marin County's unfunded MCERA liabilities, there has been very little in the newspapers about the mosquito district's unfunded MCERA liabilities.

For the past 10 years the District has had a special agreement that restricts the use of pesticides in West Marin which was to expire Dec 31st, 2014. The District's proposal was to modify the agreement to allow pesticides like Methoprene for adulticiding. The first week of Jan a number of trustees and staff met with the West Marin Mosquito Council in Bolinas. The turnout was large and very vociferous in opposing the introduction of any new toxic treatments for West Marin. We have extended the current agreement until Dec 31st, 2015 while we look for alternatives. (A few years ago I made an attempt to have Fairfax added to the West Marin agreement but that went no-where.)

As a Trustee I have continually pushed for safer products for both larvaciding (prevention) and adulticiding (killing) in our mosquito applications. West Nile Virus remains an issue as it is not going away but how we treat for mosquitoes gives us some options. Pesticide companies are finally realizing that people are demanding that we use safer products and a few of them including ADAPCO and Clarke are out with what is called BT products that can be used around organic farms (Marin county has 40,000 acres of certified organic farms).

Yesterday at the mosquito conference in Monterey one of the producers, Application Dynamics, was displaying their newest product that will shortly have certification from the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) for an organic adulticide. It is Paramount produced by "greenspire Global, Inc." and is totally organic.

The M/SM&VCD is considered to be one of the most progressive mosquito districts in the country as we continually strive to do business in a safer maner. As your representative, I have worked for over 10 years, sometimes a lonely voice, opposed to highly toxic products and always trying to have inert and other ingredients disclosed. Quite offer 5% of the pesticide content is listed on the label and 95% is not and my position remains the same, public has a right to know.

Thank you for allowing me to be Fairfax's Fairfax's representative.

Frank Egger