



**TOWN OF FAIRFAX
STAFF REPORT
December 2, 2015**

TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk
SUBJECT: Annual Report regarding the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District

RECOMMENDATION

Accept report.

DISCUSSION

The Fairfax representative to the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District, Mr. Frank Egger, will be making an oral report to the Council this evening. He submitted the attached written report.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENT

Annual Report

DATE: Nov 23, 2015 for meeting of Dec 2, 2015
TO: Fairfax mayor and town council
SUBJECT: Annual Marin-Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District report
FROM: Fairfax trustee Frank Egger

2015 turned out to be a busy year for the M/SM&VCD, a Prop 218 ballot measure in the Spring, the completion and release of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and the expiration of the use of pesticides agreement between the M/SM&VCD and the West Marin Mosquito Council.

Early on it became clear to me that the ballot measure was flawed. The M/SM&VCD paid around \$500,000 for the whole process, consultants, surveys, balloting and legal advice. This is what happens when consultants drive the actions of boards and commissions. I had urged the District to not go forward with what the consultants were telling them saying a 59% tax increase and 39% increase in the 2015-16 budget would not fly. I had recommended we use a combination of budget cuts and a smaller tax increase and had argued for a more straight forward ballot election. In the end, the ballot measure lost with no organized opposition. We ended up revising the budget, kept the existing employees on, did not make a large payment to the county pension system (MCERA) to buy down unfunded liabilities and we used reserves. There is a committee looking at alternatives and I expect another tax measure in 2016.

As a result of the 6th Circuit Decision (Ohio Cotton Growers v the US EPA) anyone, including a mosquito district, who applies pesticides to waters of the US must have a NPDES Permit. California mosquito districts have been preparing their PEIRs for a couple of years now. The M/SM&VCD's PEIR is close to 1000 pages. Some of its data is a little out of date, ie. Glyphosate info is from 1995 and does not include the WHO report.

"The District may use glyphosate on a limited, infrequent basis for mosquito source control. Although some recent concerns have been expressed about possible sublethal effects of glyphosate products (e.g., endocrine disruption in humans, see Section 7.2.5.1.), it is virtually nontoxic to mammals and practically nontoxic to birds, fish, and invertebrates on an acute basis. Claims that glyphosate is destroying bee and butterfly populations have not been substantiated. The use of glyphosate to control milkweed, which is a severe problem for farmers, may be connected to loss of foraging vegetation and, thereby, indirectly impacting butterfly populations. However, this effect is an indirect effect and not actually toxicity to the butterflies from glyphosate. With BMPs and targeted application techniques, glyphosate can be used safely when an adequate buffer (>15 feet) to water sources is maintained (glyphosate is much more toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates than to mammals, birds, or terrestrial invertebrates) or when a formulation specifically designed for use in aquatic environments (Aquamaster) is used."

The district held public hearings in San Rafael, Santa Rosa and Petaluma and only one person showed up to comment at two of the meetings. The DPEIR will be before the district at either the Dec or Jan meeting.

As levees along the bay are breached for the purpose of restoring wetlands, the work of the M/SM&VCD will expand and I have continually urged the district to become more aggressive in obtaining reimbursements from CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife and other local, state and federal agencies for whom we perform services.

From time to time I urge the district to rotate meetings between both counties, Marin and Sonoma, but don't get any support for it so the board always meets in Cotati. I also asked that we request legislation to allow alternates to the trustees but no support for that either. For example the Nov meeting was rescheduled by the board president from the 11th to the 18th because of a holiday. I told the manager the board president should have polled trustees on available dates as I had a conflict on 3rd Wed, the Ross Valley Sanitary District meets then. I have only missed a couple of meetings in the 11 years I have served on the board of trustees.

The West Marin Mosquito Council/M-SM&VCD agreement which expires Dec 31st, 2015 was before the board at the Nov meeting. The proposed agreement allows the use of Methoprene for septic tanks in West Marin and the West Marin communities are vehemently against the introduction of Methoprene. It will be back at the Dec meeting for a 3 month extension and then the final vote at the March meeting. We have a couple of alternatives that are OMRI approved but we will run out of in mid-year and the other requires additional treatments requiring more service calls. I have supported the West Marin agreement prohibiting pesticides that are not OMRI (Organic Materials Review Institute) acceptable since its inception in 2008 or 2009.

I'm always looking for organic or OMRI certified products for our mosquito district to use and earlier this year met a vendor down in Monterey at the annual mosquito district's conference. She has just emailed me with two new products, one organic and ready to go and the other pending before the EPA, both would be OMRI Certified and could solve the West Marin dilemma we are in where the West Marin Mosquito Council does not want Methoprene used. Below is a portion of the email I received from Nicole at Applied Dynamics. I forwarded her full email to Phil Smith, our manager.

She wrote..."I hope you had a good mosquito season. As I had promised, I would contact you when the new organic mosquito lines were available. The adulticide will be available and in the coming weeks maybe even the first part of January we will have the larvicides. We have two lines, one is paramount this one is still going through the EPA, it is available overseas however. The other is ready to go and has been approved. **It is a 25b and will be certified organic. The name of this line is Genesis, a larvicide and adulticide.**"

As your appointee, I am always on the lookout for organic products to use in mosquito control. Thank you, Frank