

## **Northern Salinas Valley Mosquito Abatement District**



### **Summary:**

The Northern Salinas Valley Mosquito Abatement District (NSVMAD) was established in December 1950 at the request of residents with the authority of the Health and Safety code. The District covers 458 square miles of northern Monterey County. The District's nine-member Board of Trustees serve the residents of Salinas, Marina, Seaside, Sand City, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, and the unincorporated areas of Northern Monterey County. As an independent special district, the NSVMAD is supported by ad valorem property tax revenues and a parcel fee that was voted in by the residents of Monterey County in 2014. The 2013 - 2014 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury (MCCGJ) reported on the NSVMAD. Recently with the discovery in Florida of mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus, it was prudent to evaluate the possibility of a potential Zika virus outbreak in Monterey County. This concern was heightened with the discovery, on July 30, 2016 of a travel related Zika infection in Monterey County. As a result, the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury (MCCGJ) chose to interview the Director of the NSVMAD to gather updated information.

### **Background:**

The Zika virus infection occurred when the individual traveled to Central America in June/July and became ill upon returning to the United States. The individual sought medical care from a primary care provider, who requested Zika virus testing from the Monterey County Health

Department. Zika virus infection was confirmed through laboratory testing. Fortunately, the individual recovered from the infection.

Zika virus is transmitted to people by *Aedes aegypti* and *albopictus* mosquitoes, as well as through sexual contact and blood transfusions. Zika virus can also be passed from mother to baby during pregnancy and delivery. Zika virus infection during pregnancy has been linked to microcephaly, fetal demise, and visual and hearing impairments in impacted areas globally. Most people infected with Zika virus do not have any symptoms. Among those who do, the most common are fever, rash, joint pain, headache, and redness of the eyes. Symptoms usually begin three to seven days after exposure and last several days to a week. Treatment is limited to supportive care including rest and use of medications to reduce fever and joint pain.

The NSVMAD has a biologist on staff, and consultation services can be provided to agencies planning to alter and/or restore wetland habitat in order to minimize mosquito production in the finished project. The NSVMAD reviews proposed development plans to minimize the possibility of the creation of new mosquito breeding sources.

The service area of the NSVMAD does not cover all of Monterey County, only the area shown in the attached map.

**Facts:**

1. The service area of the NSVMAD does not extend to all of Monterey County. The Monterey County coastal area and South County are not supported by their service. NSVMAD would prefer to support the entire county.

2. Mosquito monitoring by the NSVMAD is done through several methods to include, Sentinel Chicken flocks, insect traps and more. The insect traps are examined for more than just mosquitos; they also look for glassy wing sharpshooters and other insects.

**Findings:**

- F 1. The MCCGJ found the Director to be extremely knowledgeable about Zika virus and many other mosquito borne illness, such as Avian Flu. His knowledge extends to the best methods of mosquito control using chemicals that do not impact the environment, humans, or animals that reside in that area.

**Recommendations:**

- R 1. The NSVMAD should be funded to continue to monitor North County.
- R 2. Should a necessity be found, the district should be extended to cover all of Monterey County.

**Responses Requested:**

None.

# NSVMAD Service Area

