



# VECTOR AND DISEASE CONTROL MEASURE

by the Alameda County Vector Control Services District

## Watch for Your Mailed Ballot Starting May 11

### Information Fact Sheet

Starting May 11 ballots will be mailed to property owners in Alameda County for a proposed Vector and Disease Control Measure. If approved, this measure would fund services to:

- **Use environmentally safe methods to control vectors,**
- **Provide disease surveillance and control,**
- **Service requests for wildlife management and rabies control,**
- **Control vectors, like rats and other rodents, and the diseases they carry,**

#### What Is the Proposed Vector and Disease Control Measure?

The Alameda County Vector Control Services District's mission is to prevent human disease, injury, and discomfort by controlling insects, rats and other rodents and emerging diseases in the County. The District is funded by a fixed annual assessment that has not increased in ten years. Over this time, the District's costs and responsibilities have increased and for the last several years the District has been operating at a deficit.

This measure allows property owners in Alameda County to decide if the District should receive additional funding for its disease surveillance and vector control services. If approved, this measure would fund the year-round control of rodents and disease prevention services including the testing for vector-borne diseases such as hantavirus, plague, tularemia, and Lyme disease.

#### What is a Vector?

A vector is any animal capable of transmitting the causative agent of human disease or capable of producing human discomfort or injury, including but not limited to, mosquitoes, flies, mites, ticks, other arthropods, and small mammals and other vertebrates.



*The District monitors and controls Norway rats that inhabit broken sewer lines.*



*A field services inspector pulls a manhole cover while inspecting for rats.*

#### How Do Vector Services Affect the Environment?

The District's abatement and disease control philosophy is based on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). These steps involve properly identifying the pest and deploying options that will eliminate, or reduce food, water, and harborage for the pests to proliferate and transmit diseases. The District believes that pests and disease vectors are managed by managing the environment and with the judicious use of least-toxic pesticides. The District's approach is consistent with the current Environmental Protection Agency recommendations and the Alameda County IPM policy.

#### The District's Strategic Response Plan

The Alameda Vector Control Services District's Vector and Disease prevention Strategic Response Plan is comprised of the following three elements:

- Educate the public on current methods of prevention, exclusion, and suppression of insect, rodent and nuisance pests.
- Enforce public health laws and ordinances against pests that cause sufficient damage to warrant public health attention and intervention.
- Maintain effective surveillance for vector and rodent-borne diseases and their arthropod vectors; develop strategies and priorities for control and prevention activities; and make recommendations for reduction of human exposure and risk.

## What Are the Specifics of the Measure?

The measure would provide funding for the following services year-round:

**Rat and Rodent Control** - Last year, the District responded to over 1,800 service requests from residents for rats. District staff educates property owners how to make environmental and structural modifications that make their homes and business less attractive to these unwanted pests.

**Wildlife Management and Rabies Control** - The District works with property owners to make their property unattractive to raccoons, skunks, coyotes, bats and other animals that transmit rabies. Rabies testing is also provided when public health risk is involved.

**Solid Waste and Nuisance Problems** - Complaints regarding solid waste handling and storage problems involving garbage, human or animal waste, and odors at residential properties and businesses are investigated by District staff.

**Disease Surveillance and Control** - Services include arthropod sampling, field surveillance, data collection, investigation, determination of cause, and preventative recommendations to lower the risk and exposure to animal and human diseases.

**Legal Enforcement** - The District enforces state and local laws, regulations, and ordinances to protect the public from vectors and nuisance related problems.

## How Do I Know the Funds Will Be Used Wisely and for Their Intended Purpose?

The measure includes several layers of accountability to ensure that all funds are expended properly on vector and disease control:

- Funds can only be spent on vector and disease control services within the same areas of Alameda County in which they are raised.
- The budget for the services proposed for each year will be presented to the public annually, including a professional audit.
- The budget and services will be overseen by the County Board of Supervisors.

## What are the Proposed Rates?

Single family residential properties on one acre or less would contribute \$4.08 per year, while other residential property types are assessed according to the number of dwelling units and size. Commercial, industrial, and agriculture properties are assessed according to their parcel size and property type.

## How Will This Measure Be Decided?

This measure will be decided by property owners through a mailed ballot process established by the Taxpayer's Right To Vote On Taxes Act of 1996 (approved by voters as Proposition 218). Please watch for your ballot by mail in mid May.

## Additional Information

For additional information on the Vector and Disease Control Measure, please contact the Alameda County Vector Control Services District at (510) 567-6800.



Alameda County Vector Services District Boundary

**Look for your ballot in your mail box after May 11.**