March 26, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Please join me in welcoming the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District and its District Manager, Philip Smith, who will provide a brief overview of the District’s programs and services at the March 26 Board of Supervisors meeting.

The District operates its Integrated Vector Management Plan throughout Marin County, protecting the public’s health and welfare from risks posed by mosquitoes, ticks, rodents and other vectors of disease.

Working closely with the County’s Departments of Public Health, as well as Public Works and numerous water and sanitary districts, the District focuses on education in the K-12 schools and public outreach as primary risk reduction and communication strategies. In 2016, the District certified a Full Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and published a new set of industry-leading best management practices.

Using specialized laboratory and field equipment, staff conducts ongoing surveillance for the invasive species of Aedes mosquitoes that are now established in the Central Valley. Fortunately, these unwelcome species that can transmit Zika, Dengue fever, Chikungunya and other diseases have not yet been detected in Marin County.

Where treatments are necessary to control the populations of larval or adult mosquitoes, the District strives to use the most environmentally sound practices and materials. District staff maintains an excellent working relationship with organic growers and the beekeeping community. They also sit on the Wetlands Regional Monitoring program steering committee.

District personnel increasingly encounter growing effects associated with climate change on vector populations and habitats associated with climate change, and, as a result, are working with researchers to make adaptations.

We’re looking forward to learning more about the District’s work and the evolving issues it faces.

Kathrin Sears
President, Marin County Board of Supervisors