

David Schmidt, President, John Sanbrook, Secretary, Lakhvir Ghag, John Link, Wade Kirchner, Ricky Samayoa and Austin Bishop
Board of Trustees:
Documents & materials relating to an open session agenda item that are provided to the SYMVCD Board less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting will be available for public inspection. Please contact the District Office at 530 674-5456 or kvalencia@sutter-yubamvcd.org

SUTTER-YUBA MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT AGENDA

701 Bogue Road, Yuba City, CA. (530) 674-5456

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 4:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Emergency Agenda Items
4. Consent Agenda:
The Consent Calendar groups together those items which are considered noncontroversial or for which prior policy direction has been given to staff and that requires only routine action by the Board. The Chair will advise the audience that the matters may be adopted in total by one motion; however, the Board may, at its option or upon request of a member of the public, consider any matter separately.
 - A. Minutes of January 9, 2025
 - B. Bills for January 2025
5. Approval of the Annual Audit for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, ending June 30, 2024.
Smith and Newell will make a short presentation and answer questions.
6. Approval of job description update for Entomologist.
7. Approval of a new position, job description, and salary range for Biological Control Technician.
8. Declaration of District Property as Surplus: Board approval is needed to declare District property as surplus so it can be sold at auction.
9. Approval to create an ad hoc committee to review data regarding options for moving permanent employees under a defined contribution retirement plan into a defined benefit plan.
10. Public Comments
11. Manager Comments: The manager will report on the following:
 - a) Staff and Trustees will provide written reports on the MVCAC Annual Conference held in Oakland, CA, January 26-29, 2025
 - b) VCJPA Annual Workshop February 26-28, 2025
 - c) MVCAC Legislative Day March 24, 2025
 - d) District activities
12. Trustee Comments
13. Adjournment

Any person, who needs a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, should contact the District at (530) 674-5456 or by fax at (530) 674-5534. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least 72 hours prior to the meeting for the District to make reasonable arrangements and ensure accessibility.

Sutter-Yuba Mosquito and Vector control District

JANUARY 2025 BILLS

Name	Date	Amount	Other	Total
ATT	"	127.03		127.03
Darrell Jew	"	61.66		61.66
Golden Bear Alarms	"	125.00		125.00
Home Depot	"	2,213.47		2,213.47
Joseph Songer	"	58.77		58.77
Larry Geweke	"	217.13		217.13
NAPA Auto Parts	"	208.83		208.83
Pape Machinery	"	67.02		67.02
Prudential Overall Supply	"	570.48		570.48
Redding Web	"	109.00		109.00
Santa Ana, Alfonso	"	649.00		649.00
Shadd Janitorial Supply	"	319.12		319.12
Sufter-Yuba MVCD/ EDD	"		10,627.00	10,627.00
Sutter-Yuba MVCD/ Petty Cash	"	58.68		58.68
UniFirst Corporation	"	320.15		320.15
US Bank	"	9,114.54		9,114.54
WEX Bank	"	563.59		563.59
Yuba City Scrap and Steel	"	207.13		207.13
TOTAL		14,990.60	10,627.00	25,617.60

The above referred to list is herein certified as a true and correct list of allowed claims which have been allowed by the Board of Trustees as dated:02/06/2025

Signature

Signature

JANUARY 9, 2025 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District Board of Trustees was called to order by Board President David Schmidl at 4:30 P.M., Thursday, January 9, 2025.

PRESENT: President Schmidl, Secretary Sanbrook, Bishop, Ghag, Kirchner, Link, Samayoa

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Abshier, General Foreman Songer and Ken Meyers of Meyers Investment Group.

EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEMS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes of December 12, 2024
- B. Bills for December 2024
- C. Merit increase for Joe Songer, General Foreman. Mr. Songer has completed his probationary period and is being recommended for a salary increase to be effective January 1, 2025. The salary increase will be from step 5 to step 6 of the salary range schedule for General Foreman.
- D. Merit increase for Bill Terbush, Field Foreman. Mr. Terbush is being recommended for a salary increase to be effective January 1, 2025. The salary increase will be from step 5 to step 6 of the salary range schedule for Field Foreman.
- E. Merit increase for Shane Loyd, Field Foreman. Mr. Loyd has completed his probationary period and is being recommended for a salary increase to be effective January 1, 2025. The salary increase will be from step 1 to step 2 of the salary range schedule for Field Foreman.
- F. Merit increase for Brenden Oates, Mosquito Control Technician I. Mr. Oates has completed two years of service with the District and has obtained his VCT certification in categories A and B, and is being recommended for a salary increase to be effective January 1, 2025. The salary increase will be from MCT I step 2 to MCT II step 2 of the salary range schedule for Mosquito Control Technician II.

A motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Kirchner approving the consent agenda. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025: A motion was made by Ghag and seconded by Samayoa approving the continuation of David Schmidl as Board President and John Sanbrook as Board Secretary. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN INVESTMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024: Meyers addressed the Board stating the plan had a good year. The portfolio finished positive at 7.73% for 2024. Meyers remarked that BIM/Mid Cap, which was on his watch list due to poor returns, was down 1.25% on the year. Meyers recommended moving funds out of the BIM/Mid Cap account and into both the Fiduciary Large Cap and Sun Coast accounts. Samayoa expressed concern for selling stocks at a low price. Abshier mentioned that leaving some money in the BIM/Mid Cap fund could be an option, and Meyers stated that \$100,000 would be a reasonable amount to leave in the fund. Samayoa asked what distribution is recommended for the liquidated funds from BIM/Mid Cap. Meyers answered that ideally the Sun Coast and Fiduciary Large Cap accounts would be made equal in total value. A motion was made by Samayoa and seconded by Link to transfer approximately \$480,000 from BIM/Mid Cap to split between the Sun Coast and Fiduciary Large Cap accounts, leaving approximately \$100,000 in the BIM/Mid Cap account. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-09-25: FIRST INSTALLMENT OF YUBA COUNTY TAXES: A motion was made by Samayoa and seconded by Kirchner approving Resolution No. 01-09-25, requesting the first installment of Yuba County taxes. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

PROPERTY FLOOD INSURANCE RATES FOR 2025: Our current flood insurance policy is good through February 26th, 2025. Abshier explained that the renewal premiums of \$10,329 in total would cover eight buildings owned by the District and their contents including both buildings on Market Street in Yuba City. The only increase in premium was for the 905 Market Street property. The cost of coverage increased 1.2% over the premium paid in 2024. Abshier noted we are rated zone X, a minimum risk zone. Currently the level of Shasta Lake is at 78% capacity and

Oroville Lake is at 71% capacity. The snowpack for the Central Sierra is 91% of normal as of January 7, 2025, and 37% of the April 1, 2025 average. A motion was made by Kirchner and seconded by Bishop to approve the purchase of flood insurance for one year at \$10,329. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MANAGER COMMENTS:

- Abshier reported on the status of the annual audit from Smith & Newell. The Audit is seeing delays due to records still needed from the Sutter County Auditor's Office. Other special districts have also been affected by the delays. The audit is expected to be ready for Board approval at the February meeting. The audit must be approved and submitted by March 31.
- Abshier reported he is waiting for results from the District's actuary. An employee census has been provided to facilitate a comparative analysis of potential transitions from a defined contribution to a defined benefit plan. At this time there are no new updates.
- The conflict-of-interest Form 700 needs to be completed by all Trustees.
- The annual Spray Safe meeting will be attended by District staff on Wednesday, January 15, 2025. District staff will receive required continuing education hours for both DPR and CDPH licenses.
- The Sutter County Ag Department will conduct an annual compliance inspection late January or early February.
- The MVCAC Annual Conference will be held in Oakland, January 26-29, 2025. For Trustees attending there had been a field trip planned by the Alameda County Mosquito Control District. It has been cancelled due to very low sign ups. However, there will be sessions on the VCJPA programs and the Brown Act, which Trustees should find valuable.
- MVCAC Legislative Day will be held Tuesday March 25th, 2025.
- The annual Waters of the U.S. Report is due to the State Water Board by February 28, 2025.
- The District staff is making great progress on an extensive winter projects list, including vehicle maintenance, grounds and building maintenance, prepping items for auction, and retro-fitting for LED lighting fixtures among many others.
- Delivery of three new pick-up trucks is expected at the end of this month or early February.
- The District's aircraft contractor, Russ Stocker, has decided to retire. The District has some options moving forward regarding contracted aircraft services, and Abshier remains optimistic about securing a suitable successor.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Sanbrook and seconded by Link to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

President Schmidl adjourned the meeting.

John Sanbrook, Board Secretary

Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District
P.O. Box 726
Yuba City, CA 95992
530-674-5456

Entomologist

NATURE OF WORK:

Under the general direction of the Manager, this position plans and provides professional entomological services for the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito and Vector Control District and performs related work as required. The entomologist also provides biological and other related scientific knowledge in program evaluation, guidance and development. This role is a supervisory position and is responsible for the operations of the Entomology Department.

EXAMPLES OF TASKS:

- Plans and conducts studies and surveys of vector sources, population ecology and species distribution in the District; establishes a system of vector population measurement and supervises collection, identification, recording and evaluation of findings; performs biological and chemical laboratory work and makes evaluations thereof; prepares reports, including maps, graphs, and analyses for program evaluation, development and planning
- Plans deployment of surveillance traps; collects specimens, sorts and identifies mosquitoes by use of dissecting microscope
- Performs droplet characterization utilizing slides or cards
- Conducts field tests to determine efficiency of pesticides used under field conditions; determines and develops methods of pesticide application and prepares manuals or instructions for standard operating procedures; participates in the development of equipment for spray applications; investigates resistance of vectors to pesticides used and recommends changes as indicated; conducts bottle bioassays; conducts stability tests on pesticide concentrates and computes pesticide dosage and application rates; calibrates power, hand and aircraft equipment used in spraying; evaluates effects of chemical operations on humans, livestock and plant life and takes appropriate action
- Collects and maintains data using electronic or other related devices. Maintains data as required. Enters data into California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Gateway and District's data management system
- Evaluates effectiveness of vector control methods, conducts studies thereof,

- develops modifications of operational techniques, and provides scientific consultation to program operations
- Works with supervisory personnel in determining and surveying land and water use and participates in the development of programs to reduce or eliminate environmental factors favorable to vector production; conducts studies and investigations to evaluate effectiveness of source-reduction program
 - Trains and instructs field personnel in evaluating vector problems, making field identification of vector species and stages, determination of sources, and application of pesticides; prepares training manuals and entomological collections for training and operational purposes
 - Works with and provides consultation in entomology and vector ecology to soil conservation districts, flood control districts, and other public and private organizations involved in activities that have a bearing on vector control; provides consultation to District management, personnel and the public
 - Participates in a public relations and community education program, attends and addresses community meetings, and prepares educational material for distribution
 - Keeps informed of current developments in entomology and mosquito and vector control; reads the professional literature and participates in professional associations; works with CDPH, Sutter and Yuba County Health Departments, university extension personnel and others in resolving scientific problems and obtaining consultations
 - Participates in the MVCAC; may make presentations of trial results
 - Drives automotive equipment, such as pickup trucks outfitted with powered and hand spray equipment; keeps equipment in working order, performing simple maintenance and repairs; may be assigned on an as-needed basis to assist in mechanical maintenance, repairs and fabrication; may be assigned to make adulticide or larvicide applications with ULV or other application equipment; may assist in maintenance and repair of buildings and grounds
 - Rears and maintain chicken flocks
 - Collect samples and specimens, processes for submission for virus testing
 - Maintains colony mosquitoes for efficiency testing

KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

- Knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito and Vector Control District
- Thorough knowledge of entomology, including natural history and ecology of vectors; wide knowledge of pesticides and their application and effects, and hazards to animal and plant life. Wide knowledge of biological, chemical and physical sciences and general knowledge of research techniques and investigative methods
- Ability to plan and conduct general surveys and specific studies, including the

- development and use of reporting and recordkeeping systems; ability to apply scientific principles in and outside of the lab
- Ability to work cooperatively and effectively with other District employees and the public
 - Ability to operate a vehicle while observing legal and defensive driving practices

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND ESSENTIAL DUTIES

The position of Entomologist will require work which is varied in nature. The Entomologist:

- Must be sighted with adequate vision (natural or corrected) to read, write, and drive in both daytime and nighttime hours.
- Must be able to speak, hear, understand, and write effectively in English
- Must be able to regularly operate a motor vehicle (both standard and automatic transmission).
- Must be able to regularly manipulate small parts and tools.
- Must be able to regularly bend at the knees and waist to adjust or repair traps or collect sentinel chicken blood samples.
- Must be able to regularly traverse uneven ground such as fields, dirt banks, stream banks, rice fields, and shallow ponds.
- Must be able to occasionally reach overhead.
- Must be able to periodically perform repetitive motion associated with computer usage.
- Must be able to periodically assist in the lifting of objects weighing in excess of 75 pounds.
- Must be able to periodically lift objects weighing up to 50 pounds, such as chicken feed, and transport for distances of up to 50 feet.
- Must be able to periodically climb ladders or fences.
- Must be able to periodically work in high or low outdoor temperatures.

Periodically = Activity or condition exists less than 25% of the time

Occasionally = Activity or condition exists 25-50% of the time

Regularly = Activity or condition exists 50-75% of the time

Frequently = Activity or condition exists more than 75% of the time

EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION AND SPECIAL NOTES

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a major in entomology, biological or chemical science, entomological field experience and some supervisory experience is desirable.

Current California Driver's License required. Must be insurable by the District's insurance carrier.

Must apply for and obtain certificates in the areas of Pesticide Laws and Mosquito Control within one year of employment, and Vertebrate Vector Control and Invertebrate Vector Control within 3 years of employment issued by the California State Department of Public Health and maintain continuing education credits thereafter. Apply and obtain QAC from Department of Pesticide Regulation and maintain thereafter.

Upon employment, you will need to submit verification of your legal right to work in the United States.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Employee may be exposed to pesticides, chemicals, communicable diseases, rough terrain, vicious animals, poisonous plants and animals, and other health hazards, inclement weather conditions, and verbal confrontations from members of the public. The employee may be required to work non-standard work schedules including early morning/late evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications: Interested individuals must notify the District in writing, complete and return a District Application (available on line at www.sutter-yubamvcd.org/employment-opportunities) and include a current resume. The closing date for this position is March 31, 2025

Examination Information: Applicants selected for interviews will be based on a qualifying evaluation of training, education and experience shown in the application information. Those candidates selected for interviews will receive a paneled oral interview to assess training, experience and ability to perform the duties of the position. Candidates selected as finalists will be subject to background checks as part of the examination process.

The provisions of this job announcement do not constitute an expressed or implied contract. Any provision contained in this announcement may be modified or revoked. Acceptance of an application does not mean qualification for an interview.

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Biological Control Technician

Nature of Work:

Under the general direction of the General Foreman and under the direct supervision of the Fisheries Specialist, this position is an entry level position that assists in providing for maintenance of the District's fish farm and the propagation, collection and distribution of mosquitofish for vector control purposes for the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito and Vector Control District and to do related work as required. Additional responsibilities will include working under the Entomologist to provide assistance in the deployment, collection and processing of mosquito and insect specimens, maintenance of chicken flocks and coops, collection of comb blood samples, and dead bird collection and processing. As well as help in the Operations Department as needed.

Examples of Duties:

- Assists in maintaining facilities and equipment utilized in the propagation and holding of mosquitofish.
- Assists in the biological control building and grounds, including the cleaning, servicing and/or fabrication of materials and equipment.
- Assists in collecting, transporting and distribution of mosquitofish.
- Works with property owners and other members of the public
- Drives automotive equipment, such as pickup trucks outfitted with oxygen tanks and regulators, fish holding tanks and powered and hand equipment, and keeps vehicle and equipment in safe, clean condition.
- Performs simple maintenance and repairs; may be assigned to assist in maintenance and repair of District vehicles, equipment, buildings and grounds
- Performs maintenance activities at the fish farm as needed; such duties include, but are not limited to, application of herbicides, mowing, removing unwanted vegetation with a weed eater and feeding mosquitofish
- Perform predator control/harassment at the fish farm, which may include the use of bird scare devices and firearms such as a pellet gun or shotgun, as directed by supervisor
- Performs maintenance, construction, and fabrication as needed at any district property.
- Assist Fisheries Specialist in preparation of training or materials at public events.

- Assists the Entomology department with the following examples but not limited to, deploying traps, collecting mosquito samples, processing and/or delivery of collections, picks up dead birds for testing, assists in colony mosquito maintenance, assists with the collection of sentinel chicken blood samples, assists with chicken flock and coop maintenance.
- Assists with pesticide efficacy trials.
- Assists in Operations. Uses vehicles and equipment to apply pesticides ranging from individual applications to wide area applications. May be assigned to respond to service requests or make adulticide or larvicide applications with ULV or other application equipment. May be assigned to vehicle and equipment maintenance.

Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills:

- Knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito and Vector Control District
- Ability to learn mechanics and techniques of fish rearing and water quality maintenance.
- Ability to learn the biology, behaviors & common diseases of mosquitofish.
- Ability to work outside for long periods of time during the summer months, including weekends, early mornings and evenings/nights in hot, humid weather; wade in bodies of water such as: ponds (clean & polluted), rice fields, seepage areas and roadside ditches
- Ability to learn the culturing, transporting and application of biological control agents, such as mosquitofish, for the control of mosquitoes and other vectors
- Ability to work cooperatively and effectively with other employees and the public
- Ability to operate a vehicle while observing legal and defensive driving practices
- Ability to make arithmetical computations accurately
- Ability to service, repair and operate District equipment, instruments, and surveillance devices
- Ability to learn to operate an ATV, UTV, tractors, mowers, forklift or similar equipment
- Ability to obtain weapons training provided by the District
- Working knowledge of databases, word-processing, and spreadsheet computer applications
- Ability to carry out oral and written instructions
- Ability to interpret and apply applicable District rules, regulations, and policies
- Ability to read, understand, and follow pesticide label directions with training

Physical Demands and Essential Duties:

The position of Biological Control Technician will require work that is varied in nature. The Biological Control Technician:

- Must be sighted with adequate vision (natural or corrected) to read, write, and drive in both daytime and nighttime hours.
- Must be able to speak, hear and understand, and write effectively, in English.
- Must be able to regularly operate a motor vehicle (both standard and automatic transmission), ATVs, forklift and tractors.
- Must be able to regularly manipulate small parts and tools.

- Must be able to regularly bend at the knees and waist to perform repairs or make pesticide applications.
- Must be able to regularly traverse uneven ground such as fields, dirt banks, stream banks, rice fields, and shallow ponds.
- Must be able to occasionally reach overhead.
- Must be able to periodically perform repetitive motion associated with computer usage.
- Must be able to periodically assist in the lifting of heavy and unwieldy objects, such as wet seines, power sprayers, construction materials and other objects.
- Must be able to periodically lift objects, including but not limited to, chicken feed and fish feed, pesticide containers, back cans and buckets of mosquitofish. These tasks may be performed while traversing rough, steep, brushy, muddy and/or slippery terrain. These activities often occur on a daily basis, and several times daily.
- Must be able to periodically handle and operate chain saws, brush cutters and weed eaters, while swinging them with a side-to-side motion; must be able to periodically operate push lawn mowers and dump the cut grass from the catcher.
- Must be able to periodically harvest mosquitofish, which involves pulling and dragging seines and nets through water, from the pond edge, while wearing synthetic rubber chest waders.
- Must be able to periodically climb ladders or fences.
- Must be able to periodically work in high or low outdoor temperatures.

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Occasionally = Activity or condition exists 25-50% of the time.

Regularly = Activity or condition exists 50-75% of the time.

Frequently = Activity or condition exists more than 75% of the time.

Experience, Education, and Special Notes:

Equivalent to graduation from high school.

Must be at least 18 years of age to handle chemicals and/or pesticides.

Current California Driver's License required. Must be insurable with the District's insurance carrier.

Possession of Vector Control Technician Certificate, category A and B, administered by the State of California Department of Health Services; or obtained by passing the associated exams within no more than three attempts.

Upon employment, you will need to submit verification of your legal right to work in the United States.

Working Conditions

Incumbent may be exposed to pesticides, chemicals, communicable diseases, rough terrain, vicious animals, poisonous plants and animals, airborne dust and allergens, and

other health hazards, inclement weather conditions, and verbal confrontations from members of the public. The individual may be required to work non-standard work schedules including weekends, holidays, late nights or early mornings on short notice or changes that may be due to high climatic temperatures, and seasonally amended workday start and end times.

Applications: Interested individuals must complete and return a District Application and may include a current resume. The closing date for this position is March 31, 2025.

Examination Information: Applicants selected for interviews will be based on a qualifying evaluation of training, education and experience shown in the application information. Those candidates selected for interviews will receive a paneled oral interview to assess training, experience and ability to perform the duties of the position. Candidates selected as finalists will be subject to background and reference checks as part of the examination process.

The provisions of this job announcement do not constitute an expressed or implied contract. Any provision contained in this announcement may be modified or revoked. Acceptance of an application does not mean qualification for an interview.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Trustee In-Lieu Fee Information

The District is not part of an “accountable plan” and therefore trustee in lieu fees must be taxed.

The provisions of an accountable plans are as follows:

1. Your expenses must have a business connection-that is, you must have paid or incurred deductible expenses while performing services as an employee of your employer.
2. You must adequately account to your employer for these expenses within a reasonable period of time.
3. You must return any excess reimbursement or allowance within a reasonable period of time.

Because we do not collect receipts for business-related expenses, nor do we require you to return any excess allowance we do not fall under an accountable plan. For this reason, the IRS consider this fee as income and must be reported on a W-2 and be taxed.

The \$100 in lieu fee is too small an amount to have federal and state income tax taken out of it normally, however Medicare and Social Security tax will come out of it.

Current Medicare tax is 1.45%

Current Social Security tax is 6.20%

Trustee in lieu monthly fee will look like:

\$100.00
- \$6.20
- <u>\$1.45</u>
\$92.35

See IRS Publication 463 for further details.

To all Trustee at YubaSutter Vector Board.

Your role as a member of Board of Trustee.

If you are new to the Board, ask for Orientation.

Ask for a facility tour. If you are a veteran, take another tour of facility. Staff would appreciate it!

Do become engaged in the process and be On any committees!

Learn about mosquitos as much as possible.

Do your research and ask questions.

Vector control can be complicated and staff doesn't expect you to be expert. If you have questions. Call the district manager and ask! They will be more than happy to answer your inquiry and provide insight and clarity or put you in touch with the right person.

You have professional staff let them do there work. It's your job to investigate things, question and learn.

You may not give direction to staff, that's the roll of the board, unless the board provide that authority to you.

The board sets the direction and policy. Staff Carrie's it out.

Promote on environment of respect and civility.

Free of harassment, bullying and inappropriate

Conduct and behavior.

Communicate openly with respect and consideration for others, valuing a devtrdity of view and openions.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws.

At conference respect and follow the rules and policies of the host staff, including those of the motel, convention center contracted facility or other venue.

Know the difference between a policy, procedure and regulation.

They each play a critical role in the day to day operation of your district.

Difference between a policy, procedure and regulation?

A policy is the basic principles by which an organization is guided. Essentially an organization is permitted to do.

A procedure can be defined as.

A particular way of accomplishing something.

It is series of steps to be followed as a consistent and repetitive approach or cycle to accomplish an end result.

Regulation is detailed direction devilities by the legislative body, staff and law that put policy into practice. They tell how by whom, where, and when things can or cannot be done.

Basically what one can and cannot do.

Example

Review investment policy annually, follow the state law.

Ensure your district reserve policy is up to date. You don't want reserve to be at risk of seizure.

Travel

Review your travel policy need to be clear and comprehensive.

Have a policy for rules of decorum.

Brown Act requirement

Also known as a Sunshine law.

The Ralph M. Brown Act is a California law that guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meeting of local legislature bodies.

California government code 54950 et seq. it

Is an act of the California state legislature, authored by Assemblyman Ralph M. Brown and passed in 1953.

Ask legal council for direction if you need clarity.

I like to thank the board for giving me opportunity to learn how to control mosquitos and Mvacac policies and research on vector control

Thank you

Lakhvir Ghag

Memorandum

TO: Trustees and Staff of the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito & Vector Control District

FROM: Ricky Samayoa, Trustee

DATE: February 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Report on MVCAC Conference Attendance and Recommendations

I attended the 93rd Annual Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) Conference in Oakland from January 26 to 29, 2025. I would like to share my experiences and recommendations for our district's future initiatives.

Conference Takeaways

The conference highlighted the complexity of vector control beyond mosquito management. Key takeaways include:

1. Technological Advancements

- Potential integration of drones into our operations
- Use of software like VectorSurf for enhanced data analysis

2. Community Engagement

- Utilizing platforms such as Nextdoor for cost-effective, targeted messaging
- Exploring educational programs for 8th-grade students, similar to those offered by Vector Education

3. Data-Driven Approaches

- Implementing sophisticated tracking and analysis tools to better understand mosquito populations and treatment effectiveness

4. Environmental Considerations

- Addressing long-term effects of pesticide use on mosquito genetics and the environment
- Considering more sustainable control methods

2025 MVCAC Annual Conference Summary

As a representative of the Sutter-Yuba Mosquito and Vector Control District, I attended the 2025 MVCAC Annual Conference in Oakland, California, from January 26-29, 2025. This event gathered experts from across the state to discuss advancements and challenges in mosquito and vector control.

The conference focused on integrated mosquito management and innovative strategies to tackle public health challenges across all levels of the industry. Sessions covered a diverse range of topics, including dengue fever, managerial approaches, biological control programs, and data visualization tools. Experts in the field shared insights on emerging technologies, including the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in control programs and the use of the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT). Presentations also addressed policy developments for tackling complex mosquito challenges, along with best practices for optimizing insecticide applications to enhance vector control efforts.

I had the opportunity to present field cage trials conducted by myself and other Sutter-Yuba staff members. My presentation focused on the evaluation of Ultra Low Volume applications using our current urban mosquito control insecticide alongside another insecticide being considered for program integration. The primary focus of this trial was the *Aedes aegypti* species, though comparative analysis included both colony and wild-caught mosquitoes. Additional presentations in this session examined successes and challenges in invasive *Aedes* control, including the use of SIT for population suppression.

I found the conference especially valuable for networking with industry partners and vendors, as well as colleagues from other districts across the state. It provided invaluable insights into current and future mosquito control initiatives, reinforcing the importance of collaboration among professionals in the field. The knowledge gained will support ongoing efforts to enhance our mosquito control strategies.

Prepared by: Joseph Songer

2025 MVCAC Annual Conference

As incoming MVCAC President, part of my responsibilities included planning the annual conference in Oakland, California, January 26-29, 2025. This began months in advance, working with our association's management firm, AMG. My theme for the conference was, "Vector Control- a path to a more hospitable world". My welcome address and the ensuing conference focused on the concept that organized mosquito and vector control has, and continues to reduce disease threats, and that recognition should go to those engaged in this important work. I made an effort to recognize the full width of participants engaged in this work, including field and administrative staff, vehicle and equipment maintenance, IT, public health messaging, policy makers, and legislative advocates. Plenary session speakers presented on opportunities for the use of AI in mosquito control, security concerns with the use of drones, and dengue fever by Yuba Sutter County Health Officer, Dr. Phuong Luu. The keynote speaker was Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Dr. Phil Lounibos, of the Florida Medical Entomological Laboratory. Dr. Lounibos presented on numerous subjects including world-wide disease burdens from malaria and dengue, alternatives to chemical controls, invasive mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti* and *albopictus*, and an evolutionary expression in an obscure mosquito species (*Wyeomyia smithii*) that does not take a bloodmeal.

Sutter-Yuba staff, Joe Songer and Darrell Jew each presented during the symposia sessions. Mr. Jew presented an overview of our mosquitofish rearing program. Mr. Songer presented data from trials we conducted last summer, evaluating the effectiveness of two adult mosquito insecticides against *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.

Presentations on strategies employing sterile insect techniques, with both *Wolbachia* infected mosquitoes and irradiated male mosquitoes, showed suppression, indicating that these strategies could be part of a control program that should include conventional control measures as well.

The conference concluded with the MVCAC Board meeting. Action taken included ratification of the association's support for Dr. Erica Pan for Director of the California Department of Public Health, ratification of all committee charges, and appointment of liaison, Jeremy Wittie to the CCLHO. I provided a detailed report of the association's direction as decided at the 2024 December Planning meeting. Upcoming MVCAC meetings include 2025 Legislative Day and committee meetings March 24-26, and next year's annual conference in Palm Desert, February 1-4, 2026. The association treasurer gave a financial report, indicating that as approved, membership dues are scheduled to increase 2% next year and that revenues continue to meet the association's operating budget. A long discussion on whether to approve a New Professionals group as part of the MVCAC concluded with the formation of a working group. Concern was expressed that a Young Professionals group exists in the American Mosquito Control Association and has stunted relationship building with active membership, and delayed integration of those members into that association as a whole. The working group was formed to explore ways to approve such a group without leading to a delay in integration and engagement with the MVCAC committees.

Prepared by: Stephen Abshier



Darrell Jew
February 10, 2025
93rd Mosquito Vector Control Annual Conference (Oakland, CA)

Mike Saba from Orange County mosquito abatement who leads our Fisheries Symposium has collaborated with me and other leaders from fisheries departments in other counties including Alameda, Delta MVCD, Lake County, and Sac-Yolo for the last year to organize our fisheries symposium for the 93rd MVCAC. Our topics were discussed loosely from the beginning, throwing around ideas but soon solidified as our set dead line date drew near. Each topic focused on particular areas of our fisheries, thus diversifying our talks and making it not redundant to each other. Mike's great at giving us ample time and scheduling when it comes to developing our presentations and more importantly that they all upload to the new online program used by the MVCAC. This new online program has made it easier to upload our talks, posters, and other information as it made updating any info quicker vs the traditional booklets we used to use where we had to submit any info sooner due to the printing deadline. Before the final submission date of our presentations we all practiced our presentations to each other via zoom critiquing each other. This was very productive as it helped me reduce any redundant info, pics, and wording thus reducing my time down closer to 12 minutes. I have also practiced my presentation in front of my coworkers. This helped solidify any suggestions made by my fisheries symposium team because my coworkers are a better representation of an audience. My coworkers provided their input and further changes were made to my presentation.

Our Fisheries Symposium Presentations started around 3:45 pm, Monday. We all sat up front behind the speaker. Mike suggested this layout as it shows support and makes us more recognizable to the audience. Each presenter did very well even with minor technical difficulties. Overall I'd say the Fisheries Symposium went very well and we are happy contributing our knowledge to the 93rd MVCAC.

Presenter: Michelle-Ann Meas

From the Sewers to the Streets: Investigating Norway Rat Activity Above and Below Ground in the City of Oakland.

Norway rats arrived in 1776 with the transport of grain by Hessian troops. Norway rats are bigger with shorter tails vs the Roof rats are smaller with longer tails. Norway rats tend to be more aggressive in behavior and are more commonly found in aging sewer systems where they burrow. These rats thrive around areas with human activity. The study is to see how much above ground contact is attributed to travelling from sewer systems vs an established population. Alameda mosquito abatement uses rat bait in their sewer systems due to its low cost, limited public access and doesn't need public compliance. Eight thousand manholes were treated with bromadiolone rodenticide. Baiting helps with reducing rodent populations and this study finds that both above ground and below ground intervention is need to significantly reduce rodent activity and it also finds Norway rats are more associated with man holes and sewers systems vs the roof rat. Further studies are needed to determine pulse-baiting efficacy and data collection.