

PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

COUNCILMAN SMITH ANNOUNCES WEST NILE VIRUS RESOURCES, PREVENTION AND PROTOCOLS

Los Angeles – Councilman Greig Smith, City and County officials disseminated the most accurate and up-to-date information concerning the West Nile Virus in the City of Los Angeles on Wednesday. The Councilman was joined by The Department of Public Works, Bureaus of Sanitation and Street Services, as well as Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control and Los Angeles County Public Health.

Councilman Smith said: “This is a very serious epidemic throughout the United States, and we’ve recently confirmed the first death from the virus within the City of Los Angeles, in Northridge. People are understandably nervous and are seeking accurate and current information about what they can do to keep their families and pets safe from West Nile. They need to know who to call to report dead birds, or stagnant water problems and what they can do in their own homes.”

The Councilman introduced an aggressive legislative package to tackle stagnant water problems within the City. Further, the legislation asks the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance that will make it a citeable offense to leave stagnant water, which could cause a health hazard, on private property. It also includes a provision to direct the City’s Bureau of Sanitation to provide tracking information to the State of California for all dead birds that they collect through their dead animal pick-up program.

Basic prevention measures were detailed, and information packets were disseminated focussing on the five “Ds:”

- 1) Drain - standing water
- 2) Dusk and Dawn - times of day to remain indoors
- 3) Dress - in long sleeves and pants when outside
- 4) Doors and windows – should have tight-fitting screens
- 5) DEET – an ingredient to look for in your insect repellent

Councilman Smith stressed that though this is a serious and nationwide problem, Los Angeles is better prepared for this epidemic than anywhere else in the world.