

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 28, 2004 CONTACT: MITCHELL ENGLANDER AT 213-473-7012



COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH'S WEST NILE VIRUS ORDINANCE UNANIMOUSLY PASSES COUNCIL

Los Angeles – City Councilman Greig Smith sought and received unanimous support for a new Ordinance that will assist Los Angeles County Vector Control in their efforts to abate West Nile Virus. The Ordinance allows Vector Control to enter private property in order to abate mosquito-breeding activity in standing water. 80% of the City's stagnant water problems occur on private property.

Due to an urgency clause, the new Ordinance will take effect immediately, upon signature of the Mayor. The legislation provides a tool for Vector Control to more effectively and expeditiously abate standing water problems which could perpetuate the spread of West Nile; it is not punitive in nature. According to Vector Control, the big problems are swimming pools and spas that have been unattended – not the family pet's water bowl.

"I am pleased that the City Council acted definitively today to assist Vector Control in their mission to protect the citizens of Los Angeles from the West Nile Virus;" said Councilman Smith. He added: "It is still important for everyone of us to maintain our vigilance by wearing protective clothing, using repellents containing DEET, making sure door and window screens are tight fitting and in good shape and taking extra care at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active."