



# SHASTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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Manager

July 8th, 2016

## ***Mosquito Fish Serve an Important Role in Preventing Mosquito- Borne Diseases***

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District adheres to Integrated Vector Management (IVM) methodologies; defined by the WHO as a “rational decision-making process for the optimal use of resources for vector control.” At our District, we consider IVM as a tool box approach to mosquito and vector control; identifying the right tool or tools for every specific vector control issue. One of the tools available to the District in the mission to protect public health are biological control organisms; specifically mosquito-fish (*Gambusia affinis*).



Mosquito fish are currently the most effective biological tool available to mosquito and vector control professionals. *Gambusia affinis* are small guppy like fish that can eat several hundred mosquito larvae per day. Mosquito fish survive in a wide variety of habitats and water qualities, making them perfect for most man-made water features.

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*Our Mission: “To protect the public’s health from vector-borne disease and nuisance, through a comprehensive mosquito and vector control program focused on innovation, experience and efficiency”.*

District residents can get mosquito fish free of charge by either calling the District and requesting them (530) 365-3768 or navigating to the District website and issuing a service request <http://www.shastamosquito.org/service-request>. Fish are available for **delivery** only.

In addition to assisting the District in our control efforts by requesting mosquito fish for your water features, SMVCD staff urges residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites; reducing activity during the peak mosquito feeding times at dawn and dusk, wearing effective insect repellent, and staying behind screened windows and doors whenever possible.

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District advises the public to implement the **4 Ds** of protection:

- **D**rain any standing water that may produce mosquitoes, this includes flower pots, old tires, and buckets. Some species of mosquitoes can lay their eggs in very small sources of water, like a bottle cap.
- **D**efend yourself and your home by using an effective insect repellent and dressing protectively when outside and making sure screens on doors and windows are in good condition.
- **D**usk or Dawn avoid outside activities
- **D**ress in long sleeves and pants when mosquitoes are active.

For more information about SMVCD's services, West Nile virus or new emerging mosquito borne diseases like Zika virus, contact the Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District at (530) 365-3768 or visit [www.shastamosquito.org](http://www.shastamosquito.org)

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