

August 19, 2020

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER CAREFULLY! COST SHARE ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR MOSQUITO ABATEMENT COSTS ON YOUR PROPERTY ONLY IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM.

Dear Landowners:

For the past seventeen years the Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) and the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD) have worked together closely to make mosquito abatement cost sharing assistance available to participating Suisun Marsh private landowners. This year's program will require individual property landowners cost share at 50% of the required abatement costs. This fact reinforces the need for all landowners to participate in this year's program and coordinate closely with SCMAD Technicians and the SRCD Water Managers.

SCMAD / SRCD / Landowner Cost Share Arrangement:

If your property produces mosquitoes, and must be chemically treated (and you have followed the procedures outlined below), the following assistance ratio will apply:

SCMAD - Will pay 50% of the Total Cost of Treatment
Landowner - Will pay 50% of the Total Cost of Treatment

The overall success of this program is dependent upon cooperation between landowners, SCMAD, and SRCD. It is important that you follow all three steps listed below in order to qualify for cost-sharing assistance:

1. Landowners must be current with SRCD Maintenance Permit and Program Support fees.
2. The 2020 waiver form must be signed and returned to SCMAD prior to initiation of flood-up.
3. SRCD and SCMAD must be contacted and approve flooding 24 hours prior to opening any floodgates. Please contact both agencies when you flood individual ponds or if you flood your entire property all at once. If you do not notify **both** SRCD and SCMAD, you will be ineligible to participate.

Landowners who **do not** comply with the three steps above **will be responsible for 100% of the cost of mosquito abatement on their property.** If you have followed the steps above, and still produce mosquitoes, you will receive an invoice from SRCD for 50% of the total cost of abatement. Invoices must be paid to SRCD within 25 days of spraying. If you do not pay the invoiced amount within 25 days of the date of spraying, SCMAD will hold you responsible for (100%) the entire cost of the spraying.

Enclosed are the SCMAD Technician's cell phone numbers, the SRCD Water Manager's cell phone numbers and the SCMAD / SRCD office phone numbers. If you have not spoken to a SCMAD staff member or technician 24 hours prior to flooding your property, please contact the SCMAD office directly and ask to be put in contact with your technician. Communication and cooperation with SCMAD and SRCD staff may reduce or eliminate the production of mosquitoes within your ponds. Changes in landowner water management activities, such as draining a pond, may be necessary to assist in controlling adult mosquito production. The SRCD Water Managers can provide field assistance with these activities. Both SCMAD and SRCD will work closely with landowners to avoid or reduce mosquito abatement costs as much as possible.

SCMAD requires Waiver Signature and timely submittal:

A change in the California Health and Safety Code on January 1, 2003 eliminated the opportunity for a property owner who has incurred aerial abatement costs to request a post-abatement hearing and present evidence to the SCMAD Board of Trustees before recovery of costs could be enforced. Because the law no longer contains any reference to post-abatement hearings, a pre-abatement hearing will be necessary to recover the cost of abatement from duck club owners who refuse to pay their bill. This could be done by scheduling all clubs that have been historic producers of mosquitoes for abatement hearings prior to start of flooding but the process would be expensive, time-consuming, and in many cases completely unnecessary.

The SCMAD has created a waiver process (see attached) to negate the need for pre-abatement hearings for properties enrolled in the Fall Flood Program. **This waiver must be signed and returned to the SCMAD office before you open your floodgates.**

The 2020 Fall Flood Period Starts October 1, 2020:

This year's waterfowl season opens October 24, 2020. The Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) encourages those landowners with adequate water control to consider flooding selected areas earlier than October 1, 2020. The goal of this action is to provide habitat for early migrating waterfowl and waterfowl displaced from wetland areas outside the Marsh. This desire to benefit waterfowl is in direct conflict with the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District's (SCMAD) policy encouraging landowners to delay flooding as long as possible so that shorter days with cooler temperatures can help minimize mosquito production and potential conflict with citizens in adjacent communities. This has become increasingly important due to the presence of West Nile virus in Solano County. **If you wish to flood your property earlier than October 1, you will still be eligible to participate in the cost share program provided that you get prior approval to flood from your SCMAD Technician and participate in all the required elements of this program.** This conditional approval may require you to drain and re-flood your property to avoid abatement treatments.

Your cooperation in this program is essential to ensuring a reduction in the need for mosquito abatement. West Nile virus has received significant media coverage and the Suisun Marsh will again be under a microscope. It is in everyone's best interest to consider pond management actions that could help reduce mosquito production and public complaints. The Marsh is the first

place the public will blame for any source of mosquitoes. Mosquito complaint calls from the public have continued to decline these last few years largely due to the active participation by landowners and cooperative efforts of SRCD and SCMAD.

We look forward to working with you and welcome your calls if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this program.

Sincerely,

Steven Chappell
SRCD Executive Director

Richard Snyder
SCMAD Manager

*****SPRAYING FOR WEST NILE VIRUS MOSQUITOES***
LANDOWNERS PARTICIPATING IN THE 2020 FALL FLOOD PROGRAM**

Even if you comply with all of the program requirements and follow water management recommendations, aerial applications of pesticides (and possible subsequent treatments) may become necessary this year due to the presence of mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus. Predominately, there are two species of mosquitoes produced during fall flooding for duck season. One lays its eggs in moist soil where they may remain dormant for up to twenty years. Flooding up your club allows these mosquitoes to hatch off. By promptly draining your club most of the larvae will not survive and aerial spraying will be unnecessary. If draining and re-flooding the pond is not possible and mosquito larvae are present, then aerial applications of pesticides will be necessary. Once the ponds are flooded, the other species of mosquitoes lay their eggs on the surface of the water. If the eggs hatch and the weather remains warm, these mosquitoes have the potential to spread West Nile virus, thus generating the potential need for additional spraying. Once nighttime temperatures drop below forty degrees Fahrenheit, these mosquitoes become inactive. Consequently, the later you flood the less likely your club will need to be sprayed to control either of these species.

FLOODING YOUR PONDS?

**PLEASE CALL 24 HOURS PRIOR TO FLOODING AND INDICATE EXACTLY
WHICH AREAS WILL BE FLOODED**

POST THIS LIST OF NUMBERS BY YOUR CLUB PHONE

SCMAD Mosquito Technicians

Gary Dula or Brian Slover	(707) 695-8103
Damon Gray	(707) 695-8102
Ian Caldwell	(707) 366-1590

SCMAD Main Office	(707) 437-1116
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SRCD Water Managers

Jeff Taylor	(707) 639-6690
Tim Edmunds	(707) 639-6689
Phelan McKinney	(707) 631-0819

SRCD Water Manager Office	(707) 426-2431
SRCD Main Office	(707) 425-9302