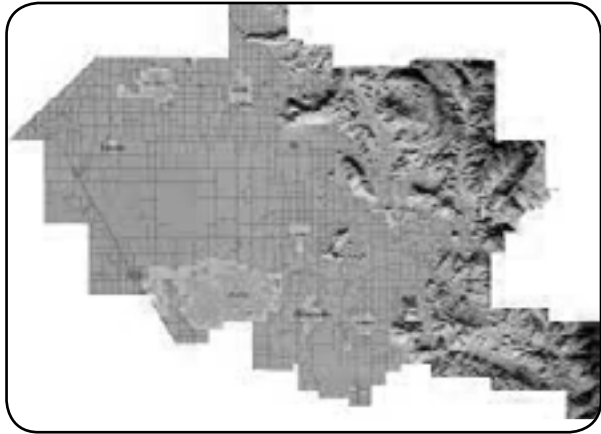


**OFFICIAL NOTICE AND BALLOT
INFORMATION GUIDE
FOR THE PROPOSED**

**IMPROVED MOSQUITO, VECTOR AND
DISEASE TESTING AND
CONTROL ASSESSMENT**



**FOR THE
DELTA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR
CONTROL DISTRICT**



Why Did You Receive This Ballot?

You are a property owner served by the Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District (“Delta MVCD” or the “District”) and are being asked to vote on a proposed funding measure to ensure continued and improved mosquito, vector, and disease control services in your area.

Your ballot is your opportunity to participate in deciding whether local funding should be approved. Your vote on this matter is important because only returned ballots will be counted.

Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District

Delta VCD has been protecting the public from mosquito-borne diseases, mosquito nuisances and bites in northern Tulare County including Visalia, Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Woodlake, Cutler, Orosi, and Ivanhoe areas since 1922. The Mosquito District is the sole provider of year-round mosquito and vector control services where your property is located. It is an independent special district, not part of the County or any City, and is governed by a local seven member Board of Trustees.

Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District Governance and Transparency

Regular meetings of the Delta MVCD Board of Trustees are held on the second Wednesdays of every month at 4:30 p.m., at the District Office located at 1737 W. Houston Ave, Visalia, CA. The public is encouraged to attend.

Why Is A Funding Measure Needed?

From 2010 to 2019 the District received funding from a property-owner approved assessment of approximately \$1 million per year which supported comprehensive mosquito and vector control services as well as the development of the District’s laboratory. This assessment expired in 2019 leaving a structural budget shortfall in funding for the portion dedicated to comprehensive mosquito and vector control services.

Moreover in recent years, there has been a significant increase in local population of *Aedes aegypti*, “the yellow fever mosquito,” in Tulare County. This mosquito can spread dengue fever, chikungunya, Zika fever, Mayaro, yellow fever viruses, and other disease agents. *Aedes aegypti* can be recognized by the white markings on its legs and a marking in the form of a lyre on the upper surface of its thorax , as shown in the photo below.

Controlling *Aedes aegypti* requires focused monitoring, testing and treatment to keep our communities healthy and safe. The District is proposing this assessment to address increased costs associated with addressing this invasive species. With an additional funding source, the District would be able to continue providing and improving year-round control of invasive mosquitoes and the diseases they carry. As well as be better prepared for the potential introduction of any other invasive mosquito species or emerging disease which may threaten the District residents



Elevated mosquito abundance, such as an increase in Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, and the presence of West Nile virus in other mosquitoes require treatments to reduce risks to Public Health

How Was The Assessment Determined?

The total annual costs of the proposed improved mosquito, vector, and disease testing and control services to be funded by the assessment would be allocated to each property based on the estimated special benefit received.

The method of benefit allocation is based on the relative special benefit to a property in relation to a single family home, the type of property, and its size. The total proposed amount of assessment for your property is shown on the enclosed ballot. If you own multiple properties, your ballot will show the total proposed assessment amount for each one.

An Engineer's Report describing the proposed improvements, method and basis upon which the amount of the proposed assessment was calculated, special benefits, budgets and proposed assessment for each parcel is available for review on our website www.deltavcd.com, or you may request a copy in person at Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District, Administrative Office, 1737 W Houston Ave, Visalia, CA 93291.

What Would This Measure Provide?

An annual mosquito and vector control assessment would enable the Mosquito District to provide improved *Aedes aegypti* mosquito and disease control services. Following are some of these services:

- Control mosquito-breeding sources with environmentally sound products wherever mosquito larvae or pupae are found.
- Testing for diseases that can be carried by invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.
- Respond rapidly to service requests concerning mosquitoes, insects, and other vectors.
- Conduct environmentally safe adult mosquito control when necessary to protect public health.
- Provide community education and outreach on how to prevent and protect residents from mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases.
- Provide free mosquito-eating fish to property owners for backyard ponds and other water features.



How Much Is the Proposed Assessment?

The proposed assessment for your property or properties for fiscal year 2021-22 is printed on the Official Ballot included with this notice and information guide. For single-family homes, the typical base annual assessment is proposed to be \$12.50. The proposed base assessment for other residential property types is calculated based on these factors as well as the number of dwelling units, parcel size, etc. An Engineer's report with calculations for each property type is available for review upon request, and on our website. The total estimated amount assessed to the entire area subject to this assessment would be approximately \$1,023,546 for fiscal year 2021-22.

Will This Assessment Increase in the Future?

The assessment will be continued in future years as long as the Board of Directors approves an annual resolution for continuation of this assessment. In future years after 2021-22, the assessment can only be adjusted for inflation by an amount equal to the change in the Western Region's Pacific Division Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U), as of December of each succeeding year ("CPI"), not to exceed 3% per year. This annual adjustment, which must be reviewed and approved annually at a public meeting, will help keep the assessment revenues in line with the cost of providing fire protection and emergency response services in future years.

Method of Voting

To complete the enclosed official ballot, mark the oval next to either Yes or No, sign the ballot, fold it in half and place it in the provided postage paid return envelope and mail to Tulare County Elections, c/o Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District, 5951 S Mooney Blvd. Visalia, CA 93277. You may also hand deliver it at the public hearing (see below for the times and location). Only official ballots which are signed and marked with the property owner's support or opposition will be counted. Ballots must be received by the end of the Public Hearing scheduled on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

If you lose your ballot, require a replacement ballot, or want to change your vote, call Delta MVCD at (559) 732-8606 for another ballot. See the enclosed ballot for additional instructions. Ballots are weighted by the proposed amount of assessment and will be tabulated accordingly. The assessment will not be imposed if, upon the conclusion of the public hearing, weighted ballots submitted in opposition to the assessment exceed the weighted ballots submitted in favor of the assessment. If a majority of weighted ballots returned are in support, the assessment may be levied for fiscal year 2021-22 and may be continued in future years.

Public Hearing and Public Accountability Standards

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. at the Delta MVCD District Office located at 1737 W. Houston Ave Visalia, CA 93291. The public is encouraged to attend. Tabulation of the returned ballots will commence after the close of the public input portion of the hearing on July 21 2021, and the results of the tabulation are expected to be announced at the following special meeting on July 28, 2021. The funds from this assessment can only be used to provide fire protection and emergency response services within the Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Para solicitar una copia en español

Esta guía de votación contiene información importante con respecto a una votación propuesta de protección contra incendios y los servicios de emergencia de respuesta por el Distrito de Control de Mosquitos y Vectores del Delta. Para solicitar una copia en español, por favor llame a la oficina del distrito al (559) 732-8606.