# Delta Mosquito & Vector Control District *Aedes aegypti*Survey and Opinion Research Findings



#### Presented by:

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May 12, 2021

# Survey Objectives

- Evaluate <u>support, desires and priorities</u> of property owners regarding current and potential services provided by the Delta Mosquito & Vector Control District
- Gauge the <u>level of support</u> for a local funding measure to maintain or improve year-round control of invasive mosquito, *Aedes aegypti* and other mosquitoes and vector-borne diseases

# Scope of Work – Survey Methodology

- The survey tested 2 proposed annual rates, representing 2 service levels:
  - \$8.24 per single family home, with tiered rates for other types of property
  - \$12.50 per single family home, with tiered rates for other types of property
- Survey mailed to about 16,000 property owners using randomized, stratified samples
- Surveys mailed on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and returned up to April 16, 2021
- 1,972 respondents = 12.4% return rate and margin of error of ± 2.17%
- Results include all types of property owners, and are adjusted to reflect weighted ballot features of a benefit assessment



# **Survey Documents**



#### OFFICIAL SURVEY DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

Information Fact Shee

Local Mosquito Control in your Community The Delta Vector Control District ("the Mosquito District") has been protecting the public from mosquito-borne diseases and mosquito nuisances in northern Tulare County including Visalia, Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Woodlake, Cutler, Orosi, and Ivanhoe areas since 1942. 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.

#### Emergence of the Yellow Fever Mosquito

Beginning in 2019, 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 and yellow fever viruses, and other disease agents.

Aedes aegypti can be recognized by 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, and the Mosquito District is seeking input from the community regarding additional resources to combat this emerging mosquito. We appreciate your participation.



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



Want to learn more about the surveillance, vector management, and community education the Mosquito District Provides? Visit us at www.deltavcd.com

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

placed in

rural areas

like orchards

or along river

banks. They

are used to catch female

mosquitoes

that are looking for a

host to bite.

- Provide free mosquito-eating fish to property owners for backyard ponds and other water
- Control mosquito sources with environmentally sound products wherever mosquito larvae or
- Testing for diseases that can be carried by
- Respond rapidly to service requests concerning mosquitoes, insects, and other vectors.
- Conduct environmentally safe adult mosquito control when necessary to protect public health.
- Investigate and identify flies, fleas, ticks and
- Provide community education on how to treat and prevent vector sources.

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#### OFFICIAL SURVEY DELTA VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



This short survey has been mailed to property owners in the Delta Vector Control District to gather information and opinions. This information will help the District make decisions about future mosquito control, surveillance, and education services. After completing the survey, simply mail it back in the postage paid return envelope provided.

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Survey Instructions:

- 1) Read each question listed below.
- 2) Fill in the circle for your response. Please use a pen and completely fill in the circle.
- 3) Detach the bottom portion of this sheet containing your answers.
- 4) Place the bottom portion of this sheet in the return envelope and mail (no postage needed).

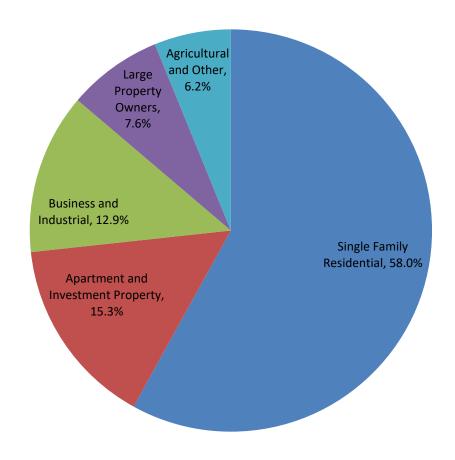
To take this survey online please visit <a href="www.inputlocal.com">www.inputlocal.com</a> and enter the SURVEY NAME: "DELTAZ", and your SURVEY CODE:											
1.	Property owners in	your area may be	asked to vote by	y mail on a lo	cal ballot measure	Follo	wing is	a summa	ary of th	e propo	sal:
In order to:  Provide year-round, focused, rapid, and comprehensive control of invasive mosquitoes, such as Aedes aegypti, the yellow fever mosquito, and other pests, and the diseases they carry;  Improve monitoring and responding to public health issues, such as yellow fever and West Nile virus and other emerging diseases,											
would you support a yearly annual assessment on your property(s)* in the amount of \$25.00 ?  **Definitely YES Probably YES Probably NO Definitely NO										Deba VCD 2	
	0	0	0		0	annual a	amount for	ount listed is all propert	ез уои ам	170.	
Now, please read the following arguments and statements regarding the proposed Mosquito, Vector and Disease Control assessment. For each one, please indicate whether they make you more or less likely to support the assessment:											
							Much More Likely	Somewha More Likely	No Impact	Less Likely	Much Less Likely
2.		This measure will help prevent future outbreaks of West Nile virus and other diseases				r 	0	0	0	0	0
3.	This measure w populations, and				easure mosquito rol programs		0	0	0	0	0
4.	This measure will help suppress the emergence of invasive species, such as Aedes aegypti (Yellow Fever Mosquito), that can carry life-threatening diseases						0	0	0	0	0
5.	The District will educate residents about how to protect themselves from diseases carried by mosquitoes and other vectors						0	0	0	0	0
6.	This measure will reduce mosquito populations using environmentally-sound methods.						0	0	0	0	0
7.	None of the prod and can only be				the State or Courol services		0	0	0	0	0
Ple	Please write any reasons why you support or oppose this proposed measure:										

### Benefit Assessment Overview

- Decided by all <u>property owners</u> in a mailed ballot proceeding, including business, apartment, and other property owners
- All returned ballots are counted
- Requires weighted majority of returned ballots
- Assessments are based on type of property, size, and dwelling units (this is not a flat-rate parcel tax)
- Most common local funding option for Mosquito and Vector Control Districts in California



# Weighted Assessment "Votes" by Property Type

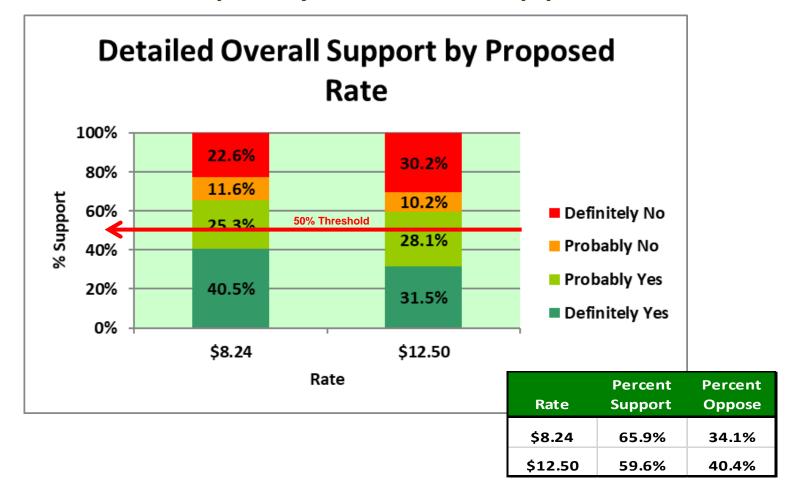




# Overall Support by Property Type

Property Type	Percent of Vote	Weighted Support
Single Family Residential	58.0%	73.7%
Apartment and Investment Property	15.3%	35.7%
Business and Industrial	12.9%	51.7%
Large Property Owners	7.6%	25.8%
Agricultural and Other	6.2%	60.8%

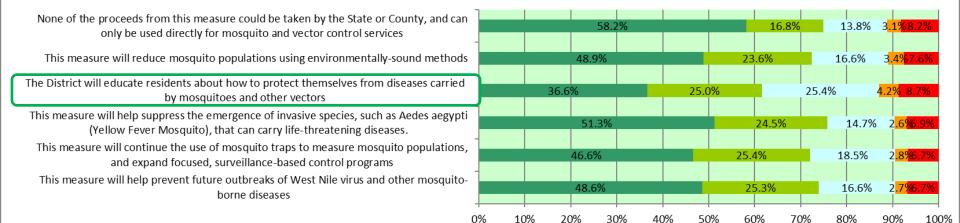
# **Overall Property Owner Support**





# Support by Projects and Issues

#### **Detailed Support by Projects and Issues for All Respondents**



No Impact

Somewhat Less Likely



% Support

■ Much Less Likely

Much More Likely

Somewhat More Likely

# Summary of Findings

 Property owners in the District support a measure to continue both providing control of mosquitoes and to monitor and respond to public health issues.

#### Top Priorities are:

- To help suppress the emergence of invasive mosquito species, such as *Aedes aegypti* (Yellow Fever Mosquito), that carries lifethreatening diseases
- Ensuring none of the proceeds from this measure could be taken by the State or County, and can only be used directly for mosquito and vector control services
- To help prevent future outbreaks of West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases



#### Recommendations

- Proposed rate should be around \$12.50 per Single Family Home per year based on projects and operational needs
- Fiscal responsibility including all possible accountability and oversight provisions
- Emphasis on disease prevention including Aedes aegypti, West
   Nile virus, and other emerging mosquito-borne diseases
- Implement an informational outreach approach and consider proceeding with a funding measure



# Next Steps: Community Engagement and Informational Outreach

- Work with local stakeholders, including elected officials, community leaders, senior community, and other stakeholders
- Conduct targeted outreach to apartment, business, and large property owners
- Work with local media and social media to reach community members
- Address key issues and form a consistent message

**Ie.** All funds will be spent locally within the district to maintain or improve year-round control of mosquitoes and vector-borne diseases such as West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis, Western equine encephalitis, Dengue, Zika, etc.

#### Most Effective Outreach Methods

- Clear and authentic messaging
- Transparent budget
- Local media, social media
- Socially- distanced community interactions
- Community Meetings

#### **Timeline Considerations**

- Sufficient time for successful outreach
- Balloting mail date?
- Potential conflicts (e.g. local elections)
- High vacation season / Holidays
- Mosquito populations and activity
- Property Tax Bills / Income Tax Returns



## Proposed Balloting Timeline for FY 2022-23

■Summer 2021 Resolution directing the mail of ballots

■Fall 21 (Spring 22) Mail ballots

■+ 45 days Close balloting period

■ Winter 21 (Spring 22) Ballot tabulation

■Winter 21 (Spring 22) Resolution announcing ballot results &

levy assessments for FY 2022-23

■August 2022 Submit assessment roll to Tulare

**County Auditor** 

■December 2022 1st apportionment revenues received



## Proposed Balloting Timeline for FY 2021-22

■June 9 Board Meeting: Resolution directing

the mail of ballots + prelim ER

**June 18** Mail ballots (ballots must be out at least 45 days – Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>)

■August 4 Special Board Meeting/Public Hearing:

Close balloting period & order

tabulation

■ August 4-5 Ballot tabulation

August 6
Special Board Meeting: Resolution

announcing ballot results & levy

assessments for FY 2021-22

•August 10 Deadline to Submit assessment roll to

**Tulare County Auditor** 

December 2021 1st apportionment revenues received

## \*Proposed Balloting Timeline for FY 2021-22

May 26
Special Board Meeting: Resolution directing the mail of ballots + prelim ER

■July 21 Special Board Meeting/Public Hearing:

Close balloting period & order

Mail ballots (ballots must be out at least 45 days – Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>)

tabulation

■ July 22-27 Ballot tabulation

■June 4

July 28 Special Board Meeting: Resolution

announcing ballot results & levy

assessments for FY 2021-22

•August 10 Deadline to Submit assessment roll to

Tulare County Auditor

December 2021 1st apportionment revenues received