



# Media Release

## State Water Board Takes Steps To Assist Mosquito Abatement Districts

*Action Seeks to Protect Public Health*

**For Immediate Release**  
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The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will consider a proposed amendment to the statewide Vector Control Permit (Permit) at its April 3 meeting to provide clarity on pesticide use to fight mosquitos before breeding season.

The existing permit could unintentionally restrict adult mosquito abatement efforts on fewer than 10 small streams in the state by prohibiting the use of two types of pesticides that are commonly used for adult mosquito control. While the existing permit has a statewide application, the prohibition of the two pesticide applications together appears to only affect a handful of the hundreds of water bodies statewide that are under the purview of this permit.

State Water Board staff has been in contact with Mosquito Abatement District organizations with jurisdictions over these water ways and will be working with them to identify options to make sure public health is not affected.

### **Background:**

The State Water Board adopted the Permit on March 1, 2011, in response to a federal court decision that overturned a US EPA rule that exempted certain application of pesticides. The proposed amendment addresses concerns raised by the Mosquito and Vector Control Districts about language in the permit that limits the application of certain pesticides.

This proposed amendment, to ensure that Mosquito Abatement Districts can continue their work and focus on protecting public health, was posted today for public review and comment prior to the April 3 State Water Board meeting.

More information can be found at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/npdes/aquatic.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/aquatic.shtml) (*amended permit*) and  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/npdes/docs/aquatic/pubnot\\_vc031212.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/docs/aquatic/pubnot_vc031212.pdf) (*public notice of meeting*)

