

**Staff Report**  
**Board Meeting Date: December 18, 2025**

**DATE:** December 9, 2025  
**TO:** District Board of Health  
**FROM:** Dr. Chad Kingsley, District Health Officer  
[ckingsley@nnph.org](mailto:ckingsley@nnph.org)  
**SUBJECT:** Presentation on Mosquito Abatement Funding and Request for Approval to Present Data and Future Funding Options to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

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**SUMMARY**

This staff report outlines the funding for non-mandated mosquito abatement activities in Washoe County. Due to population growth and warming weather, the region faces increased exposure to mosquito populations that pose a community nuisance and risk of mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile virus. The presentation provides background on current and historical funding and recent program needs. It requests DBOH approval to present this information and future funding options to the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration.

**PREVIOUS ACTION**

Due to budgetary constraints, staff proposed the elimination of Wide-Area Larviciding (WAL) but continued mosquito surveillance and small spot treatments (storm drains) as an effort to reduce non-mandated public health services provided by Northern Nevada Public Health. In April 2025, the DBOH approved the elimination of Wide-Area Larviciding (WAL) mosquito treatment which included purchasing chemicals and using a 3<sup>rd</sup>-party helicopter to apply larvicide which is one of the largest NNPH programmatic expenditures that did not include staffing costs.

**BACKGROUND**

NNPH has historically used WAL as the primary method of mosquito control which utilized a helicopter to apply larvicide across the region to control the mosquito population in Washoe County. The larvicide, a specific mosquito abatement product, is applied to water and wetlands where known mosquito breeding sources are identified. Normally, helicopter treatments are conducted at least once every four (4) weeks per mosquito breeding season, between May and September; however, recent cost increases have resulted in reducing the number of flights and increased amount of time between treatments conducted over the past years.

The Vector Borne Disease program continues to conduct surveillance and minor treatment activities; however, due to budget constraints, may need to consider reducing non-mandated activities even further. Mosquito surveillance is an unfunded mandate which includes monitoring mosquito numbers by using specially designed traps to collect mosquitoes for identification and testing at the State Animal Disease Laboratory for specific diseases found in Mosquito populations.

In addition, the team continues very limited spot treatment of small bodies of water across the region while larvicide supplies remain available. This is completed either by hand, with a drone, or other methods, but cannot effectively treat the same acreage as the helicopter application. As budgetary constraints continue, non-mandated program services at risk of reduction include education, other disease mitigation and management, tick identification, and collaboration with sister agencies in the region.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Historically (May 20, 2003 BCC), a dedicated property tax in the amount of \$0.005 per \$100 assessed valuation supported vector control efforts, but this funding was redirected during the previous recession to address budget issues, leaving the program dependent on base funding and periodic augmentations.

In FY17, the DBOH approved a \$160,272 purchase order for mosquito abatement products, with additional contingency funding requested from the BCC to cover helicopter application and expanded treatment areas. Similar requests were made, with product and helicopter costs exceeding the base budget. For FY19, a budget augmentation of \$180,000 was requested above the \$276,500 included in the adopted budget for chemical and helicopter costs.

Since 2020, the cost of aerial flights and larvicide has increased each year, making their use unsustainable. Approximately \$265,619 was saved and reverted to NNPH's ending FY25 fund balance. Alternative Revenue Sources are exploring historical and potential dedicated funding streams to provide stable, long-term support for mosquito abatement.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the District Board of Health, approve the Presentation on Mosquito Abatement Funding and Approve to Present Data and Future Funding Options to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Move to approve the Presentation on Mosquito Abatement Funding and Approve to Present Data and Future Funding Options to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC)...