

BILL NUMBER: ASSEMBLY BILL 896

AUTHOR: ASSEMBLY MEMBER TALAMANTES EGGMAN

SPONSOR: MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

BACKGROUND:

In 2004, then Assembly Member Wolk authored Assembly Bill 1982, sponsored by the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (Association), relating to the Department of Fish and Game's wildlife management areas and the implementation of best management practices to reduce and/or prevent mosquito breeding populations on those Department of Fish and Game lands. Assembly Bill 1982 passed the Legislature unanimously and signed into law on September 16, 2004 [*Chapter 553, Statutes of 2004*].

Assembly Bill 1982 contained a January 1, 2010, sunset and Assembly Bill 896 would reintroduce the same provisions as contained in Assembly Bill 1982, a summary of the major provisions include:

1. Requires that habitat management work plans for State Wildlife Areas include an element that incorporates Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize mosquito production while maintaining targeted wetland values and functions;
2. Requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop each spring an annual work plan for each wildlife management area that specifies intended management activities and employs BMPs;
3. Requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement the BMPs referenced in the annual work plan to the greatest extent possible;
4. Defines BMPs as management strategies jointly developed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the state Department of Public Health and mosquito abatement districts, in consultation with the "Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture," for the ecological control of mosquitoes on managed wetland habitat;
5. Requires a mosquito abatement district in which one or more wildlife management areas are located to notify the Department of Fish and Wildlife of those areas that exceed locally established population thresholds of mosquitoes and the associated mosquito abatement control costs; and,
6. Requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife, when it has been notified of a mosquito problem in a managed wetland to carry-out specific mitigation measures in consultation and cooperation with the local mosquito abatement district.

Finally, one very positive result of the implementation of BMPs on these wildlife management areas is the reduction in the use of pesticides to control mosquito populations, a goal the Association continues to pursue.

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