

# CALIFORNIA UTILITY VAULTS ARE A MOSQUITO PRODUCTION SOURCE

## WATER RETENTION IN UTILITY VAULTS PROMOTES THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOSQUITOES THAT CAN SPREAD WEST NILE VIRUS.

- Utility vaults have long been recognized as problematic sources for mosquito production, particularly in residential areas.
- In a majority of regions, landscape irrigation or rain may deposit directly into vaults or pool and flow into vaults.
- Often covered by partial or complete shade, the standing water in vaults is protected from evaporation, providing an ideal habitat for mosquitoes to develop and emerge.
- Utility vaults are known to produce the common house mosquito which transmits West Nile virus and St. Louis Encephalitis viruses each year in California.

## THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE AEDES MOSQUITOES THROUGHOUT THE STATE HAS EXACERBATED THE UTILITY VAULT PROBLEM. EVEN SMALL AMOUNTS OF WATER IN UTILITY VAULTS CAN PRODUCE LARGE NUMBERS OF MOSQUITOES.

- With the emergence of invasive mosquitoes, vector control districts identified utility vaults as a major source for these mosquitoes.
- Invasive mosquitoes are a major concern to mosquito and vector control districts because they have the ability to transmit viruses such as yellow fever, dengue, chikungunya, and Zika.

## UTILITY PROVIDERS AND MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICTS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH.

- Inconsistent access to utility vault information limits mosquito and vector control districts' ability to apply mosquito control products to the vaults.



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**STEPS TO PREVENT MOSQUITO PRODUCTION IN CALIFORNIA UTILITY VAULTS.**

1. Facilitate statewide collaboration between mosquito and vector control districts and utility providers to reduce the production of mosquitoes and the threat of mosquito-transmitted diseases.
2. Establish a standardized protocol for utility providers to enable mosquito and vector control districts to identify, access and treat problem sources.
3. Evaluate and incorporate design modifications to utility vaults to reduce water retention and prevent mosquito production.

**CALIFORNIA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICTS RESPONDED TO A SURVEY ABOUT MOSQUITO PRODUCTION IN UTILITY VAULTS.**



**75%** reported mosquito production issues in utility vaults



Electrical vaults are the **most** problematic source for mosquito production because of access issues



**31%** have sufficient access to utility vaults for their operational needs



**50%** have active relationships with utility vault providers to address issues



**44%** are able to obtain the locations of utility vaults within their district



**80%** of districts that treat utility vaults use expensive residual products to achieve adequate control