

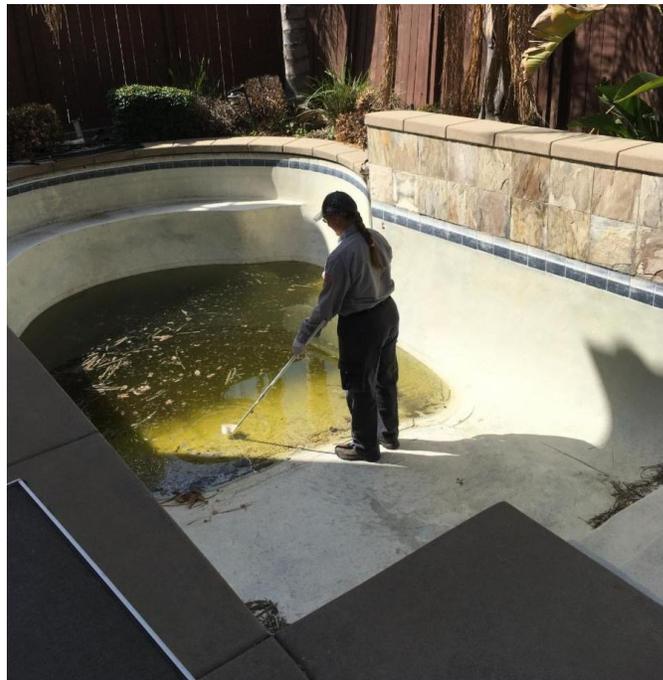
WEST VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL



The Valley Buzz!

A Flight to Fight Skeeters!

The District has completed its annual aerial survey of unkempt swimming pools and will be sending letters to homes with suspect pools and spas in the next few weeks. Swimming pools that are half full, have broken pumps, and have inadequate chemicals are considered "green" and are notorious for producing millions of mosquitoes weekly! By surveying our cities and getting pools cleaned up early in the year, we can strike a significant blow against mosquitoes and urban breeding sources. Residents don't need to wait until they hear from us, get those pools drained or brought back to operable conditions now and tell mosquitoes, "Not in my yard!"



Unkempt pools are unsightly and breed millions of mosquitoes, so if it's green, get it clean!

SIT - What is it?

As a part of the District's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy, we are constantly looking for ways to reduce our environmental impact while maximizing mosquito population reduction. Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) is one such tool. SIT uses an insect's own biology against them, reducing insect populations by decreasing their ability to produce viable eggs. In Southern California, X-Ray sterilization of male fruit flies has been protecting crops against fruit flies since the early 1980s. To combat mosquitoes, X-Ray irradiation is used to sterilize male mosquitoes which are then released into target areas. Once a female mosquito mates with a sterile male, they do not mate again and produce infertile eggs. The District will be utilizing X-Ray SIT against our recent invader, *Aedes aegypti*, the aggressive biting mosquito that has been bothering our residents the last few years. We are excited to be able to have another chemical-free tool in the battle against these backyard invaders!



Laboratory Staff setting up X-Ray irradiator

California Mosquito Awareness Week



California Mosquito Awareness Week is an annual tradition that aims to get residents thinking about mosquitoes and how they can protect themselves before the summer heat kicks mosquito breeding into high gear! This year we are showcasing the 100+ years of mosquito control in California. Keep an eye on our social media feeds for some interesting facts about mosquito control and how we plan to keep our residents protected in the future!