



**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREA SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 01 SEPTEMBER 2010**

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**SUBJECT**      **UPDATE ON WEST NILE VIRUS PROJECT**

**BACKGROUND**

West Nile virus (WNV) is transmitted to humans by a few species of mosquito that become carriers from feeding on infected birds. The virus can cause West Nile fever and, occasionally, West Nile neurological syndrome.

In December 2009, an information report was presented to the Electoral Area Services Committee indicating that the Capital Regional District (CRD) Stormwater, Harbours and Watersheds program (SHWP) would continue monitoring mosquito breeding sites in the electoral areas for species likely to carry WNV. This program is coordinated by the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) and funded by grant through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

Based on provincial direction, in 2010 UBCM funded work in only a few regions of the province that had a higher probability of being affected by WMV. None of those areas are within the electoral areas.

As a result of provincial direction and the lack of grant funding, SHWP will not retain a consultant to perform mosquito habitat surveys in 2010. Data collected in the past shows that populations of mosquito species of concern is low and provides a good understanding of the highest risk areas should a WNV response become necessary in the future.

VIHA staff indicated no concern about the CRD discontinuing monitoring and that WNV is now a lower priority. There could be direction from VIHA to begin the program again if WNV is detected in or near the CRD.

**CONCLUSION**

UBCM grant funding for WNV monitoring has been shifted to areas of risk on the mainland. Monitoring of mosquito habitat in the electoral areas will be suspended until direction to reinstate the program is received from the Province or VIHA.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That this report be received for information.

  
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Concurrence