



June 18, 2024

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California 93009

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of a Resolution Approving the Engineer's Report Concerning Vector Control Benefit Assessments, Confirming the Assessment Described Therein, and Authorizing the Levy of Vector Control Benefit Assessments for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Adopt the attached resolution approving the Engineer's Report (Exhibit 1), confirming the assessment described therein, and authorizing the levy of Vector Control Benefit Assessments for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as set forth in the Engineer's Report.

**FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:**

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mandatory:                     | No   |
| 2. Authority:                     | California Government Code, Section 25842.5 and California Health and Safety Code, Sections 2040 and 2082. |
| 3. Source of Funding:             | Annual Vector Control Benefit Assessment and related trust funds.  |
| 4. Funding Match Required:        | No   |
| 5. Impact to Other Department(s): | Minimal-to-moderate impact on the Auditor-Controller for levy and apportionment of the assessment.         |

**Summary of Revenue and Costs**

	<b>FY 2023-24</b>	<b>FY 2024-25</b>
Revenues:	\$1,615,288	\$1,661,436
Costs:		
Direct	\$1,478,496	\$1,414,960
Indirect – Department	\$ 100,000	\$ 187,888
Indirect Costs	<u>\$ 36,792</u>	<u>\$ 58,588</u>
	\$1,615,288	\$1,661,436
Net Costs	\$	-
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ 136,792	\$ 246,476

<b>FY 2023-24 Budget Projection for Environmental Health – Division 2930</b>				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Actual	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$12,650,305	\$12,980,923	\$12,242,149	\$ 738,774
Revenue	\$13,289,570	\$13,289,570	\$13,025,397	\$ (264,173)
Net Cost	\$ (639,265)	\$ (308,647)	\$ (783,248)	\$ 474,601

The appropriations and revenue associated with the proposed Vector Control Benefit Assessments are included in the proposed Resource Management Agency (RMA)-Environmental Health Division (Division) FY 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget.

**DISCUSSION:**

On May 6, 1986, after receiving consent from the cities, (with the exception of Moorpark), in Ventura County, your Board adopted the powers of a Vector Control District. This action was taken in response to an outbreak of mosquito-transmitted encephalitis in Southern California. The County Vector Control Program is administered by the Resource Management Agency (RMA) - Environmental Health Division (Division). The primary functions of this program are mosquito control, vector-transmitted disease surveillance, and vector-related complaint response. Approximately 2,900 mosquito breeding sources are routinely evaluated and treated with target-specific pesticides when evidence of mosquito breeding is observed. Controlling mosquitoes in this manner is cost effective and reduces human exposure to diseases such as West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis, western equine encephalitis, and malaria, as well as eliminating nuisance causing organisms.

The program is staffed year-round by six full-time employees. Extra help employees are utilized each year from April through October to augment mosquito control activities. Additionally, in consideration of emerging concerns over the invasive mosquito species that can carry the Zika virus, Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus, the Division will continue to increase its mosquito surveillance and public outreach efforts during the 2024-2025 mosquito season.

As a result of a July 2004 Proposition 218-compliant ballot measure of Ventura County property owners, vector control costs have been fully funded by the annual assessments authorized by the Board each fiscal year in accordance with provisions of the California Constitution, Articles XIII C and XIII D (Proposition 218). The voter pamphlet accompanying the 2004 ballot allows for "an annual adjustment tied to the change in the Los Angeles Area Consumer Price Index (CPI), not to exceed 3% per year." Consistent with the 2004 resolution and the typical interpretation by districts in California, your Board has interpreted this language to allow a maximum assessment in any year up to the cumulative change in the CPI since 2004 (not to exceed 3% per year). In other words, a decision not to authorize the maximum allowable assessment in one year does not affect the maximum allowable assessment in future years. For Fiscal Year 2023-2024, your Board adopted a resolution authorizing the levy of the Vector Control Benefit Assessment at a rate of \$6.32 per single family equivalent (SFE) unit.

As part of the annual review of the assessments, it is now time for your Board to consider setting the Vector Control Benefit Assessment rate for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Accordingly, the attached Engineer's Report (Report), describes the Vector Control Program services, projected program costs, and recommended assessment rate. The Report was prepared by SCI Consulting Group and is included as (Exhibit 1 to this Board Letter.)

The actual Southern California CPI increased 3.472% during the previous year; however, the Report recommends a proposed 3.0% increase in the annual benefit assessments for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to cover program costs. Based on an annual maximum CPI adjustment not to exceed 3% per year since 2004 and considering the 3.472% CPI increase as well as the potential use of excess CPI of 8.89% banked from previous years, the assessment rate for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 can be as high as \$6.51 (which is a 3% increase) per single family equivalent. As noted in the Report, through the implementation of ongoing cost saving strategies and prudent management of monies held in the Vector Control Benefit Assessment Trust Fund, there are funds in the trust to offset a portion of the projected costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 while still maintaining an adequate reserve.

Therefore, to offset the projected costs, the Division recommends increasing the current assessment rate to \$6.51 per SFE, (which is an increase of \$0.19 cents per SFE per year) in combination with \$7,000 in penalties and investment income, resulting in an estimated net assessment amount of \$1,583,720. Revenue held in the Vector Control Assessment Trust in the amount of \$77,716 will be utilized to cover the slight offset between projected expenditures and projected assessment revenues of \$1,661,437. (An excerpt from the Report entitled Estimate of Costs; includes the proposed assessment, and this excerpt is included as Exhibit 2.) The recommended actions will (1) expend funds held in trust for their intended purpose, and (2) fully cover costs related to vector control services during the coming fiscal year.

To set the assessment rate as recommended, it is necessary for your Board to adopt the attached resolution approving the Engineer's Report, confirming the assessment described therein, and authorizing the levy of the assessment at the rate set forth in the Engineer's Report.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This is in line with the County of Ventura's Strategic Plan, Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities, Goal (2) Maintain high-performing public safety services.

**REVIEWING AGENCIES:**

The County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel have reviewed this matter.

Please call me at (805) 654-2818, if you have any questions concerning this Board letter.



Charles R. Genkel, Director  
Environmental Health Division  
Resource Management Agency

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Exhibit 1 - Resolution approving Engineer's Report and authorizing FY 2024-2025 Vector Control Assessment
- Exhibit 2 - Engineer's Report for the FY 2024-2025 Vector Control Assessment
- Exhibit 3 - Excerpt from Engineer's Report: Table 2 - Estimate of Costs; includes proposed Assessment