

MOTION

HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND EDUCATIO
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Mosquito-borne illnesses have historically posed significant public health risks throughout the United States. In California, the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District (GLAVC) and other public agencies at the national, state, and local level are authorized to track, monitor, and reduce the population of mosquitos which bear these illnesses. On October 6, 2004, the City Council approved Ordinance No. 176,240 which authorizes a Health Officer or any Los Angeles County Vector Control District Officer to issue a written order to a private property owner to remediate standing water on their property that has become a breeding area for mosquitos (C.F. 03-2266-S3).

Despite ongoing efforts of public agencies to reduce the incidence of mosquito-borne diseases, the California Department of Public Health has recently documented cases of dengue and chikungunya in California due to the presence of exotic mosquitos in the State. In addition, the GLAVC has confirmed the existence of such mosquitos in the community of Silver Lake and Elysian Valley. While dengue and chikungunya are treatable and are not contagious from person to person, there is no vaccine to prevent these illnesses. Preventing mosquito bites through the clean-up of standing water and other measures are the only reliable methods to avoid infection.

Local mosquito abatement and health agencies have the expertise regarding the prevention and prevalence of mosquito-borne illnesses in the region. City departments that are responsible for water distribution and drainage can help ensure that water does not accumulate and create breeding areas for mosquitos. In addition, City departments can help educate the public on citywide water conservation strategies and programs to ensure that individual "do it yourself" measures to save water (such as stormwater collection) are consistent with the City's overall water conservation efforts. The City Council should be briefed on these activities, which are especially critical given that an El Niño weather event is expected to bring large amounts of rain to the area during the winter.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council: (1) request the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to report on actions being taken to control the population of mosquitos in the City of Los Angeles, and (2) instruct the Bureau of Sanitation and the Bureau of Street Services, with the assistance of any applicable City department, to report on current and planned mosquito abatement measures and efforts to educate the public on best practices for "do it yourself" water conservation activities.

PRESENTED BY: 
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SECONDED BY: 


OCT 27 2015

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