

## **KINGS MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT (KMAD)**

### **WHY THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATED**

A complaint was received, and public interest

### **AUTHORITY**

California Penal Code 933.5 A Grand jury may examine the books, duties and records of any special purpose taxing district in the county.

### **METHOD OF INVESTIGATION**

After receiving a complaint, the Grand Jury interviewed the complainant, attended a board meeting, toured the KMAD headquarters and facility, interviewed the District Manager and reviewed documents.

### **BACKGROUND AND FACTS**

KMAD is a special district funded only by property taxes. It was established in April 1961 and is regulated by the State. KMAD has a five member board of trustees, appointed by their respective governing bodies, composed of one representative of the cities of Hanford, Lemoore and Corcoran, a representative from Tulare County and one from Kings County. The District employs 11 full-time employees and approximately 15 seasonal employees. KMAD has an annual budget of over two million dollars.

Employees who work in the field are equipped with handheld computers which work off GPS and show all areas of potential mosquito infestation, including, but not limited to, swimming pools, ditches and standing water in irrigated fields. The computers allow the employees to enter the type and quantity of chemicals they use in the field and this also provides an inventory record.

The months from April through September are normally the period when mosquitoes are the most active. During this period, seasonal employees are brought in to supplement and assist the fulltime staff.

The potentially infected areas are treated with chemicals that are approved by Federal and State authorities. Mosquito fish are a natural enemy of mosquito larvae. KMAD makes these fish available to the public at no cost.

KMAD also is charged with the monitoring and control of the West Nile Virus which is primarily carried by mosquitoes and birds. The public is encouraged to report dead birds to KMAD. The birds are collected and sent to the University of California at Davis to be tested for the presence of West Nile Virus. If the tests are positive, the public is notified and steps are taken to eradicate the infestation.

At this time KMAD is considering building a new facility at a different location. The present facility is located on a landfill owned by Kings County and is not American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. The Grand Jury was told that KMAD has approximately half the funds available to purchase property and build a new facility.

## **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Finding 1**

KMAD appears to be a fiscally responsible district.

### **Recommendation 1**

None

### **Finding 2**

The present KMAD facility is not ADA compliant.

### **Recommendation 2**

If the existing facility is retained and occupied, it should be brought up to ADA standards.

## **COMMENTS**

The Grand Jury found that the complaint, which concerned personnel matters, had no merit.

## **RESPONSE REQUIRED**

California Penal Code Section 933(c). Within 90 days of receipt of a report the public agency shall submit its response to the Presiding Judge.