



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## NEWS RELEASE



**Date:** September 4, 2025

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### PROPERTY OWNERS TO RECEIVE BALLOTS ON VECTOR CONTROL FUNDING

Property owners in Santa Cruz County are receiving official ballots in the mail asking them to decide on a proposed benefit assessment to maintain and improve mosquito and vector control services.

Since 1993, the Santa Cruz County Mosquito and Vector Control Division has been on the front lines of protecting public health by monitoring and controlling mosquitoes, ticks, rodents, and other vectors that spread disease. The current assessment, which has not increased in nearly 30 years, no longer keeps pace with rising costs and emerging threats, including the local detection of invasive mosquitoes that can carry dengue, Zika, and other viruses.

If approved, most families would pay the equivalent of \$1 per month (yearly assessment amounts are listed on individual ballots), with all funds dedicated exclusively to local mosquito and vector control services and funds may not be used for any other purpose. Completed ballots must be received by Nov. 4, 2025.

Ballots may be returned by mail using the enclosed prepaid envelope or hand-delivered at the public hearing on Nov. 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. before the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, which will meet that day in the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main St., Watsonville.

For interested community members, public meetings are being held September 8 in the community room at 500 Westridge Dr., Watsonville, and September 9 in the community room of 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz. Both meetings will be held from 6-7p.m. and are available on Zoom.com (meeting ID: 770 569 1302; Passcode: 875941).

Vector control is one of the first lines of defense in preventing the spread of diseases in our community. Services include year-round mosquito testing for diseases such as West Nile virus; free mosquito-eating fish for backyard water sources; free rodent exclusion inspections; tick identification and consultation; rapid response to residents' mosquito, rodent, or tick, or wasp concerns; yellowjacket/wasp control; and public education and community outreach on preventing vector-borne diseases. For questions, please call (831) 454-2590.