

RESOLUTION ON PESTICIDE APPLICATION FOR MOSQUITOES CARRYING THE WEST NILE VIRUS

WHEREAS, mosquito adulticides have not been adequately tested for their potential to cause cancer, birth defects, genetic mutation, nervous system damage, damage to reproductive organs and behavioral changes in non-target species, including humans, and;

WHEREAS, national Sierra Club pesticides policy states, in part, "There should be no public exposure through use of pesticides, pesticide residues, or byproducts of pesticides that cause, cancer, birth defects, mutations, reproductive effects, or alter immune system or behavior of non- target organisms."

WHEREAS, the West Nile virus' growing impact on birds, horses and human health is making mosquito control a more visible and contentious issue throughout Colorado, and;

WHEREAS, pyrethroid and organophosphate pesticide formulations, such as those used typically to kill adult mosquitoes, also have a dose-dependent impact on wildlife, humans, adult mosquito predators and flying pollinators (e.g. bees and moths), and;

WHEREAS, wetlands and wet areas serve as breeding areas for mosquitoes as well as a host of other organisms, and;

WHEREAS, adult mosquitoes do not heed geographic boundaries and cross from wetland breeding areas into populated communities, creating an excuse for broadcast spraying of adulticides;

THEREFORE, the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Sierra Club urges government entities undertaking Integrated Pest Management (IPM) mosquito control programs to:

- * eliminate the broadcast spraying of adulticides, and;
- * otherwise avoid the use of adulticides as much as possible, and;
- * establish monitoring programs for adult mosquito carriers of West Nile virus so that, if adulticide spraying is deemed necessary, it can be limited to areas where the carriers are present, and;
- * consider using a variety of existing IPM tools other than adulticides, for example 1) native minnow fish and juvenile forms of game fish, 2) bat houses, 3) b.t.i. (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis israelensis), 4) Bacillus sphaericus, and 5) devices that mechanically kill or harm mosquito larvae, that are effective in reducing mosquitoes in their larval and/or adult stages.

PROS

- Consistent with 1984 City of Westminster activity on mosquito control, 1985 City of Loveland activity on mosquito control, and 2003 City of Boulder activity on mosquito control.
- An integrated mosquito management program employing monitoring of pest levels and the appropriate use of the least toxic agents creates less short term and long term health effects than extensive use of adulticides
- B.t.i. and other bacterial agents especially are easily applied and have minimal impacts on non-target aquatic species and non-aquatic species

CONS

- B.t.i. can harm black fly larva and midges and may cause deformities in tadpoles