Mosquito Control Update
November 16, 2015

Above normal rainfall and temperatures over the past few weeks stimulated the hatching of multiple broods of floodwater mosquitoes. The predominate species was the inland floodwater mosquito, *Aedes vexans.* Reports from meteorologists indicate that an *El Nino* is affecting the weather in our area with above normal temperatures and rainfall and is expected to last for the next several weeks. As a result, we could be experiencing above normal mosquito production in the near future. The fall is a particularly difficult time to effectively control adult mosquitoes because of the increase and decrease in temperatures. When nighttime temperatures fall below about 55 degrees, adult mosquitoes become relatively less active, which renders adulticide treatments ineffective. Adult mosquitoes must be actively flying and be impacted by the spray particles to accomplish effective control. The products that we use to control adult mosquitoes metabolize within hours and leave no residual activity for mosquitoes that may rest in vegetation. Typically, over the past few weeks, we have had three to four nights available with good weather conditions to adulticide. As we move further into late fall and winter, the window of opportunity for good nighttime weather conditions to spray will be reduced.

Over the past three weeks, the District aerially sprayed a total of 69,973 acres for the control of adult mosquitoes. The areas included Covington, Mandeville, and Slidell. Truck mounted ULV sprayers treated locations throughout the Parish. Larvicide of the roadside ditches that breed the southern house mosquito were treated once every seven to eight days. Current populations of the southern house mosquito are very low based on gravid trap collections and the larval dip counts.

A total of 379 mosquito pools were tested for the presence of West Nile virus over the past four weeks. All returned negative. The last positive West Nile virus mosquito pool was collected on August 31. Based on the low mosquito abundance for the southern house mosquito, coupled with no positive mosquito pools over the past two and one half months, the risk for human contraction of West Nile virus is very low.