

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - LAND USE  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 04, 2025**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 3**

**SUBJECT: NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING:  
PUBLIC HEARING AND CONFIRMATION OF LEVIES FOR MOSQUITO,  
VECTOR, AND DISEASE CONTROL BENEFIT ASSESSMENT, AND  
MOSQUITO ABATEMENT AND VECTOR CONTROL SERVICE CHARGE  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION  
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ) Vector Control Program (VCP) protects residents and visitors from health risks associated with vectors, such as mosquitoes, rodents, and ticks that can transmit diseases including West Nile virus, Zika, dengue, plague, hantavirus, Lyme disease, and tularemia. VCP conducts mosquito abatement throughout the San Diego region benefit assessment area, performs surveillance and testing of vectors that can cause human disease, and educates members of the public on actions to prevent vectors, protect themselves from vectors, and report vector breeding sources. Each year, DEHQ has a goal to ensure the incidence of locally acquired West Nile virus remains below one case per 100,000 persons, which was achieved in 2024. In 2024, VCP dedicated significant staff and resources to responding to the first-ever local transmissions of dengue in San Diego County, highlighting the urgency of addressing certain vector-borne diseases to help prevent the spread of illness.

The services performed by VCP are supported by the Mosquito, Vector, and Disease Control Benefit Assessment and the Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control Service Charge. According to California Proposition 218, approved by California voters in 1996, property owners may approve a benefit assessment through a mail ballot measure and, in subsequent years, the governing body may continue or adjust the levy on properties within the limitations set by the measure. The benefit assessment rate is evaluated annually and must be approved by the Board of Supervisors (Board). On June 26, 2024 (9), the Board approved the continuation of the Mosquito, Vector, and Disease Control Benefit Assessment for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25.

To continue to meet these program objectives and maintain levels of service expected by stakeholders and customers, DEHQ has determined that the Mosquito, Vector, and Disease Control Benefit Assessment rate must increase in FY 2025-26. The proposed single-family equivalent dwelling rate for the next fiscal year is \$12.36, which is a \$1.60 increase over the current rate of \$10.76. The proposed amount is also under the maximum authorized rate of \$14.82. Each year, DEHQ works to contain costs of the VCP through innovation, efficiencies, and streamlining so that costs can be kept as low as possible for service recipients and savings can be applied to enhancing mosquito control approaches and laboratory techniques. Approximately 71% of VCP's costs are fixed, such as salary and benefits, retirement, enterprise-wide services and facilities, while 29% of the program's costs, such as services and supplies, are determined by VCP based on operational needs. The proposed benefit assessment rate reflects known costs as accurately as possible to continue to protect public health, deliver programs and services to customers and communities, make data-driven decisions, and expand community outreach and engagement.

The proposed FY 2025-26 rate is necessary to address changes in costs, such as increased costs for salaries and benefits, and higher fees related to facilities, equipment, and supplies. Salary and benefit costs are based on standard assumptions made by the County for planning purposes associated with anticipated salary and benefit increases; they do not fully address cost increases based on negotiated labor agreements due to the timing of the fee package and the labor negotiations. Actual increased costs during FY 2025-26 due to approved labor negotiations will be reflected in future benefit assessment rates. The proposed rate would also support a necessary increase in services to prevent the spread of new and emerging vectors and vector-borne diseases like dengue, which surged globally in 2024, with the County's first three cases of dengue being transmitted locally by mosquitoes. Each of these cases required a prompt response involving dozens of mosquito inspections and comprehensive, multi-day mosquito control to prevent the spread of the disease. To help protect public health and serve the community, VCP performed these time and resource-intense responses.

DEHQ continues to apply about \$405,000 in ongoing savings from cost containment measures to customers. Money saved through staff-led cost-cutting innovations will offset the proposed increase next fiscal year by 3.4%. DEHQ also uses the Vector Control District Trust Fund to offset the increasing costs and help ease future year rate increases for customers. The Vector trust fund consists of prior years' operation savings and provides contingency funds to support increased demands on program services and responses. After evaluating contingency fund needs and forecasted operational costs, DEHQ will apply approximately \$1.7 million from the Vector Control District Trust Fund balance and its interest for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Board is also being asked to approve an annual resolution adopting service charges and confirming reports regarding levies for Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control Service Charges, which was adopted by the Board in 1989. In 1996, Proposition 218 froze the service charge at the rates of \$3.00 (Coastal Subregion), \$2.28 (Inland Suburban Subregion), and \$2.28 (Inland Rural Subregion), so these rates will remain unchanged for FY 2025-26.

This is a request to adopt a resolution to approve the Engineer's Report, confirm the assessment diagram and assessment, and order the levy of assessments for the updated Mosquito, Vector, and Disease Control Benefit Assessment for FY 2025-26. This is also a request to adopt the resolution necessary to place the unchanged Service Charge on the tax roll for FY 2025-26.

If this item is not approved by the Board and the assessment and service charge are not placed on the tax roll for FY 2025-26, DEHQ would need to completely deplete all of the available Vector Control District Trust Fund balance of \$6.8 Million and an additional \$9.2 million in one-time alternative County funding would need to be allocated to provide for the \$16.0 million total to maintain the current levels of service. If the benefit assessment and service charge are not approved and one-time alternative County funding is not identified, then VCP would not be able to maintain effective service levels in reducing the risk to public health from vector-borne diseases, increasing the possibility for local transmission of mosquito-borne or other vector-borne diseases.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Find in accordance with Section 21080(b)(8) of the Public Resources Code and Section 15273 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines that this action is exempt from CEQA, because it modifies and approves a charge to meet the operating expenses and necessary

financial reserves for an existing program, specifically the County Vector Control Program as described herein and in the Engineer's Report.

2. Adopt a Resolution entitled: RESOLUTION OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVING ENGINEER'S REPORT, CONFIRMING ASSESSMENT DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT, AND ORDERING THE CONTINUATION OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 FOR THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM'S MOSQUITO, VECTOR AND DISEASE CONTROL ASSESSMENT.
3. Adopt a Resolution entitled: RESOLUTION OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS EXERCISING THE POWERS OF THE MOSQUITO ABATEMENT AND VECTOR SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL DISTRICT ADOPTING SERVICE CHARGES AND CONFIRMING REPORTS REGARDING LEVIES TO BE COLLECTED ON THE TAX ROLL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ) anticipates that the confirmation of levies for Mosquito, Vector, and Disease Control Benefit Assessment and Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control Service Charge for Fiscal Year 2025-26 to result in continued protection of public health from the risks of vector borne diseases throughout the San Diego region. Available data from the Engineer's Report and DEHQ Vector Control Program surveillance and control activities indicate the program is effective in reducing the transmission of vector borne diseases. DEHQ proposes to continue the implementation of an integrated vector management strategy, which incorporates the most effective ways to reduce mosquitoes and protect public health with the least negative impact to the environment. This approach also empowers the public to take preventive measures to protect themselves, their family, and their community through educational community engagement and outreach, which includes multi-lingual media campaigns with a focus on underserved communities.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed actions contribute to the County of San Diego's (County) Sustainability Goals: protect health and wellbeing; protect ecosystems habitats and biodiversity; and provide just and equitable access to County services. The proposed actions contribute to the County Sustainability Goal No.4 to protect health and wellbeing of the residents and visitors of the entire region, including underserved communities, and benefits individuals as well as the community at large. Implementation of an integrated vector management approach to mosquito and vector control services contributes to the County Sustainability Goal No. 6 to protect public health from diseases transmitted by vectors, and protects the ecosystems, habitat, and biodiversity of the region. The proposed actions also contribute to the County's Sustainability Goal No.1 to provide just and equitable access to County services by involving stakeholders in a community needs assessment and using available resources to improve access to services and positive outcomes.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for these recommendations are included in the Fiscal Year FY 2025-26 CAO Recommended Operational Plan for DEHQ. If approved, the proposed actions will result in costs and revenue of \$16.0 million. The funding sources are the Mosquito, Vector and Disease Control Benefit Assessment (\$11.8 million), Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control Service Charge (\$2.5 million), available Vector Control District Trust Fund fund balance (\$1.6 million), and income from interest and other service

contracts (\$0.1 million). Subsequent years' assessments will be based on the Vector Control Program budget, approved annually by the Board of Supervisors (Board), and included in future years Operational Plans. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

Mosquitoes and other vectors hinder, annoy, and harm residents, businesses, and visitors. A vector-borne disease outbreak and other related public health risks would have a negative effect on agriculture, business, tourism, and residential activities in the region.

### **ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended and adopted the following:

1. Resolution No. 25-044 entitled: RESOLUTION OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVING ENGINEER'S REPORT, CONFIRMING ASSESSMENT DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT, AND ORDERING THE CONTINUATION OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 FOR THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM'S MOSQUITO, VECTOR AND DISEASE CONTROL ASSESSMENT
2. Resolution No. 25-045 entitled: RESOLUTION OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS EXERCISING THE POWERS OF THE MOSQUITO ABATEMENT AND VECTOR SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL DISTRICT ADOPTING SERVICE CHARGES AND CONFIRMING REPORTS REGARDING LEVIES TO BE COLLECTED ON THE TAX ROLL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

State of California)  
County of San Diego)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed  
by Andrew Potter

