



**SAN MATEO COUNTY
MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT**

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Mosquito Abatement District Will Aid in Coastal Cleanup on Earth Day

Burlingame, CA – The San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District will be working with the City of San Mateo on Earth Day to clear discarded shopping carts and tires from the mudflats surrounding Ryder Park, at the mouth of San Mateo Creek. The cleanup will be a joint effort between the Mosquito Abatement District and the Department of Parks and Recreation of San Mateo.

The District will use specialized equipment to pull out large debris from the mud. This equipment is used by the District to reach mosquito breeding sites in sensitive areas. It includes small tracked all-terrain vehicles that exert less than 1 lb of pressure per square foot and a hovercraft that can cross mudflats or sloughs. Coordination between the two agencies will save taxpayers around \$10,000, the estimated price for a private firm to do this work.

Both agencies hope this event will bring the public's attention to the impact of trash in local creeks. When items are thrown into creeks, they cause blockages which can create mosquito breeding areas during summer. This debris also makes it difficult for mosquito control technicians to inspect creeks. Lawn clippings and other yard waste clogs the creeks and places rotting vegetation in the water. Such conditions create ideal habitat for the mosquitoes that cause West Nile virus. Finally, most of the trash that is thrown into the creeks eventually ends up in the Bay.

The San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District operates under an integrated pest management program, using biorational materials that are specific to mosquitoes and do not affect other animals. For more information about mosquito control or West Nile virus, please visit the District's website:

www.smcmad.org

To learn more about cleanup activities in Ryder Park, please call the park rangers at:
(650) 522-7485

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