



# Agenda Report

September 26, 2016

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Public Health Department

**SUBJECT: ANNEXATION OF THE CITY OF PASADENA INTO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15319 Annexations of Existing Facilities and Lots for Exempt Projects and Section 15320 Changes in Organization of Local Agencies; and
2. Adopt the attached resolution supporting the City's annexation into the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The City of Pasadena Public Health Department ("PPHD"), is proposing to transfer the responsibility of vector control services for Pasadena from the PPHD to the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District. This transfer will require the city to be annexed to the District, and will also result in the establishment of a property tax benefit assessment on all Pasadena property owners.

**BACKGROUND:**

The PPHD has been providing vector control services in the City of Pasadena for approximately 30 years. Vector Control is a public health program designed to eliminate disease "vectors" such as mosquitoes which transmit diseases such as West Nile Virus, St. Louis Encephalitis, Dengue Fever, and, more recently, Zika Virus. Although Zika is not yet identified to be locally transmitted in California, the mosquitos which can carry this virus (aedes variety), have been identified in California, including the San Gabriel Valley.

The PPHD Vector Control Program was established in the 1980's with a limited-scope program solely intended to eliminate sources of mosquito breeding. The program is

currently funded (Health Fund) with \$35,000 of public health realignment funds which supports 0.40 FTE of a Registered Environmental Health Specialist ("REHS"). This funding supports the REHS to provide larviciding (application to kill mosquito larvae) in identified locations where there is standing water (or green swimming pools) which could cause mosquito breeding. The REHS must receive state certification to conduct this application. Due to changes in vector control response protocols, it is necessary to change the current scope of vector control service to address growing threats associated with mosquito-borne disease. The PPHD does not have existing resources to acquire the training, equipment, or supplies to provide the higher level of vector control to include adulticiding (application to kill adult/flying mosquitoes), nor does it conduct any trapping or disease surveillance to determine where mosquito breeding may be occurring, necessary functions to guide prevention-based applications. Also, the PPHD does not have funding for comprehensive community education programming. Establishing this expanded program would require an investment of approximately \$250,000, with on-going costs that the PPHD does not have revenues to support.

In order to address the necessary changes in the current scope of vector control services, it is recommended that the City agree to annexation into an existing vector control district. Pasadena is immediately adjacent to cities served by one of two area mosquito abatement districts: the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District and the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District ("SGVMVCD"). The PPHD has recently been approached by the SGVMVCD with a request to annex Pasadena into its agency. Annexation into the SGVMVCD would provide for:

1. Mosquito breed surveillance to determine locations of active breeding and to facilitate targeted abatement efforts;
2. Collection and testing of dead birds (birds act as reservoirs for viruses) and analysis of sentinel bird flocks to track the active spread of virus locally;
3. Local laboratory testing capacity, for rapid test results;
4. Regular and proactive larviciding of standing water to prevent mosquito breeding, utilizing right-hand-drive vehicles for rapid and efficient application;
5. Capacity to expand services in the event of a mosquito/disease outbreak, to include adulticiding and focused applications to stem an event rapidly;
6. Education and outreach resources (including door to door campaigns) to educate the public on mosquito control efforts and how to prevent disease transmission;
7. Access to disease surveillance reports on Pasadena and the region to assist the PPHD in its disease prevention efforts; and
8. City of Pasadena trustee seat on the SGVMVCD board.

SGVMVCD will not provide contract vector control services for a jurisdiction not already included in its service area. The only exception would be provision of services, under contract, for a jurisdiction that is already actively engaged in the annexation process AND in the circumstance of extraordinary public health risk. The complete process for annexation requires the City to work with SGVMVCD to submit applications to the Local Agency *Formation* Commission for the County of Los Angeles ("LAFCO"). SGVMVCD will complete the process working with LAFCO and Los Angeles County to assign the

district to the county tax rolls. This process also includes a property tax exchange resolution, even though no funds are exchanged. Funding for the SGVMVCD services is provided for on annual property tax bills through a benefit assessment of \$11.98 per residential parcel and \$20 per non-residential/industrial parcel. The non-residential fee will apply to City-owned parcels. No election is required (California Supreme Court ruling allows vector district annexation without Proposition 218 requirements). Altadena, Sierra Madre, Arcadia and most San Gabriel Valley cities east of Pasadena are already included in the SGVMVCD. South Pasadena and Baldwin Park are actively engaged in annexation efforts with SGVMVCD currently.

Annexing the City into the SGVMVCD will shift the cost of the operating the local vector control services program from the PPHD to local property owners. However, the services provided by SGVMVCD will provide a higher level of service, at limited cost, ensuring Pasadena residents receive maximum protection from mosquito-borne disease, with a response capability not available from the existing PPHD program. The cost savings from the elimination of this program will be a savings to the Health Fund (public health realignment funding) which will be shifted to support other disease control efforts. The 0.40 FTE of the REHS will be retained and shifted to fee supported food facility inspection programs to assist with increasing inspection rates to meet best practice standards.

Each year, Pasadena identifies cases of vector-borne disease, with West Nile Virus (WNV) being the most serious (4 cases so far in 2016, 2 cases in 2015, 8 cases in 2014), with several of these cases being serious forms of WNV infection, such as neuro-invasive disease. WNV is a life-threatening virus. Should Zika transmission be identified in local mosquito populations, and, if locally transmitted cases of Zika are identified, significant efforts of adulticiding and larviciding would be required, including community education and outreach. Zika is not generally fatal; however, it has been shown to cause devastating birth outcomes.

**COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

The proposed actions would advance the City Council Strategic Planning Goals, including ensuring public safety.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

The proposed annexation has been determined to be exempt from California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15319, Annexations of Existing Facilities and Lots for Exempt Projects and Section 15320, Changes in Organization of Local Agencies. Section 15319, Class 19, exempts annexations to a city or special district of areas containing existing public or private structures developed to the density allowed by the current zoning or pre-zoning of either the gaining or losing governmental agency whichever is more restrictive, provided, however, that the extension of utility services to the existing facilities would have a capacity to serve only the existing facilities. The subject area is developed to the

density allowed by the City of Pasadena's zoning ordinance; there is no zoning relevant to Mosquito and Vector Control District. No extension of utility service is proposed. Section 15320, Class 20, exempts changes in the organization or reorganization of local governmental agencies where the changes do not change the geographical area in which previously existing powers are exercised.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

LAFCO has indicated there will be fees for PPHD to process this application of up to \$12,500. The PPHD has sufficient funds in Health Admin - Other Contract Services (Account # 20323010-811400) to support this expense. As with all property tax assessments, Los Angeles County will collect the assessment proceeds and distribute to SGVMVCD directly. The property tax will apply to City-owned parcels resulting in approximately \$8,000 in annual costs to the City. There are no anticipated impacts to other operational programs or capital projects as a result of this action.

Respectfully submitted,



MICHAEL JOHNSON  
Director of Public Health

Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL  
City Manager