

Board of Trustees Meeting Summary
San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District
Michael A. Goldman, Trustee (Brisbane)

12 March 2025

The District is consolidating operations in the area of their present facility on Rollins Road in Burlingame, expanding into an existing space nearly adjacent on Carolan Road. The cost to renovate the space will be approximately \$9.8M over three years, most of it in 2026-2027. The funds are already held in a capital expense fund, and will not require financing. 60% of the costs will be in improvements to meet code, including seismic retrofitting, accessibility and fire. It includes a small contingency. We expect a briefing from Capital Program Management at our April meeting.

Operations personnel (who service individual areas like Brisbane) were recently assigned to new areas. They rotate every two years to maximize familiarity with all regions of the County. I will try to get a briefing from the people serving our city before I meet with the City Council. The incidence reports I have viewed show few calls about mosquito or rodent concerns in Brisbane, as well as a general trend toward fewer calls in the northern region of the County.

The laboratory reports an increase in calls about avian flu, and 107 dead bird reports this Jan/Feb compared with only 27 at this time last year. Based on field experience and park ranger reports, this is likely to be increased public awareness rather than an increase in bird deaths. None of the birds have been positive for West Nile virus (WNV). The USDA monitors wild birds, and has reported no positives in the County either, but some waterfowl and raptors have had avian flu. The staff sees no cause for alarm. Actor Gene Hackman's wife's death due to hantavirus has caused increased awareness, but they were in a region of high incidence, while we see only a 1-2% incidents in rodents, and the typical house mouse is not a vector (transmitter) of this disease. The District usually uses chickens to monitor for certain respiratory diseases, but has backed off on this temporarily because of limited availability and concerns about avian flu.

Staff maintain a strong program of public outreach, including recent visits to a school in Brisbane, and several have just returned from an international conference in Puerto Rico, where there is a Dengue fever outbreak, again of no concern locally. The Director pointed out that Puerto Rico has many invasive species of mosquitoes, and dealing with them was a focus of the meeting. He commented that, in view of climate change, we are all likely to benefit from their experience in the next 20 years. They will also attend a symposium in Alameda on invasive species. Staff may join us for the City Council presentation.

The Information Technology (IT) group has received a \$184K grant to upgrade cybersecurity infrastructure. The District IT portfolio is heavily weighted toward

maintaining mapping and geographical information systems to monitor and direct operations efforts at preventive treatment and response to pest complaints and sightings. Future versions of the software are likely to incorporate artificial intelligence into predictions.

There have been no disruptions in service due to Federal government instability that have impacted District operations.

I filed a Form 700 "Conflict of Interest" with the District after the meeting.

This is my report as a Trustee, rather than an official document of the District or the City of Brisbane.