



Agenda Report

Agenda of: August 12, 2025

Department: Administration

Subject: Discussion and appropriate action on city mosquito abatement services.

Recommended Motion: TBD.

Background:

Several years ago, the City of Castroville invested in a truck-mounted mosquito fogger to perform treatments in-house when there was a licensed staff member to operate it. Due to staff turnover, there is currently no one on staff with the required pesticide applicator license. As a result, the equipment has sat idle for several seasons. Staff is now arranging for a local contractor to inspect the machine to determine if it can be salvaged and is also researching licensing requirements to identify potential candidates among current staff who could obtain the necessary certification.

In response to increased mosquito activity and citizen concerns, staff contacted three pest control companies to obtain quotes for citywide mosquito fogging services:

1. **BugCo Pest Control** – \$300 per trip + \$175/hour for truck-mounted GPS-tracked fogging; optional backpack fogging at \$75/trip; larvicide treatment for inlets on rain-affected days.
2. **Century Pest Control** – Unable to provide services this season due to equipment failure; timeline for repair unknown.
3. **Texas Pest RX (formerly Pinnacle Pest)** – Provided a citywide treatment route map; quoted \$29.50 per mile for a 20.3-mile route, totaling approximately \$620 per application.

Historically, mosquito control programs in the region have applied treatments every two weeks from May through July, for a total of ten treatments during peak mosquito season.

FOGGING EFFICACY:

Research indicates that truck-mounted fogging can temporarily reduce adult mosquito populations but is most effective when:

- Conducted during peak adult activity (dusk to early evening).
- Repeated on a regular schedule during the peak breeding season.
- Combined with community source reduction measures.

Fogging alone does not eliminate mosquitoes and has **limited residual impact**. Fogging only kills adult mosquitos, the effects last two to three days if no additional measures are taken. The removal of standing water remains the most effective long-term control measure.

CURRENT PLAN:

Staff has scheduled an **initial fogging application by Texas Pest RX at a cost of approximately \$700** to be completed within the next two weeks.

In addition, staff is:

- Arranging for inspection of the city's existing fogger to determine operability.
 - Reviewing licensing requirements and evaluating which current employees might qualify to obtain the necessary certification.
 - Preparing an **educational campaign** encouraging residents to eliminate standing water in containers, gutters, and low areas to prevent mosquito breeding.
 - Coordinating with Council to encourage public participation in these efforts.
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STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

- Implement mosquito treatments during the most effective period (May–July) based on historical activity patterns.
- Begin community education immediately to promote resident participation in mosquito control.
- Proceed with the initial contracted fogging while evaluating city-owned equipment for possible reactivation.

Fiscal Impact:

- Initial fogging: ~\$700 from Texas Pest RX (General Fund – Public Works Operations).
- Potential future costs dependent on treatment frequency, vendor selection, and equipment repair needs.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:

- Provide direction on desired treatment schedule for the 2026 mosquito season.
- Support staff in promoting community participation in mosquito control.
- Provide input on repair, licensing, and use of the city's existing fogging equipment.

☐ **Budgeted** ☐ **Requires Budget Amendment**

Source of Funding: Streets Budget

Attachments: None.

Urgency (0-5 = Low Urgency to High Urgency): 3

Impact (0-5 = Low Impact to High Impact): 1

Submitted by: R. Scott Dixon