

Good Evening. My name is Mary Drummer, and I'm a resident of Redondo Beach.

I am a member of the Medical Reserve Corps Los Angeles; we are a FEMA trained volunteer organization, utilized to respond to natural and man-made disasters. Think: Earthquakes, Mosquitos, and Anthrax.

The arrival of Zika in Florida demonstrated to California how expensive it is to prevent infestations. So, in a pre-emptive move, L A County Public Health began a 2 year training process involving 1,700 MRC members to participate with Vector Control Agencies across L A County. And each agency has participated- except ours.

Every chart and graph of reported cases of invasive mosquitos and their illnesses shewed a gaping void of reporting from our District. Invasive mosquito detection, prevention, and abatement require a REGIONAL approach to best combat this serious Public health issue. And at every turn, OUR District has been a non-participant. Mosquitos kill more people on the planet than ALL other animals-COMBINED. Last year in L A County, 27 people lost their lives to mosquito bites with hundreds more being infected and hospitalized, up from SIX in 2016. Zika has been neutralized, but West Nile is here to stay. There is a new breed of mosquitos here, called Aedes, and the CDC has called their presence a "Game Changer" in L A County.

So, I attended a Board Meeting at L A West Vector Control. There are serious issues with the oversight of this agency. As I took those concerns to a variety of Public agencies, I quickly learned that, as a Special District- there IS no oversight. Except for one governing body- its Board. Each city in the District is to have one representative on it.

However- and this is why I'm here- Hermosa Beach does not have a Representative on this Board. Of the 22 cities, SEVEN have no representative. With a serious Public Health threat that requires a Regional approach, YOUR city has no voice, no advocates- no oversight. ~~I am attending the meeting of every City Council that does not have a representative on this Board to change this.~~

The director, ~~Robert Saviskas~~, spoke publicly recently, and was asked why he doesn't use the MRC, a highly trained group of free manpower that cuts the time for a neighborhood inspection from 3 days down to 2 hours when a human case is detected- and he told them we have 'Only 30 minutes of training, and can't be trusted'; in fact, an MRC member cannot be deployed to a joint event with a vector control agency unless they have a MINIMUM of 32 hours of training. When asked why Redondo and Hermosa don't have someone on the Board, Mr. Saviskas responded: "Oh, we don't get involved in politics". So, if the only way you have to know you need a replacement is to be told by the Director, and the Director won't tell you you need someone- that is a self- designed Catch- 22 that in the least

would greatly reduce his accountability, and at worst, could cost someone their life. And how did he get and keep his position? By the vote of his Board, whose membership dropped by 1/3 and were never replaced.

The type of mosquitos that are known carriers of diseases that cause illness, death, and birth defects *are here*. And for anyone in this city, or this District, to contract these illnesses and say "I didn't know this was possible" is not acceptable.

I am asking you in the strongest possible way to re- initiate the volunteer position from Hermosa Beach for the Board of Trustees for Vector Control West, effective immediately.

Mosquito Season is upon us. There is no transparency ^{or accountability} in this organization. The time for Hermosa Beach to have its voice restored is now.

Thank you.

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