



Speaker:

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Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

Date: Monday, January 29, 2024

Time: 4:00 pm - 4:50 pm

Format: In-Person Seminar & Virtual Access

Location: Genomics Auditorium 1102A

Zoom: 938 1040 4405

Passcode: 833289

Title:

"An unimaginable year – Hurricane Hilary and mosquitoes in the desert"

Abstract:

In California, mosquito control is conducted under the Health and Safety Code. This law outlines how taxpayers can create a government agency to have the specific work to reduce vectors that impact people's health. The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District was established in 1928 to control eye gnats transmitting pink eye to schoolchildren. In 1955, the work expanded to include mosquitoes and in 2005 expanded again to include red imported fire ants. In 2015, District staff determined that *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes were within the boundary, which has led to an additional evolution in how we work. A typical year has meant trapping of adult mosquitoes, testing for arboviruses, and responding with control efforts and public education to reduce the risk of West Nile virus and St. Louis encephalitis virus transmission to residents and visitors. In 2023, the District experienced two large challenges on top of what was already an active virus transmission year. In August, Hurricane Hilary, a rare example of a tropical-strength storm, dropped over three inches of rain, altering the mosquito populations and the virus transmission in the valley. In October, the first reports of local transmission of dengue in California occurred simultaneously with the District conducting case investigations of *Aedes*-vectored diseases. While both are unusual events, they are reminders of the changing world.

<https://www.cvmosquito.org/jennifer-a-henke>

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