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**State Reclamation and
Mosquito Control Board**
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Mosquito Misting Systems Position Statement

With the recent emergence of West Nile Virus (WNV) and concerns about mosquito borne illness in general, a growing industry has emerged offering various solutions to control mosquitoes. In particular, mosquito-misting systems have been promoted as both a commercial and residential solution to mosquito problems.

According to Pest Control Technology News dated October 21, 2005, "these systems are typically installed in the eaves of residential and commercial properties and dispense a fine mist of adulticides during the time of day in which mosquitoes are active. Their purpose is to reduce the population of mosquitoes in the area immediately adjacent to the treatment." Also, the news item further stated "that since the emergence of the technology, state and federal regulators have expressed a number of regulatory concerns about the systems, including advertising claims made by the companies that manufacture, distribute and install the systems, concerns about human exposure to the pesticides dispensed by the systems, effects on non-target species, increased resistance to adulticides, licensing, certification and training of individuals selling and installing the systems and issues related to the storage and disposal of pesticides dispensed by the systems."

The State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB) has considered the issue of Mosquito Misting Systems (MMS) and the concerns expressed about them. Our position is in agreement with the position held by the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) and the concerns of others such as Pesticide Regulatory Officials.

In particular, the SRMCB cites the following statement by Roger S. Nasci, Ph.D. President of the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) in a letter dated June 29, 2004 to Director James J. Jones of the Office of Pesticide Programs in Washington, D.C.

“In summary the AMCA position is that the automated interval misting systems are not consistent with sound practices to promote public and environmental health and should be discouraged. We request the USEPA support this position and take appropriate action to limit the use of these products for mosquito control.”

The SRMCB recognizes and supports the use of pesticides to suppress mosquitoes when based on an Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM), it does not support the indiscriminate and unmonitored use of pesticides to reduce mosquito populations.

At this time, the SRMCB view these systems as contrary to Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) and regional approach to mosquito suppression. Further, the SRMCB question the effectiveness of such systems from the perspective of annoyance alleviation and reduction of risks associated with mosquito-borne diseases.

If and when research indicates that these systems are effective or regulatory restrictions are applied, the SRMCB could revise its policy. Until such time, the SRMCB, as the agency responsible for overseeing mosquito control in Massachusetts, does not support, recommend, nor approve the use of mosquito misting systems to control mosquitoes in Massachusetts.

Voted and Approved on November 7, 2005