

NAPA COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT 1968

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

The committee met with District Manager, William Rusconi, and discussed the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the Abatement District.

The District's office and equipment yard is located at 964 Imola Avenue West.

This committee conducted a physical tour and inspection of the facilities and equipment. The grounds are neat and clean with ample room. The trucks and spraying equipment are up to date and kept in excellent condition. The office space is large enough for the one full time secretary plus a conference table for the employees when needed. The office equipment seems to be up to date and sufficient for the needs of this department.

The committee was given a copy of the Accountants Report for the year ending June 30th, 1967. Also a list of all employees, their salaries and duties.

Planning and procedures have the District trying to stay within the \$.04 tax rate. They feel with the increased assessed valuation, it will be able to take care of demands necessitated by increased population and higher standards of living.

The arrival of the "Lake County Gnat" has already been a problem on the 400 acres of sewage ponds of the Napa Sanitation District. With just rain water alone, the "Lake County Gnat" population has resulted in many complaints. This year airplane spraying was used to control this Gnat and with great success. In the future, the spraying of the sewage ponds will be at the expense of the Sanitation District.

In addition to the 400 acres of sewage ponds, 4600 acres were sprayed in this manner in 1967. The results have given this District the best mosquito control it has ever had south of Napa even with a flood year.

The cost of spraying by airplane is about \$0.40 per acre, including both material and plane.

This year the District has a program of spraying all sewage ponds; the owner supplying the material and the District supplying the application. This has been a great success since the District is now able to control mosquitoes on these ponds, which previously had been costly and very difficult.

The responsibility and authority of the mosquito abatement districts in California are derived from the Health and Safety Code. The Board of Trustees of a mosquito abatement district has the responsibility to control mosquitoes of public health and economic importance. In order to accomplish the stated purpose, the Board is specifically empowered to employ the necessary administrative, technical, operational and other personnel or services, and to purchase facilities, equipment, materials and supplies.

The District is governed by the following Board of Trustees:

Mr. Andrew Kiser, 2506 West Pueblo Avenue, Napa – President

Mr. Harry E. Conroy, 1732 Stockton St., St. Helena – Vice-President

Mr. Peter Bardessono, 1901 Finnell Rd., Yountville – Secretary

Mr. George P. Abate, 455 Jefferson St., Napa – Member

Mr. Angelo Molinari, Calistoga – Member

With Mr. William Rusconi as District Manager.

This committee feels that Mr. Rusconi and his staff have done an excellent job this past year. Their accomplishments on better control of the mosquito problem on private ponds and the fine handling of an entirely new problem, namely the "Lake County Gnat", adds up to one fine job.

This committee has but two recommendations to the Board of Supervisors:

1. Do not appoint a sixth man on the Board of Trustees to replace Mr. Bentley, who resigned as of January 1st of this year. We recommend that you keep it at a five-man board as the California Mosquito Control Association by-laws read.
2. A great deal of thought should be given to adding another full time operator. We feel the part-time man that is hired to help during the heavy season, March through July, should be better trained. The problem of finding a part time man is great, let alone getting him again the following year. Many hours are lost training these men only to lose them. With the growth of this District's jurisdiction and responsibilities, this committee feels the need of another full time operator is now.

Respectfully submitted,

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HAROLD E. DOUGHTY, Chairman

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JOHN COCHRANE

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RICHARD TONASCIA