



**Public Health Administration**

Danette York, M.P.H., Director

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August 11, 2020

Honorable Michael R. Deems, Judge of the Superior Court  
c/o Court Administration  
Superior Court of California, County of Butte  
One Court Street  
Oroville, CA 95965

RE: Butte County Department of Public Health's Response to 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Deems:

On behalf of the Butte County Department of Public Health (BCDPH), I would like to thank the members of the Grand Jury for the service they provide to Butte County and our residents. I appreciated the time I spent with them to explain interactions BCDPH has with mosquito districts in the county. Please accept this response to the findings and recommendations of the 2019-2020 Grand Jury.

BCDPH was asked to respond to findings F5 and F6 as well as recommendations R1 and R2. The following responses are provided:

#### FINDINGS

F5: BCDPH Mosquito and vector public information and outreach needs to be expanded.

The respondent partially disagrees with the finding. BCDPH already provides extensive public information and outreach during the mosquito season. The respondent agrees BCDPH can expand public outreach on different types of diseases carried by mosquitoes rather than focusing most information on West Nile Virus (WNV).

F6: BCDPH website is not user friendly on the topic of mosquitoes

The respondent agrees with the finding.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

R1: Butte County Department of Public Health should add the term Mosquitoes to its search engine and to its drop-down menu on the BCDPH website by January 1, 2021.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented. The respondent will partially implement this recommendation by January 2021. Mosquitoes are not the only vector that carry diseases.



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[buttecounty.net/publichealth](http://buttecounty.net/publichealth)

The respondent will add information regarding vector-borne diseases, which will include mosquitoes, to the drop down menu on the BCDPH website.

R2: Butte County Department of Public Health should increase access to public information regarding mosquito disease prevention by creating a link on their website home page and through increased public service announcements by January 1, 2021.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented. The respondent will partially implement this recommendation by January 1, 2021. A link for additional information on vector-borne diseases and prevention will be added to the website under a pull down menu, but it will not be added directly on the BCDPH home page. Each year, during mosquito season, outreach is already performed in the following manner: press releases issued several times during the season, early messaging regarding West Nile Virus (WNV) recommending horse owners get the annual WNV vaccination, confirmation of first human WNV infection, information related to any WNV deaths, TV, newspaper and radio interviews, social media content regarding protection from mosquitoes and disease prevention and a WNV informational webpage at <http://www.buttecounty.net/publichealth/Programs/Communicable-Disease/West-Nile-Virus>. BCDPH will add information regarding other diseases mosquitoes carry to this informational webpage.

Respectfully,

Danette D. York, MPH  
Public Health Director

cc: Butte County Chief Administrative Officer