

# Large scale releases of *Wolbachia* infected *Aedes aegypti* male mosquitoes in residential communities

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# Considerations for Testing/Use

## **Agency**

- Invasive species control
- Disease potential
- Conventional control method efficacy
- Risk vs health benefit

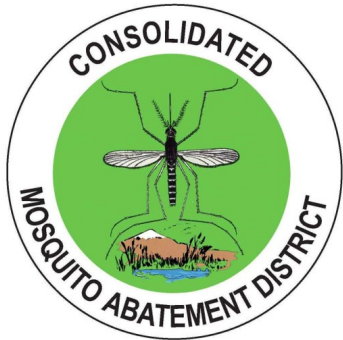
## **Public**

- Recognition of problem
- Nuisance impact
- Disease potential
- Desire for action
- Short/long term benefit
- Risk vs benefit
- Safety

# Decision Making

## Local Authority

- Abatement District
  - Mission and Powers
- Local agency support
  - Public Health Dept.



## Regulatory Agencies

- USEPA
  - EUP
- CA Dept. Pest. Reg.
  - Research Authorization
- State Health Dept.



# Community Engagement

- Establish public understanding
  - Honesty, clarity, Transparency
  - Work toward acceptance
- Methods of Outreach
  - Agency, jurisdiction contact/cooperation
  - Community-wide
    - News media
    - Social media
    - Website
    - On-site events
  - Constituents
    - Community advocate
  - Address misinformation

# Concerns and Support

## **Concerns**

- Safety
- Why/why not my neighborhood?
- Guinea pig effect
- Distrust in government

## **Support**

- Community Benefit – Vector Reduction
- Control method more acceptable
- Trust in Agency

# Lessons Learned

- Start early
- Discuss concerns/benefits
- Discuss how it fits into program
- Be flexible
- Anticipate the unanticipated
- Be transparent