

Alameda County

Vector Control Service District

Frequently Asked Questions on the Vector and Disease Control Ballot Measure

1) What is a Vector?

A “Vector” is any animal (fleas, flies, ticks, rats, raccoons, skunks, bats, etc.) capable of transmitting disease agents or producing discomfort or injury to humans and domestic animals.

2) Why did I receive a ballot in the mail?

The ballot you received is your opportunity to vote on the proposed Vector and Disease Control Measure for the Alameda County Vector Services District. Please review the Notice included with your ballot for more information on this measure.

3) What is the Vector Control District and what is the role of the County with this measure?

The Vector Control District is a division within the Alameda County Environmental Health Department; the Vector Control District will provide vector services to the City of “Emeryville” and/ or the City of “Fremont” if and only if the measure passes.

4) What is the geographic make-up of the District?

Currently, all parcels within Alameda County are covered in the Vector Control District except for the parcels in Emeryville and Fremont. These cities opted not to join at the time the District was formed in 1984.

5) What is the Vector and Disease Control Measure?

The Vector and Disease Control Measure is a mailed-ballot measure for property owners that, if approved, will provide year-round vector and disease control services in your city.

6) What parcels are included in the proposed Vector Control Measure?

All parcels within the boundary of the City of Emeryville or the City of Fremont.

7) Are there any exemptions from the Vector Assessment?

The law does not allow exemptions or reductions for seniors or for other purposes. (These requirements are contained in Article XIID of the California Constitution and other laws governing benefit assessments).

8) Will any of this money go to the State to be used for other purposes?

No. All money collected by the Vector Control Measure must be used for local vector and disease control within the Emeryville and/or Fremont Services Areas.

9) How would assessment funds be spent? What are the public accountability and fiscal controls?

Public accountability and fiscal controls include the following:

- All the assessed funds raised would be spent on vector and disease control in the Emeryville and/or Fremont Services Areas.

Steps to assure accountability and fiscal control include:

- Annual independent audits
- Annual public hearings and public reviews

10) Can you provide me with documentation of how your budget is currently spent?

The District budget is posted in 2008-09 Final Budget on the following Website on page 337-340: <http://www.acgov.org/budget.htm>

11) How is the Benefit Unit (BU) rate determined for each property?

The rate is based on the projected budget needs for service within the proposed Emeryville and/or Fremont Services Areas and use a single detached residence on less than one acre, as the benchmark. Depending on the type and use and size of property (e.g. condominium, business, vacant land) the specific special benefit is calculated. As example, the rate applied to a condominium is less than the rate applied to the benchmark single detached residence.

For more detail, the Engineer's Report (authored by SCI Consulting Group) is available for viewing at the District Office at 1131 Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda, CA 94502 during the regular office hours from 8:30am to 4:30 pm.

12) Is there a public hearing on the assessment? When will results of the ballot proceeding be know?

A public hearing will be held by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday December 9, 2008, commencing at 11:00am, at the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, located at the Administration Building, 1221 Oak Street, #536 Oakland, CA 94612. You are invited to attend the public hearing. Results of the tabulation are to be announced at a public meeting scheduled for January 6, 2009 at 11:00am at the same location.

13) Why is a signature required on the Ballot?

The Vector Control ballot measure does not follow the election code but instead follows Proposition 218 requirements. Proposition 218 stipulates that, a signature is required when casting a vote on a ballot.

(800) 273-5167: for questions regarding balloting including - tax rate, ballot replacement, name changes, multiple parcels on one ballot, etc.

(510) 567-6800: for questions regarding vector control services, budget, and employment.