RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF DAVIS TO OPT-OUT OF WIDESPREAD ADULTICIDE SPRAYING IN RESIDENTIAL AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS OF THE CITY

WHEREAS, adulticide spraying to prevent West Nile disease is of questionable effectiveness;

WHEREAS, the disease is a rare one even in peak infection years and less than 1% of the few who do become infected with the virus experience serious symptoms;

WHEREAS, the toxins intended to help protect sensitive people (children, elderly, asthma patients, etc.) are instead weakening immune systems and making individuals more susceptible to disease;

WHEREAS, the insecticides kill not only negligible amounts of mosquitoes but kill or harm many beneficial insects, birds, fish and aquatic ecosystems;

WHEREAS, many of the mosquitoes' natural predators are also killed;

WHEREAS, it has always been a value in Davis to safeguard its residents' human rights, it is a human right not to be exposed to pesticides against one's wishes, and it is impossible to guarantee that while spraying pesticides in our neighborhoods or parks people will not be inadvertently exposed to pesticide drift and residue;

WHEREAS, a number of jurisdictions, including Washington D.C., have adopted non-toxic programs recognizing the hazards of pesticides being sprayed;

WHEREAS, a focus on larvae control, effective public outreach and education, and cooperation with city agencies to reduce mosquito-breeding habitats have been shown to be successful at controlling West Nile outbreaks;

WHEREAS, the Sacramento/Yolo Vector and Mosquito Control District has already begun spraying parks, swimming pool areas, and ponds within the city limits without timely notification of people in the areas;

THEREFORE, the City of Davis will request that the Sacramento/Yolo Vector and Mosquito Control District forego adulticide spraying in residential and environmentally sensitive areas within the city limits;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Davis will invest in an effective public outreach and education program to inform residents about ways to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds and avoid mosquito bites.