

SYN. NO. _____

AGN.NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

March 4, 2003

The State of California is currently working within Los Angeles County to eradicate the deadly Exotic Newcastle Disease. On January 7, 2003, the Board unanimously approved my motion requesting Governor Davis to declare an emergency regarding the problem. This epidemic has been known in Southern California since October 2, 2002. During this time period, infected poultry and other birds have been found in several areas of the Antelope Valley as well as in other areas of Los Angeles County including Compton and El Monte. Although the State of California is the lead agency on this problem, very little has been done to contain the virus. The Los Angeles County Animal Health Services, a division of the Department of Health Services, stands ready and willing to assist the State. The County can help by providing public education, follow up on quarantines and by providing data collection and analysis to help in the overall understanding of the dynamics of the epidemic. Despite the County's attempt to partner with the State on this serious issue, the County has been left out of the process. It is imperative that all agencies cooperate as this could have a serious fiscal impact. The previous Exotic Newcastle Disease epidemic which occurred in 1971-1973 cost over \$56 million and took three years to eradicate. With the current state of the economy, it is essential that taxpayer dollars not be wasted as a result of refusal of governments to cooperate with the local jurisdiction.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, THAT THIS BOARD DIRECT County Counsel and the Director of the Department of Health Services:

1. Determine what legal steps the County can take to ensure more active participation and communication from the State;
2. Send a five signature letter to the Governor and to the Los Angeles County Delegation requesting that the State agencies cooperate and communicate with Los Angeles County regarding this problem and requesting that Los Angeles County be an active participant in developing a control plan for the disease.
3. To provide monthly reports to this Board regarding this epidemic.

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