

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