



Air Quality Advisory Board

***AIR QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION
TO CITY COUNCIL***

FROM: Fort Collins Air Quality Advisory Board

DATE: July 25, 2007

SUBJECT: Board Recommendation to reconvene the West Nile Virus Task Force

Dear Mayor and members of City Council:

In July, the Larimer County Department of Health advised the city of a possible serious West Nile Virus (WNV) recurrence. In rapidly responding to the situation, many council members recognized the need to continue to evolve a comprehensive long-term program to address WNV.

In 2004, the Air Quality Advisory Board (AQAB) took the lead in forming the original West Nile Virus Task Force that provided input into establishing current City Council policy. Attached to this letter are the recommendations provided to City Council on June 1, 2004. The 2007 AQAB Work Plan approved by City Council included reconvening the Task Force to evaluate the city's West Nile Virus prevention program.

At our meeting of July 24, 2007, the AQAB passed the following unanimous recommendation to City Council:

“The AQAB recommends that City Council reconvene the West Nile Virus Task Force to review existing city policy and recommend any appropriate changes that will yield a comprehensive integrated pest management program to effectively and judiciously manage both short and long-term risks of West Nile Virus.”

The AQAB also recommends that the Task Force be comprised of a diversity of stakeholders including:

- City boards (e.g., AQAB, NRAB, Water Board)
- City staff (e.g., Natural Resources)
- Academic experts (e.g., human health, environmental health, ecology, entomology, economics)
- Larimer County Health Department
- Citizens (including both chemically-sensitive and seriously exposed/related to exposed individuals)

The WNV Task Force will convene in September 2007 and final recommendations of the Task Force on the development of a WNV program will be presented to City Council by the end of December 2007 and should consider broader issues including:

- Institutional oversight of West Nile Virus program
- Permanent funding mechanisms for West Nile Virus program
- Formalized response protocol to any public health threat

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation. I would be happy to answer any questions or convey your comments and further direction to the Board.

Sincerely,

Eric Levine, Board Chair

