

Volume 38, No. 5

February 2025

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

by Chief Eddie Dwyer

The primary purpose of this report is to keep the community informed as to the activities and progress on major programs or objectives.

Personnel:

Per our current roster, we have 56 active members, 26 Support Group, of which 13 are in the medical cadre. We currently have 21 rostered Firefighters which include, one Chief/Paramedic of the Department, one Assistant Chief, one Division Chief of Special Operations, one Battalion Chief, 2 part-time Captain Paramedic, one Lieutenant.

Of our fire personnel, we have 15 members that can drive and operate all equipment.

Operations:

Incidents: From 12/22/2024 through 1/16/2025

Total 8

Incident Type:	Month	Type
Fire	1	Chimney
EMS	3	
Hazardous Condition	0	
Service Call	1	Lift Assist
Good Intent		
False Alarm	2	Automatic Fire Alarm

Recruitment and Retention

To recruit personnel, you must create an interest to join, then allow members to take ownership of the Fire District, in a way make it theirs. Something that garners pride, self-satisfaction and achievable goals. with a focus on capability and professionalism.

As the Fire Chief, as I see it; whether a member is in the Support Group or on the Fire Side, a sense of belonging, pride in ownership must be present to elevate any Emergency Response Service to the current standards required to operate. That all members must dropped the moniker of "Volunteer" and take on the roll as a professional.

Whether directing traffic, responding to a medical emergency, responding to extinguish a fire, or conducting any type of rescue, it does not matter. This requires a professional, one who is

knowledgeable, with confidence and competence in their skill and knowing they can bring a complex incident to resolution.

We have been working on the restructure of the Fire District, to provide personnel with ownership, building on their pride of service and increasing the talent of which they respond to the community to provide emergency services.

Assignments have been made and tasks delegated to Fire Personnel.

Division Chief Chris Dillender will be taking on the task of Special Operations. His assignment is identify equipment and training requirements for all forms of rescue, to include technical rope rescue, Auto Extrication. Hazardous Environment Entry. He will develop policy, conduct training, identify the rescue needs of the community.

Firefighter Tony Christensen, will assist in the development of special operations, as will Firefighter Heide Glockner.

Firefighters Trevor Dillender and Randy Combs are responsible for Facilities and Fleet Management and will coordinate with the Capital Improvement Group for facility needs and repairs.

Firefighter Heide Glockner is the Fire District Outreach Coordinator. She will Assist Community groups in the missions to serve the community, such as Communications and events, special projects, community service.

Firefighter Austin Eby will be our Emergency Medical Coordinator, he is tasked with EMS Equipment ordering, development and delivery of EMS Training.

In the upcoming months, I will be looking to expand the roll of the Support Group, to include Rescue Group which will assist personnel in the technical rescue operations, deployment of and operation as haul teams, for technical operations. I hope to also increase the Medical Cadre Operations to include Community Medical Welfare Checks. holding blood pressure clinics and providing CPR Training to the community.

Department Training and Safety:

As we move on into 2025, there will be changes to required attendance for training.

For Firefighters there will be mandatory training requirements. All fire personnel, will need to attend one mandatory training Tuesday per month. with one mandatory Training Saturday per quarter.

The IDLH Academy at El Dorado Hills Fire has been canceled, all members who were assigned to that academy will attend the IDLH Academy to occur Garden Valley, starting next month.

We recently completed OSFM Driver Operator I-A. which will increase the availability of personnel capable and qualified to drive and operate Firefighting Apparatus. We have Driver Operator I-B, (Pump Theory) starting January 21. 2025

Training to be scheduled: BLS Provider/Train the Trainer

Logistics:

The wharf Hydrant on the south east corner of the fire station required repairs to the supply line underground.

We will be scheduling respirator fit testing in February. All members requiring respirator fit testing will be assigned a day and time which. they will undergo testing at Georgetown Fire Station 61.

Interlocal: Nothing to report at this time.

Legislative: Upcoming CALOSHA regulations to be released, information to follow

Grants: We submitted a FEMA SAFER Grant Proposal for hiring of personnel. Two FEMA AFG Grants, one for the purchase of a Type 6 Fire Engine, one AFG Regional Grant for the purchase of a breathing air compressor. We are in constant search for all grant opportunities.

Apparatus: All Fire Apparatus were inspected by Jason Warden of Stretchfab Truck Repairs. All of our Firefighting assets are capable of operating as necessary in the event of emergency for which they are designed. Over the years, the apparatus has fallen into serious neglect, now requiring considerable maintenance repairs.

Engine 75- \$21,000

Engine 275-\$15,000

Expedition 7500- \$2,500

Expedition Vin/Lic# 1417356 \$1,600-6000, if transmission requires replacing.

Explorer Vin/Lic #2ZB74411 is recommended to be sold surplus.

Public Safety and Training:

Please remember to clean your chimney, be prepared for any type of emergency and evacuation.

Support Group Training:

Monthly training on the first Saturday of each month.

The next MFPD Board meeting will be on Thursday, February 28th at 7:00 pm at Station 75

MVFA UPDATE

by MVFA Board of Directors

FINNON LAKE RECREATION AREA**Rainbow Trout Stocking at Finnon Lake Reservoir!**

On January 14, 2025, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provided a fish stocking at Finnon Lake Reservoir. The Nimbus Fish Hatchery in Gold River, CA, (between Folsom and Sacramento), played a crucial role in this event, providing 400 pounds of rainbow trout, approximately 800 fish in total. Some of these trout were impressive, measuring up to 14 inches in length!

This stocking event is part of CDFW's ongoing efforts to enhance recreational fishing opportunities and maintain healthy fish populations in California's waterways. The Nimbus Fish Hatchery, one of the 21 fish hatcheries overseen by CDFW, is known for raising Chinook salmon and steelhead, but this recent stocking of rainbow trout is a treat for local anglers.

Finnon Lake Reservoir, located in Placerville, CA, is a popular spot for fishing, boating, picnicking, and other outdoor activities. The addition of these rainbow trout is sure to attract fishing enthusiasts from near and far, offering a chance to catch some beautiful fish in a picturesque setting.



Whether you're an experienced angler or just looking to enjoy a day by the water, Finnon Lake Reservoir is the perfect destination. Don't forget to grab your fishing license pay the \$6 per car day use fee and enjoy the fishing!

We hope to see you at Finnon Lake soon, and happy fishing!

Discover the Wonders of Nimbus Fish Hatchery

Nestled in eastern Sacramento County, the **Nimbus Fish Hatchery** is a fascinating destination for nature enthusiasts and families alike. Built on the downstream side of the Nimbus Dam, this hatchery is one of the 21 facilities overseen by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



The Nimbus Fish Hatchery plays a crucial role in preserving the populations of Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Each year, the hatchery releases approximately 4 million Chinook salmon and 430,000 steelhead trout into the American River, helping to maintain the delicate balance of the local ecosystem.

Visitors to the hatchery can enjoy a range of educational activities. The **Visitor Center** offers interactive exhibits that teach about the biology of salmon, hatchery operations, and river conservation. You can even watch the egg-

taking process through viewing windows, providing a unique glimpse into the life cycle of these remarkable fish.

The hatchery is surrounded by the beautiful **American River Parkway**, which offers miles of trails for hiking, biking, and wildlife viewing. Whether you're interested in spotting birds, enjoying a picnic, or simply taking a leisurely stroll, the parkway has something for everyone.

The Nimbus Fish Hatchery is open daily from **8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, with extended hours on weekends. Admission is free, and the hatchery parking lot is open from **7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

daily. For guided tours, especially for school groups, reservations are recommended and can be made through their new calendar reservation system.

Located off Highway 50, about 18 miles east of Sacramento, the hatchery is easily accessible. Don't forget to check their Facebook page for the latest updates on operations and guided tour availability.

Whether you're a seasoned angler, a curious student, or just looking for a fun outdoor activity, the Nimbus Fish Hatchery offers an enriching experience that connects you with nature and conservation efforts. Plan your visit today and discover the wonders of this remarkable facility!

Introducing the California Inland Recreational Angler Survey (CIRAS)

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has launched an innovative new program called the **California Inland Recreational Angler Survey (CIRAS)**. This web-based platform is designed to gather valuable data from anglers about their fishing trips, providing immediate access to aggregated sport fishing data through an interactive "Ready to Fish" dashboard.

What is CIRAS? CIRAS is a crowdsourcing platform that allows anglers to submit information about their fishing experiences. This data includes details about the species caught, catch rates, size distributions, and the time of year when fish are most active. The platform aims to give anglers a user-friendly experience while contributing to scientific research and helping CDFW better manage California's fisheries.

Why is CIRAS important? By participating in CIRAS, anglers can help CDFW understand angler preferences and the performance of fisheries. This information is crucial for making informed decisions about fish stocking, habitat conservation, and other management practices. Additionally, anglers can access data submitted by others, helping them plan their next fishing trip more effectively.

How does CIRAS work? Anglers can access the CIRAS platform online and submit their fishing data. The platform is currently available for waters within CDFW's North Central Region, which includes counties such as Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, and Yuba². CDFW plans to expand the platform statewide in the future.

What's next for CIRAS? As the pilot phase continues, CDFW will gather feedback from anglers and make improvements to the platform. Eventually, CIRAS will be available to all California counties, providing a comprehensive database of fishing information for anglers across the state.

Get Involved! Anglers are encouraged to participate in CIRAS by submitting their fishing data and exploring the information available on the platform. By contributing to this program, anglers can play a vital role in the conservation and management of California's fisheries.

For more information about CIRAS, visit the CDFW website. Finnon Reservoir is a listed location in the CIRAS app, so please document your fishing experience online when fishing at Finnon Reservoir.

MVFA CRV RECYCLE PROGRAM

The MVFA Recycle Program continues to provide a valuable resource of funding for the Mosquito Fire Station to be utilized by the department at the Fire Chief's request. Your participation in this program is appreciated and is benefiting our fire department!

Please drop off bags of Plastic Bottles and Aluminum Cans (Sorry no Glass) at the back of Station 75. Note: Lids and caps on plastic water bottles must be removed before they can be redeemed. Lids and caps can be included for redemption.



MVFA SWAG

Explore MVFA's collection of Mosquito T-shirts and Sweatshirts, available in an array of sizes and colors. New colors and style choices have been recently added, so please check them out. Apparel and local phone books are conveniently for sale at the diner during regular business hours or at MVFA sponsored events.



For personalized orders, reach out to us at mvfa95667@gmail.com.

MVFA ACTIVITY

Community Events

Easter Egg Hunt at Finnon Lake - 10:30 am April 19, 2025

Yard Sale at Station 75 parking lot - 9 am to 1 pm May 17, 2025

Spaghetti Dinner at Station 75 - 6:00 pm June 21, 2025

Fall Festival at Finnon Lake - 10 am - 3 pm Free Lunch October 11, 2025

Trunk-R-Treat at Station 75 - 6 pm - 8 pm October 25, 2025

Christmas Craft Sale at Station 75 - 10 am - 2 pm November 15, 2025

Christmas Dinner at Station 75 - 5:30 pm December 6, 2025- Free Dinner

The next MVFA Board meeting will be on **Thursday, February 20th** at 3:00 pm **at the Diner**
Note the new date and location for the monthly meeting!

MOSQUITO CRAFTERS

By Natasha Cutter

Mosquito Crafters kicked off the year with our first meeting in January, where we shared our ideas for the upcoming months. We are excited to showcase our crafts at the fall festival, the station holiday sale, and the pancake breakfasts throughout the year. Additionally, we will once again participate in the Cold Springs Church craft sale in November.

We are currently working on various projects to grow our inventory in anticipation of upcoming events. Additionally, we are working on making a selection of Easter baskets to sell to the community as we get into March.



More information about our Easter baskets will be shared in next month's Byte, as well as on our Facebook and Nextdoor pages.

We invite new members to join our crafting group! We gather on the fourth Friday of every month. If you're interested in becoming part of our group, have any questions, or wish to contribute to the Mosquito Crafters, please reach out to us at mosquitocrafters@gmail.com.

SMOKE ON THE WATER

by Kirk Bronsord and Matt Ridgeway

Hello Mosquito!

January brought many surprises for us, both in business and weather. Now, as we welcome February, the month of love, we invite you to celebrate with us! Bring your sweetheart and enjoy a cozy meal. For Valentine's weekend, we're offering romantic dishes, or you can treat your loved one to one of our favorites - a delicious burger!

Diner Hours:

Monday - Thursday - Closed

Friday 11 am – 1:30 pm

Saturday - 11 am - 6 pm

Sunday 9 am - 3 pm

(Breakfast served on Sunday only)

<https://www.facebook.com/smokeonthewaterplacervilleca>

We've had a fantastic start to the new year and are excited to continue growing with our wonderful community. Our place is becoming a hub for great food, new friendships, and camaraderie with neighbors.

Thank you all for your support!

With love, Your Smoke on the Water Family

530-622-1060

SCPOA REPORT

By Meredith Blain

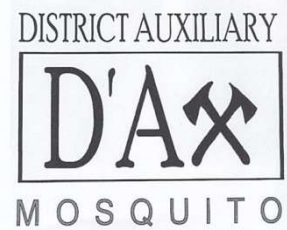
The Swansboro Country Property Owners Association Board of Directors (SCPOA) meets monthly at the MFPD Fire Station, 8801 Rock Creek Road. **The next SCPOA board meeting will take place on Saturday, February 22nd, 2025, and will be the Members Annual Meeting. SCPOA Members please mark your calendar and plan to attend. We will have refreshments and members will have an opportunity to talk directly with SCPOA directors.** Meeting agendas are posted on the bulletin board at Dyer Lake and on the SCPOA website. All SCPOA Members are invited to attend.

Members of SCPOA can visit SCPOA.info, the official SCPOA website, and get information about upcoming meetings, meeting agendas and minutes, association bylaws, individual unit's DC&Rs, using the Swansboro Airport, and find information for use of common areas, and much, much more! If you have not requested a login for the SCPOA website, please send an email to Kpaulscpoa@gmail.com, or Melissa.bell@managementtrust.com to gain access.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY aka D'Ax

By Meredith Blain

D'Ax has installed a new board member, Karen Jensen. Karen has some big shoes to fill as she is replacing Diane Brady who has served our community and D'Ax so well since the inception of The District Auxiliary. Diane brought a great deal of professionalism to our board with her wide range of skills and experience, including serving in the public sector and also as a past Mosquito Volunteer Firefighter! Diane served in the role of Board Secretary for D'Ax, taking copious notes and producing excellent minutes reflecting the work of our board. Not a meeting went by that Diane did not provide great insights to the board, all of which benefited the Mosquito community. A heartfelt Thank You! to Diane. We'll miss you and do our best to have fun in your absence.



Karen Jensen has attended nearly every D'Ax meeting and event. Late last year, as Diane expressed her desire to step down and truly retire, Karen stepped up and expressed her desire to join the D'Ax Board. We are delighted to welcome Karen as she brings a wealth of knowledge and business experience that will help the board make sound decisions and be of the best service possible to the Mosquito community.

The District Auxiliary generally meets on the fourth Thursday of the month on the same day as the MFPD Board of Directors Meeting. The February D'ax meeting will begin at 5:30pm on February 27, 2025.

Please always verify meeting dates and times by checking the MFPD.us website under the Meetings tab. All residents of Mosquito Fire Protection District are invited to attend District Auxiliary meetings.

Find us at MFPD.us. Email us at admin@dax-np.org.

BIRDING AT FINNON LAKE

by Dave Angelo

Here are the results of the bird watch for January. The next Bird Watch will be on the 8th of February at Finnon Lake, just past the Boat Launch area. The starting time for Fall and Winter is 9:00 A.M. There is no parking charge to the participants of this free event.



American Goldfinch

15	Canada Goose	4	Double-crested Cormorant	3	California Scrub-Jay
5	Bufflehead	2	American Goldfinch	40	Western Bluebird
150	American Coot	18	Acorn Woodpecker	23	American Robin
1	Northern Flicker	4	Pied-billed Grebe	2	Lesser Goldfinch
1	Steller's Jay	40	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	2	Bald Eagle
3	Spotted Towhee	4	Great-tailed Grackle		

CLASSIFIED ADS

(Classified Ads are free to all paid subscribers)

WANTED

LOCAL ORGANIC FARM

Seeks manure source, specifically goat, sheep, chicken, llama or alpaca. Please contact Ryan at THREE GOATS FARM. 530-497-4279 or farm3goats@gmail.com

FOR SALE

THE GOAT DOCTOR OF THE SIERRAS

book by Gloria Hockensmith is available locally. Call Taffy 530-626-8689 to buy your copy (\$20). A great fact based read about a local legend. Perfect for gifting.

UNIQUE JEWELRY

Handmade jewelry using recycled aluminum cans, and more. To view, call Dee at 530-642-2333.

OXBOW FIREWOOD \$375 for hardwood, \$300 for softwood. Delivery on the hill gratis. Are you cold? Call the Ox at 916-862-7511

RABBITS FOR SALE by Finnegan the Rabbit Rancher. California/NZ, Lionhead/Flemish, California. \$35 So many pretty colors. Email for details. FinnOson7@gmail.com

2012 HARLEY-DAVIDSON SPORTSTER 883

Super low mileage Original 875 miles
New Michelin Tires, New Drive Belt
Just Serviced, New Battery, Freshly Detailed - daviddudleyca@comcast.net

TREADMILL

Pro-Form J4 Electric Treadmill \$60.00
Gary at 530-626-0265 or 310-541-7710

MEETINGS

MOUNTAIN FELLOWSHIP

Join us for Christian worship and fellowship
Sunday mornings 11AM at 3342 Stope Drive. Bible studies throughout the week.
530-295-0503

SERVICES

NOTARY SERVICES ON THE HILL

Contact Devon at: 510-719-1247.

HOUSE PAINTER – AMERICAN EAGLE PAINTING

Residential/Commercial
Specializing in repaints contact Steven Martinez, 530-919-7612 or americaleaglepainting4@gmail.com
Lic# 960086

HARP TEACHER

Have you always wanted to play the harp? There is now a Harp Teacher in Swansboro. Over 20 years' experience teaching children and adults. I have a few harps available for rent. For more Information, please call 530-344-1531 and ask for Paula or e-mail: harppaula@gmail.com.

CALI CONSTRUCTION

General contractor 530-903-1869
Decks, fences, siding, flooring, and more.
5% senior or veteran's discount.
CSLB#1054550

FLORIST ON THE HILL

I am your community florist providing long lasting flowers for all occasions. We ALWAYS deliver FREE on the hill! Stop by and check out our collection of Honey House products, gifts, jewelry, & handmade cards. Also offering flower subscriptions specifically created for you. Call me Elaine Galvan 530-295-0503 for all your floral needs.

HANGTOWN RANGE

1540 Broadway, Placerville Wednesday – Saturday 10 to 6 and Sunday 10 to 5 with 10 Indoor Shooting and 8 Archery Ranges, Firearms and Recurve Bow rentals, Milo Virtual Shooting Range w/ live fire ammunition, Archery and Handgun classes, CCW classes, One on One training, Basic Pistol Classes, Women's Classes. Call 530-497-5443 for more information.

FIREWOOD

Tired of paying outrageous prices for wood? I will cut and split downed trees and/or rounds for you. Call Daniel @ 530-919-8878

MOSQUITO CREEK OUTFITTERS

3000 Mosquito Road, Placerville, Tuesday – Friday 9 to 6, Saturday 9 to 5, El Dorado County's premier source for the best hunting, fishing, archery, and outdoor products. Mosquito Creek Outfitters is always stocked with the best gear to accompany you wherever you may roam. 530-621-4500.

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Live the American Dream: the ownership of a home and a little acreage to call your own! Sally Long Johns, your resident Mosquito Road Realtor, will help you buy or sell any property in El Dorado County! You can reach me at www.mosquitoadneighbors.com or 530-295-4641 or toll free 866-SALLYRE, snlongjohns@yahoo.com.

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Donna Ables, Realtor, MBA/BBA Real Estate & Land Use Affairs, CSUS Caldwell Banker Realty
Where Quality Meets Excellent Customer Service!

CalDRE# 01887830

(916) 320-0365

Visit donnaablesrealestate.com

WELDING & FABRICATION

Steel, Stainless Steel, Aluminum. Certified to military standard. Call 530-621-3300

HANDCRAFTED GLASS ITEMS

Birdbaths, flowerpots, plates, bowls, etc. Also, handmade wooden jewelry boxes. Affordable and unique. Studio open most days; call first. Do your gift shopping here on the hill! Call Pam or Dave Angelo at 530-621-3688.

February 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering 11am	3	4 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	5	6	7	8 Support Group Training 9am Station 75 Bird Watch FLRA 9 am
9 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering 11am	10	11	12	13	14	15 Support Group Training 9am Station 75
16 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering 11am	17	18 MFPD Firefighters Training 6pm Station 75	19	20 MVFA Board Meeting 3pm Diner	21	22
23 MFOM Mountain Fellowship Gathering 11am	24	25	26	27 D'Ax Meeting 5:30pm Station 75 MFPD Meeting 7:00pm Station 75	28 Crafters Meeting 10am	

Local Area Web Links

Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA)
 Fannon Lake Recreation Area
 Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD)
 Swansboro Country Property Owners Association
 Mountain Fellowship in Mosquito (MFOM)
 El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

<https://www.gomvfa.org>
<https://www.fannonrecreationarea.com/>
<https://mfpd.us>
<https://scpoa.info>
<https://mfom.net>
www.edcfiresafe.org

The MOSQUITO BYTE is mailed first class to subscribers each month. A subscription is \$15.00 per year, with a two-year maximum pre-pay. Please mail your check, payable to MVFA, to 9009 Orval Beckett Ct., Placerville, CA, 95667. The deadline for advertising and articles is the 19th of each month. It is also posted on the www.goMVFA.org website each month.

Editors have the right to edit, limit, or refuse any article submitted for publication. Authors are responsible for article accuracy and their opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the MVFA Board of Directors or the editors.

MVFA is organized as a non-profit tax-exempt entity and is funded entirely by grants, donations, fundraisers and rents and fees at Finnon Lake - which it owns. MVFA receives no tax revenues, nor any dues money from SCPOA. As per IRS mandate, MVFA gives no cash nor has any financial connection to any non-501(c)(3) organization or to the Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD). MVFA has no paid employees, and operates primarily with volunteers who donate their own time and often their own money to make our community a better place. If you would like to enhance your membership in MVFA, please become a volunteer. MVFA is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible. A letter stating your donation will be provided on request. Send your donation to MVFA, 9009 Orval Beckett Ct., Placerville CA 95667.

MVFA values and promotes voluntary efforts in our community. MVFA continues to carry on the work begun by its predecessors many years ago. If you have any questions about MVFA, please attend the MVFA Board of Directors meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the Mosquito Fire House, 8801 Rock Creek Road, Placerville at 3:00pm. At the meetings, you have the opportunity to obtain correct and updated information about MVFA and its committees, legal obligations at Finnon Lake and events and volunteer opportunities. Mosquito residents may request a copy of approved MVFA Board meeting minutes by emailing your name and address to mvfa95667@gmail.com, or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: MVFA, 9009 Orval Beckett Ct. Placerville CA 95667.

ADVERTISING POLICY

There is no charge to subscribers advertising in the MOSQUITO BYTE. Ads must be limited to 7 column lines maximum. Please email ads for the Classified Section to Mosquito BYTE Editor at mbyte.editor@gmail.com. Ads in the "Free", "For Sale", and "Wanted" categories will run for three months unless the submitter requests it to be removed or extended.

The MOSQUITO BYTE accepts ads from subscribers without endorsement.

The MOSQUITO BYTE and other updates are posted each month on the www.gomvfa.org website.

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PLACERVILLE, CA 95667-9040

9009 ORVAL BECKETT CT

MOSQUITO BYTE