

Press Release



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GOVERNOR DAVIS DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

Action Targets Outbreak in Southern California

SACRAMENTO

Governor Gray Davis today declared a state of emergency in the fight against an outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease among poultry in Southern California.

"Exotic Newcastle Disease is a devastating bird illness that has the potential to wipe out the poultry industry," Gov. Davis said. "I am instructing my Agriculture Secretary and Emergency Services Director to work together to stop the spread of the disease and to eradicate it as quickly as possible."

Commercial flocks and backyard birds have been diagnosed with Exotic Newcastle Disease. Quarantines are in place in San Diego, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura and Orange counties.

Commercial poultry producers within quarantine zones must comply with a mandatory reporting system that identifies increased mortality,

Poultry and poultry products may not be moved from quarantined counties. Eggs can be moved after they are washed, sanitized and packed in new materials.

The disease does not pose a risk to human health. Poultry and egg products are safe to consume.

The emergency declaration will enable state agencies to pool resources and work cooperatively with the California Department of Food and Agriculture in addressing the response to the incident. Emergency declarations are the customary means for the state to streamline such responses.