FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler County supports efforts at East Flagler Mosquito Control District, post-Irma

September 20, 2017 – Flagler County Administration is working in every way it can to support the East Flagler Mosquito Control District and their efforts to mitigate the flood of mosquitoes that are forecast for the county September 21 and beyond.

“We’ve asked the District to pursue all means necessary to get additional resources, and to spray whatever they deem necessary to control the pending outbreak of mosquitoes, and to include all areas impacted,” said County Administrator Craig Coffey. “We have also been reaching out to our state and federal contacts, on behalf of the District. We have requested that resources be lined up and ready-to-go in anticipation of Flagler County meeting the state-required mosquito-population thresholds which can trigger additional state and federal support and expanded aerial spraying.”

While mosquito control is sometimes part of county government, that is not the case in Flagler County. Here it is an entirely independent agency, with an elected governing board and its own taxing authority. Post-Irma, County staff and Commissioners have made themselves available to the District in support of an immediate Mosquito Control Response later this week.

“Flagler County received over 12 inches of rain on top of an already saturated landscape,” continued Coffey. “When this rain is added with Intracoastal and St. John’s backup and the storm surge- greater than we’ve experienced in 40 years- it has created an ideal water environment for a tsunami of mosquitoes and potentially the diseases they can carry. By being proactively involved, we hope to limit the immediate impacts to our residents and lessen the next generation of mosquitoes, even potentially saving the District and/or state money by reducing the need for future efforts.”

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