



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

September 29, 2021

Letter of Support

PROPOSED PESTICIDE EXPERIMENTAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION: OXITEC LTD.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0274-0363

TO: The United States Environmental Protection Agency

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) works with and advocates for nearly 3,000 local health departments across the country, many of which are at the forefront of vector control and vector-borne disease prevention. Mosquito-borne illness presents a risk to many of their communities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recorded routine incidence of mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus, dengue fever, and chikungunya. The female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito represents the main vector for transmission of dengue fever and chikungunya diseases, as well as the Zika epidemic in 2016-17, and as such interventions that can reduce the female *Ae. aegypti* population can help protect public health.

NACCHO supports the evaluation of safe and well-regulated novel vector control technologies that have the potential to protect public health and fill the gaps in current vector control strategies, such as technologies that can address the issue of insecticide resistance, which limits the effectiveness of current chemical control strategies. As the Zika epidemic showed in 2017, mosquito-borne disease has the potential to become widespread in the United States. Climate change also has the potential to expand mosquito habitats and possibly introduce the risk of serious mosquito-borne diseases into areas that have not had to respond to them before. NACCHO members in both California and around the country will benefit from the study of promising vector control technologies as part of their efforts to reduce the risk of vector-borne disease in their localities. Developing a full understanding of both the possibilities and limits of novel vector control methods is critical for advancing public health.

NACCHO submits this letter in support of this Experimental Use Permit as part of our organization's mission to help our members protect public health. We look forward to further evaluations of novel technologies that can provide safe and effective vector control options for our members and their communities.

Sincerely,

Lori Tremmel Freeman, MBA
Chief Executive Officer

