

# SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

## Executive Director's Report

April 2025

### 1. Personnel:

Personnel	
Staff	Seasonal
12	7

Type of Work	2025	3 - Year Average
Adulticiding	7.00	0.00
Wetlands / Rural	184.00	123.92
Fish Culture	81.50	21.33
Catch Basins / Gutters	0.00	2.33
Tree Holes	0.00	0.33
Prison	78.00	2.67
Service Request	16.50	6.67
Traps	189.50	122.33
Laboratory	282.25	246.08
Office / Administration	877.25	743.50
Equipment Maintenance	228.00	271.08
Facility Maintenance	321.50	201.75
Training	86.50	142.75
Education	191.75	44.33
Unmanned Aerial System	80.75	30.83
CSU Grant	45.00	6.83
Other Grants	Not Recorded	0.00
Other / Errands	88.50	133.92
Comp. Time Used	141.50	73.83
Vacation	197.50	136.75
Additional Hours	0.00	15.92
Holidays	0.00	0.00
Sick Leave	23.50	44.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,120.50</b>	<b>2,372.00</b>

## **2. Office/Lab Activities:**

- Executive Director Faraji and members of staff attended and presented at the annual Entomological Society of America's Pacific Branch meetings on 1 April 2025.
- Executive Director Faraji and members of staff hosted around 25 visitors from the Entomological Society of America's Pacific Branch on 2 April 2025. Visitors included: Cameron Joy Bright, Norah Saarman, Cindy Woo, Erik L Roldan, Jacob Tarango, Nsa Dada, Claudineia Pereira Costa, Mx. Lin Svahn, Pablo Moreno Garcia, Roshan Manandhar, Joey Yin Xin Chang, Jennifer A. Henke, Geoffrey Nyapom, Dennis Weiss, Jedeliza Ferrater, Maya Clark, Lacey Belanger, Silvia I. Rondon, Edwin T. Harris, Ernane Vieira-Neto, Jhalendra P. Rijal, Timotheus Youki Itoi, Heather Andrew; amongst others.
- Executive Director Faraji and Assistant Director White attended the monthly meetings of the Utah Mosquito Management Association on 9 April 2025.
- Executive Director Faraji and members of staff hosted a reporter from the Salt Lake Tribune on 10 April 2025.
- Executive Director Faraji and Education Specialist Rehbein hosted the Inland Port Authority on 14 April 2025. Members in attendance included: Kaitlin Felsted, Marketing Communications Director, Ben Hart, Executive Director, Amy Brown Coffin, Chief Risk & Compliance Officer, Mona Smith, Environmental & Sustainability Director, Nick Archambault, Marketing Communications Specialist, and Steve Smith, Associate Vice President, Regional Project Area Development.
- Executive Director Faraji hosted a bi-monthly virtual meeting for the Medical, Urban, and Veterinary section of the Entomological Society of America on 15 April 2025.
- Executive Director Faraji attended a virtual meeting for the Communications Committee of the Medical, Urban, and Veterinary section of the Entomological Society of America on 15 April 2025.
- Executive Director Faraji hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward Deacons for a facility visit from Bountiful on 15 April 2025. The group included 10 kids and 3 adults.
- Executive Director Faraji and Aerial Operations Supervisor Sorensen attended the weekly construction meetings of the Owner/Architect/Engineers on 16 April 2025.
- Executive Director Faraji and members of staff hosted a reporter from the Salt Lake Tribune on 17 April 2025.
- The District hosted our auditors starting on 24 April 2025 for the annual audit.
- Executive Director Faraji attended a virtual meeting for the Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vectorborne Diseases on 30 April 2025.
- The District hosted SLC Mayor Mendenhall, Councilwoman Petro, Senator Escamilla, Police Chief Redd, and others at the facility for discussions regarding development of the west side and potential move of the new homeless shelter on 30 April 2025.

### **Aleta Fairbanks, CFO**

- 23 April 2025 Completed Audit Preparation.
- 24-25 April 2025 Worked with Auditors doing their field work.
- 10 April 2025 Gave Shawn Grother, the drone operator for Canyon County MAD in Idaho, a tour of the administration building.
- 22 April 2-25 Attended PEHP Insurance Renewal Kickoff Meeting

### **Greg White, Assistant Director**

Emily Calhoun Dissertation Committee Meeting – 4/29

Weekly Construction Meetings

Set up talks and schedule for UMAA Spring Workshop – various days

Set up and Conduct Interviews with seasonal applicants (12) – 4/16 to 4/25  
 UMAA Spring Workshop Committee Meetings – 4/15, 4/22  
 Call with Paula Lado and Haley Johnson about drone studies – 4/25  
 RaHP calls – 4/23

**Chris Bibbs, Laboratory Director**

<b>Apr 1-2</b>	ESA:PAB conference SLC
<b>Apr 3</b>	Trap assembly for Vicky Ng (CAN Public Health); SRI student meeting and summer funding solicits
<b>Apr 8</b>	Volatile pyrethroid resistance review collaboration w/ Ingrid Chen; AMCD conference debrief; EntSoc discussion
<b>Apr 9</b>	Assembling data exports and project outlines for mosquito movement modeling with Luis Chavez
<b>Apr 10</b>	Surveillance start; reporter visit; call w/ Lake County (CA) mosquito control for capgels
<b>Apr 11</b>	Visit by Eric Gardner; call with Brad Willenberg; update with Jingyao (SRI) on Tox pigmentation project; call with CLS on methoprene progress
<b>Apr 14</b>	Debrief w/ Greg; review for PLoS ONE; finishing volatile pyrethroid resistance review w/ Ingrid Chen; Inland Port Authority visit
<b>Apr 15</b>	Age-grading data input, management, and review; project/collaboration follow-ups with Andrew Rivera (larvicide testing) and Sam Rund (Cx. tarsalis movement)
<b>Apr 16</b>	Seasonal interview; coordinating catch basin sampling with Q for Andrew Rivera; image prep for Capgel manuscript (led by Willenberg lab); Culicoides samples for CDC
<b>Apr 17</b>	Compiling Culicoides sample data sheets (for AMCA/CDC survey); Abstract for Entomological Society of America; image prep for Capgel manuscript (led by Willenberg lab); SL Tribune visit; Seasonal Interviews
<b>Apr 18</b>	Seasonal interviews; meeting w/ Nicole Kelp on vector control survey data;
<b>Apr 21</b>	Avery Derr orientation; Seasonal interview; planning out vector control questionnaire manuscript w/ Nicole Kelp
<b>Apr 22</b>	Avery Derr surveillance training; meeting w/ Sam Rund; Survey data analysis w/ Nicole Kelp
<b>Apr 23</b>	Seasonal training; intro for MAD survey manuscript
<b>Apr 24</b>	Results and discussion for MAD survey manuscript; seasonal interview
<b>Apr 25</b>	Building, packing, and shipping traps for citizen science collaboration in PHAC Ontario (w/ Vicky Ng); seasonal interview
<b>Apr 28</b>	J Med Ent review; Saarman lab visit; copy-editing for arthropod-plant interactions manuscript
<b>Apr 29</b>	Lab orientation for Liza Muir; edits and resubmission for regulator evaluation manuscript
<b>Apr 30</b>	Larval ID training for Avery and Liza

**Michele Rehbein, Education Specialist**

- Dr. Rehbein wrote and submitted an article for the AMCA's National Campaign (Yesterday's Threat, Today's Solution) newsletter for 4 April.
- Dr. Rehbein and Brad Sorensen went to Home Depot to purchase additional least chub prison fish project supplies on 15 April.
- Dr. Rehbein submitted an iNaturalist journal post on behalf of SLCMAD for the City Nature Challenge on 22 April.

- Dr. Rehbein submitted a one-page slide to be displayed about SLCMAD during the Salt Lake County Climate and Health Symposium during 29 April, on 22 April.
- Dr. Rehbein completed and submitted a grant report form for the 2024 Western IPM Center grant project on 22 April.
- Dr. Rehbein extended an offer to Daniel Glover for the Garden Specialist position on and he accepted on 29 April.
- Dr. Rehbein attended and presented at the EnSoc Pacific Branch meeting 31 March through 2 April.
- Dr. Rehbein attended and presented at the Utah Public Health Association conference on 3 April.
- Dr. Rehbein partnered with Kacy Nowak and Karen Valcarce from the Utah Department of Health and Human Services on 8 April and did a tour and presentation for the Utah Mensa youth program.
- Dr. Rehbein presented a guest lecture at Dr. Dylan Klure's Mammalogy class at the University of Utah on 10 April.
- Dr. Rehbein helped organize and talk to Jose Davila (journalist) and Fran (photographer) from the Salt Lake Tribune on 10 April.
- Dr. Rehbein met with Elizabeth Moretz (SLCSE) and Jesse Watson and Doris from HawkWatch International on 11 April to discuss putting up a kestrel nesting box on our facility, and then gave a tour to Jesse and Doris.
- Dr. Rehbein spoke with Jenn Hein from the Wasatch Beekeepers Association about potential collaborating in the future on 14 April.
- Dr. Rehbein and Dr. Faraji met with staff from the Utah Inland Port Authority (Ben Hart, Kaitlin Felsted, Amy, Mona, Nick, and Steve) and gave them a tour of our facility on 14 April.
- Dr. Rehbein participated in an AMCA PR Committee meeting on 15 April.
- Dr. Rehbein assisted with the Salt Lake Tribune visit on 17 April (Jose Davila and Fran visited for a second time for a news article).
- Dr. Rehbein conducted an interview with Zoe Sommerdorf for the Garden Specialist position on 17 April.
- Dr. Rehbein attended a JRC TAC meeting on 17 April.
- Dr. Rehbein did an interview with Sheri Quinn from Utah Public Radio about the City Nature Challenge and who/what we do at the SLCMAD on 21 April. <https://www.upr.org/utah-news/2025-04-25/international-competition-inspires-utahns-to-explore-nature>
- Dr. Rehbein conducted an interview with Nick Barba for the Garden Specialist position on 21 April.
- Dr. Rehbein met with Sara Deaton, Entomologist Assistant, from Beach Mosquito Control District to discuss the pollinator habitat on 22 April.
- Dr. Rehbein conducted an interview with Chase Carter for the Garden Specialist position on 22 April.
- Dr. Rehbein attended a Partners in the Park planning meeting on 23 April.
- Dr. Rehbein conducted an interview with Adam Newton for the Garden Specialist position on 23 April.
- Dr. Rehbein and Quinten Salt attended a STEM Night at Beehive Elementary school on 23 April.
- Dr. Rehbein did an interview with Lynne Ware Peek and Katie Mullaly from KPCW radio about the City Nature Challenge on 24 April. <https://www.kpcw.org/show/cool-science-radio/2025-05-02/become-a-citizen-scientist-with-the-city-nature-challenge>

- Dr. Rehbein conducted an interview with Skyler Sanders for the Garden Specialist position on 25 April.
- Dr. Rehbein conducted an interview with Daniel Glover for the Garden Specialist position on 25 April.
- Dr. Rehbein did a nature walk event with Ellen Eiriksson from the NHMU at the Day-Riverside Library on 25 April.
- Dr. Rehbein attended some of the Salt Lake County Climate and Health Symposium on 29 April.
- Dr. Rehbein conducted an interview with Hailey Thomas for the Garden Specialist position on 29 April.
- Dr. Rehbein attended a PacVec spring seminar series presentation on 29 April.
- Dr. Rehbein, Dr. White, Dr. Faraji and Brad Sorensen attended the Salt Lake council meeting for 2200 W residents hosted at the SLCMAD facility on 30 April.

### **Nate Byers, Molecular Biologist**

Assisted with district tours related to the Ent. Soc. Pacific Branch meeting; 2 April

Began rural trapping

Shipped *Sabethes cyaneus* to Jeff Riffell; 14 April

Assisted in interviewing seasonal applicants

University of Utah students' semester with SLCMAD concluded [notably Kaden, Clara, Sydney, Danny, Sean, Jingyao (SRI) and Kai (volunteer)]; 28 April

Represented the District at the PacVec Annual Meeting 3-4 April

Showed insectary to Eric Gardner (Biologist), Scott Sommer (Assistant Manager) and Judd Mitchell (Fleet and Facilities Manager) from SSLVMAD; 11 April

Demonstrated trapping and lab purpose to Jose and Fran from SL Tribune; 10 and 17 April

Demonstrated CO<sub>2</sub> filling method for Liz Hart; 18 April

Discussed diel projects with Sam Rund (and Chris); 22 April

Met with Saarman Lab to discuss joint projects; 28 April

### **Brad Sorensen, Aerial Operations Supervisor**

Started UAS Calibrations

Continued work on Phase two needs

Season prep

Started UAS Treatments

Purchased DJI T25

Treated 156 Acres with T40

4/2 OAC Meeting

4/16 OAC Meeting

4/22 Tour of Facility for Canyon County Mosquito Control Drone Pilot

4/23 VAI Webinar on helicopter engine failures

4/23 OAC Meeting

4/30 OAC Meeting

4/30 Tour of Facility and operations for Airbus Sales Reps Mark Vaji and Secora Murray

4/30 Attended 2200 W Community meeting with SLC council and Mayor

### **Jason Hardman, Rural Field Supervisor**

Prep equipment, seasonal training, field work, Winter clean up

**Quinten Salt, Urban Field Supervisor**

Set up bikes and gear for bicycle program 4/8  
 Install bedslide and gear rack in new #7 4/18  
 Install fish tanks and equip back in fish trucks 4/25  
 First biker arrival and outfitting 4/28  
 Pond service request 4/28

**3. Field Data:****Control:****ACRES TREATED**

	<b>Adulticide</b>		<b>Larvicide</b>		<b>Total</b>
	Ground	Aerial	Ground	Aerial	
<b>April's Total</b>	0.00	0.00	147.11	279.00	426.11
<b>April's 3 Year Avg.</b>	0.00	0.00	56.10	96.00	152.10

**Service Requests:****MOSQUITO SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES RECEIVED BY MONTH**

	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total
<b>2024</b>	5	11							16
<b>3-Year Avg.</b>	4.00	11.33	26.33	40.00	34.00	19.33	9.67	20.33	164.99

**Inspection and Surveillance:**

<b>Larval Collections</b>		
<b>Species</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>5-Year Average</b>
<i>Ae. campestris</i>	0	0.4
<i>Ae. dorsalis</i>	13	11.8
<i>Ae. fitchii</i>	0	0.2
<i>Ae. increpitus</i>	0	0.2
<i>Ae. nigromaculis</i>	0	0
<i>Ae. niphadopsis</i>	0	0
<i>Ae. sierrensis</i>	0	0
<i>Ae. melanimon</i>	0	0
<i>Ae. varipalpus</i>	0	0
<i>Ae. vexans</i>	0	0
<i>Cx. erythrothorax</i>	0	0.8
<i>Cx. pipiens</i>	0	0.4

<i>Cx. tarsalis</i>	16	8.6
<i>Cx. impatiens</i>	0	0
<i>Cs. incidens</i>	0	0.2
<i>Cs. inornata</i>	8	5.6
<i>An. freeborni</i>	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>28.2</b>

#### 4. Weather:

April's weather was warmer (by 1.9°) and drier (by 1.59") than normal.

##### Temperature:

	Monthly Avg.	Normal	High	Low
March	45.6°	45.8°	78°	25 °
April	53.7°	51.8°	84°	31 °

<https://www.weather.gov/wrh/Climate?wfo=slc>

##### Precipitation:

	Total for Month	Normal	Most in 24 hours
March	2.40"	1.75"	0.49" on 18 <sup>th</sup>
April	0.57"	2.16"	0.28" on 17 <sup>th</sup>

<https://www.weather.gov/wrh/Climate?wfo=slc>

##### Great Salt Lake (elevation in feet above sea level):

	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1
2024	4,193.8	4,194.3	4,194.9
2025	4,193.1	4,193.4	4,193.4

<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/10010000/#parameterCode=62614&period=P7D&showMedian=true>



## How scientists manage the Great Salt Lake's wetlands, one of the most prolific mosquito habitats in the West

Scientists at the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District fan out across 40,000 acres of Great Salt Lake wetlands each day from April to October.



(Francisco Kjolseth | The Salt Lake Tribune) Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District employee Austin Harp, distributes a dry biological pesticide to kill mosquito larvae for mitigation purposes, southeast of the Great Salt Lake, Thursday, April 10, 2025.

By Jose Davila IV | May 18, 2025, 6:56 a.m.

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It was another unusually warm day in Salt Lake City's ongoing war with mosquitoes.

The high temperature for April 10 [was 80 degrees](#) — just [a tick below a 2012 record of 81 degrees](#) — as Jason Hardman sloshed through a muddy, stinky swell in the wetlands of the private Harrison Duck Club, southeast of the Great Salt Lake.

Hardman, [the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District's](#) rural field supervisor checked on mosquito larvae — aka, juveniles — he'd found a couple days prior in small puddles between patches of saltgrass.





(Francisco Kjolseth | The Salt Lake Tribune) Jason Hardman, Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District rural field supervisor, pulls a sample of water while demonstrating how he looks for mosquito larvae in the wetlands southeast of the Great Salt Lake on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

That's all due to unseasonably warm air and water temperatures creating perfect hatching conditions for the larvae.

While Hardman "dipped" for the larvae, in mosquito control parlance, seasonal employee Austin Harp readied one of the district's all-terrain vehicles.

He then drove the ATV, outfitted with a modified farming hopper in concentric loops around the roughly 2-acre swell, spreading corn cobs infused with a naturally occurring bacteria that thwarts the larvae.

Finding mosquitoes when they're still in their water-born infancy is a key focus for the district, because employees can use more targeted [interventions](#) — which are safer for humans and other wildlife — to keep them from maturing and pestering people.



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The district is responsible for vast wetlands south and east of the Great Salt Lake that spawn millions of mosquitoes each year, including some that carry dangerous pathogens such as West Nile virus.

The abatement district [recently raised its property tax rate](#) on city residents and businesses as it grapples with tight budgets in the face of a growing mosquito season that now stretches from April to October and as it looks to add new technology to its bug-battling repertoire.



(Francisco Kjolseth | The Salt Lake Tribune) Jason Hardman, Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District rural field supervisor, holds a vial of collected mosquito larvae from the wetlands southeast of the Great Salt Lake on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

## Out in the Great Salt Lake's wetlands

District employees keep their eyes on about 40,000 acres of wetlands and farmlands fed by mountain snowmelt via the Jordan River. The land is a patchwork of protected bird habitats, private duck clubs and farms.

The rural area is a vast expanse between the Salt Lake City International Airport and the open but dwindling waters of the Great Salt Lake, dotted with ponds, ephemeral pools and squishy swells like the one Harp and Hardman treated.

Their work includes testing thousands of constantly changing bodies of water that could host mosquito larvae. The juveniles grow in aquatic habitats of various sizes, but in larger lakes, they'll stay away from open water, instead hugging grassy shorelines.

Last year, the district trapped about 2 million mosquitoes in the field, simply for surveillance purposes — a tiny fraction of the region's total population. Back at its headquarters, roughly 1.8 million of those dead bugs fill a large blue cooler that might otherwise be used for a backyard barbecue.

Staffers know they can't kill every mosquito out here — so control is the key.



(Francisco Kjolseth | The Salt Lake Tribune) An estimated 1.8 million mosquitoes trapped for surveillance in 2024 by the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District, fill a cooler, Thursday, April 17, 2025.

New industrial development encroaching on the wetlands is complicating how the district treats them. [The Utah Inland Port Authority](#) is driving that growth.

“They’ve had to actually make another two-person team to control all this industrial stuff,” Hardman said, while driving past large warehouses north of Interstate 80. “The other thing, too, is it’s more time consuming.”

Hardman said district staffers often have to get permission and follow special security protocols to carry out mosquito control work on industrial properties, slowing down their Sisyphean efforts to address an area that produces millions of mosquitoes each season.

### Leading the mosquito abatement army into battle

While there are varieties of mosquito species buzzing around the Wasatch Front, three species make up the vast majority of the bugs that the district traps.

The summer salt marsh mosquito — *Aedes dorsalis* — bites humans often but is not a carrier of dangerous disease.

The Western encephalitis mosquito — *Culex tarsalis* — and the common house mosquito — *Culex pipiens* — are considered more worrisome because they are opportunistic feeders that bite humans as well as other animals. Both *Culex* species can carry West Nile virus and St. Louis encephalitis virus, while *Culex tarsalis* can also impart Western equine encephalitis virus.

Tracking where species are concentrated helps district scientists figure out which habitats to target with specific control measures and prioritize appropriate applications.

The district’s surveillance program consists of 36 traps spread out across the wetlands. During the peak of summer, one carbon dioxide trap that mimics human breathing with a battery-powered computer fan can lure up to 40,000 mosquitoes into its netting in a day.





(Francisco Kjolseth | The Salt Lake Tribune) Nate Byers, a molecular biologist with the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District, sets a mosquito trap north of the airport on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

Back at the district's headquarters, 2215 N. 2200 West, the bugs are frozen, counted with the help of imaging software, and a small sample is broken up into species by hand.

"We are the eyes of the operation," seasonal lab employee Kelsey Fairbanks said. "No one knows where to treat or where to go if we don't know what species there are."

The lab can relay data on the number of mosquitoes in each trap, broken down by species, to Faraji, the executive director, on the same day the traps are collected from the field. Faraji then draws up the district's plans for treatment.



(Francisco Kjolseth | The Salt Lake Tribune) Kelsey Fairbanks, a technician at the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District, works in the sorting lab where mosquitoes collected in the field are prepared for study on Thursday, April 17, 2025.

## Keeping the bugs in check

larvae for weeks prior, but that week was the first time he had found juveniles.



(Francisco Kjolseth | The Salt Lake Tribune) Western mosquitofish are grown in the fish hatchery at the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District, Thursday, April 17, 2025.

That, according to Nate Byers, the district's molecular biologist, meant shifting to "larviciding" — the term for killing juveniles — as quickly as possible, to get them before they can fly and require other control methods.

"The adulticiding, we will hold off for considerably longer," Byers said. "We try to limit the amount of adulticiding we do. Larviciding is better. Prevention is better."

The [physical controls](#) generally work better in the urban environments that the district serves, like dumping out standing water so juveniles can't hatch in the first place. The surveillance traps are another example of a physical intervention.

### **Avoiding chemical pesticides, where possible**

The district limits its use of [chemical pesticides](#), for efficiency and environmental reasons. To deal with juveniles that have reached the later stages of their development, staffers can deploy a hormone that stops larvae from growing or coat standing water with a mineral oil that cuts off mosquitoes' access to oxygen.

It's only when the district targets adult populations that they use more traditional pesticide sprays, whether via airplane or drone in the wetlands or with backpacks on foot or bike in urban areas.



(Francisco Kjolseth | The Salt Lake Tribune) Brad Sorensen, Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District aerial operations supervisor, shows off a large drone used to apply pesticides between the city and the Great Salt Lake on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

The advocacy group Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment [has long criticized the district](#) for using those sprays, which contain toxins that can damage human nerve systems, even in small amounts. On its website, the group implores residents to submit [a no-spray request](#) to the district for their property.

The district does not test the products it uses for safety, only efficacy. Instead, it relies on the federal Environmental Protection Agency [to set standards for using the pesticides](#) and reducing risk for humans and other organisms.

Depending on the specific habitat staffers are targeting, employees can use ATVs or a large snowcat-like tracked vehicle for control measures. The district also contracts with an airplane spraying company to address larger areas. A nascent drone program helps Hardman's team intervene more quickly and covered 4,000 acres last year.

## Back at the labs

Much of the district's most important work happens at its offices. There, after the mosquito sorting process, scientists run virus identification tests — with methods similar to those used to track COVID-19 — to see [how disease is spreading within the population](#).

"This tells us where in the city and in what species of mosquito West Nile virus is circulating," Byers said, pointing to a test run last August.

Other office spaces are used to test new products for their efficacy in killing mosquitoes. The district also has a robust research program largely powered by Utah State University students and grant money. That research has helped the district implement new techniques, like 3D-printing its own traps.



(Francisco Kjolseth | The Salt Lake Tribune) An aedes (ochlerotatus) nipadopsis mosquito, described as an opportunistic aggressive feeder that prefers humans for a blood meal, is pictured under a microscope at the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District on Thursday, April 17, 2025.

Mosquito control isn't limited to the wetlands, though. District employees also place [mosquito-eating fish in ornamental ponds across Salt Lake City](#), inspect tree holes that collect water for larvae and treat thousands of stormwater catch basins.

There are 13 full-time employees at the district, which hires temporary workers — many of them college students — for much of its basic work during peak mosquito season.

### A changing landscape

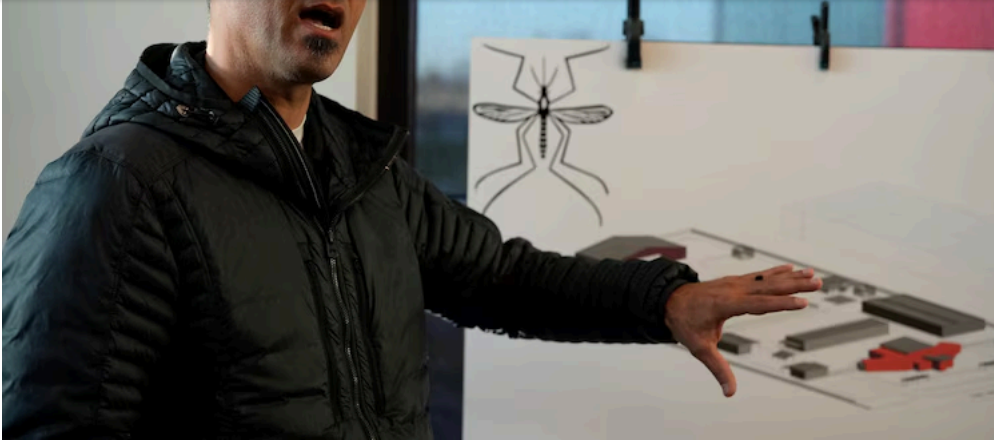
The district [told city leaders and residents last fall](#) that it needed to raise property taxes to boost a tight budget that was getting eaten up by persistent inflation and to compensate its employees appropriately.

The district has also lost out on revenue from the new industrial growth that still requires service, because of the [Utah Inland Port's taxing authority](#).

The mosquito season is growing longer in the Salt Lake Valley due to climate change and rising temperatures, forcing the agency to spend more on equipment and materials.

At the same time, the agency is expanding its facility to open up more space for testing and research. Officials also sought the tax increase so the district could buy its own helicopter and build a hangar to better support its aerial operations instead of relying on the more imprecise planes flown by district contractors.





(Francisco Kjolseth | The Salt Lake Tribune) Ary Faraji, executive director of the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District, gives an overview of its campus on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

The [Westside Coalition](#) criticized the plan last fall in a letter to district officials, pointing out that officials said they planned to use the [last tax increase in 2021](#) to pay for the helicopter. Faraji said the helicopter has now been purchased.

The helicopter, officials say, is key in the district's ongoing effort to control mosquitoes efficiently and effectively in a range of habitats — another piece of artillery in the never-ending — and ever-extending — battle against the biting bugs.

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Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District board members voted to raise the property taxes for the second time in four years late last month.



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- Bjornk Dorkenstein 19 hours ago

The new Inland Port, like the new prison next door, will be mosquito ridden. Imagine giant, voracious mosquitos biting truck drivers and prison inmates, and then your daughters!.... Where's maga when you need them?! C'mon maga, put an end to this!


 Respect 4


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- sugarhoser 20 hours ago

let's have the future legislative picnics there and utilize the prison to prepare the meals for them !


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- M B 23 hours ago

Seems like the costs of mosquito abatement is rising due to development by the lake, including the prison and Inland Port. Yet, Salt Lake taxpayers had our taxes increased to pay for this. Why doesn't the prison and Inland Port pay for the increased costs they create? Oh, of course, this is all controlled by the Utah Legislature and they enjoy putting the screws to Salt Lake City.


 Respect 7


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- William Nicholls 1 day ago

Owning, housing, maintaining, and staffing a helicopter is a ridiculous expense, especially when the helicopter isn't in regular use. Contract services make much more sense. This is empire building.

 Respect 4

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