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FKMCD Board of Commissioners Approves Investigational Agreement with Oxitec

November 21, 2016, Monroe County – At their Regular Board Meeting on November 19th, the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District Board of Commissioners approved an Investigational Agreement with Oxitec, Ltd., for an efficacy trial of the OX513A mosquito in Monroe County. The agreement passed with a 3:2 vote with Commissioners Steve Smith and William Shaw dissenting.

The purpose of the trial will be to test the effectiveness of releasing OX513A mosquitoes in suppressing and eliminating the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in Monroe County. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is a vector for diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and zika.

“We are continually investigating new tools in the fight against this important disease vector,” said Executive Director Andrea Leal. “This small trial will enable us to determine if the OX513A mosquito is an effective tool to add to our arsenal.”

FKMCD and Oxitec are hoping to begin releases in the Spring of 2017. Site selection, excluding Key Haven, and FDA approval of a site change still need to occur prior to the trial commencing.

About the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

The mission of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District is to control the mosquito population using the most effective methods, techniques, equipment and insecticides; thus enhancing the quality of life for all residents and reducing the possibility of mosquito transmitted diseases.

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