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Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson & Senator Ben Albritton Visit FKMCD, Learn More About Innovative Mosquito Control Project

The Florida Keys Mosquito Control District (FKMCD) hosted a visit by the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson, Senate Majority Leader Ben Albritton, and County Mayor Holly Merrill Raschein this past Friday, December 8th.

The three were on hand to receive an update on the district's groundbreaking FKMCD-Oxitec mosquito project as well as learn more about the district's control efforts against both nuisance and disease-vector mosquitoes throughout the Florida Keys.

Mosquito Control in Florida falls under the auspices of the Florida Department of Agriculture.

The Commissioner, Senator, and Mayor heard first-hand about the many challenges facing FKMCD and other mosquito control entities in Florida in combatting the stubborn *Aedes aegypti* mosquito which can be a prolific

vector of diseases such as Dengue Fever and Zika. Aside from being prone to thrive in urban settings near people, the *Aedes aegypti* poses a growing threat due to its fast evolving resistance to approved pesticides.

FKMCD Board Chairman Phil Goodman, Vice Chairman Dr. Stan Zuba and FKMCD Executive Director Andrea Leal were joined by Oxitec CEO Grey Frandsen during the session.

The FKMCD-Oxitec Mosquito Project is currently in the third year of a ground-breaking, approved pilot project studying the effectiveness of using Oxitec's genetically altered male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos as a method of mosquito control.

2023 has been a formidable year for mosquito-borne diseases in the state of Florida with a record number of Dengue Fever cases being reported along with a handful of Malaria cases elsewhere in the state.

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.

Follow FKMCD on Twitter at [@FIKeysMosquito](https://twitter.com/FIKeysMosquito) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FIKeysMosquito). For more information about the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, please visit www.keysmosquito.org.

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