



# Press Release

August 18, 2009 5:00pm Coarsegold, CA – Cows In Fresno River

Madera County Environmental Health Department (MCEHD) is conducting a site visit today at the Fresno River in Coarsegold, CA. The results of that site visit are not yet available at the time of this update. Updates by this department will be available beginning August 19, 2009 on our website at <http://www.madera-county.com/envhealth/>

MCEHD is assuming the local lead agency responsibility to direct cleanup and abatement of the nuisance presented by the animal carcasses. Both the owner(s) of the cattle and the property owner of where the animal carcasses are located have been issued Notices to comply as the responsible parties involved in this case. County abatement (at the cost of the taxpayers) is not recommended when responsible parties have been identified. Additionally, although aesthetically unpleasant, this situation does not constitute an emergency or extreme public health risk.

This is an unfortunate incident and the owners of the cattle have been responsive; however the terrain and logistics make a speedy abatement difficult. The public's health, safety and the environment are a priority of MCEHD. We are exploring all available resources and technical expertise to effect the best possible resolution. The following agencies (local, state and federal) have been contacted and consulted:

- Madera County Dept of Public Health
- Madera County Animal Services
- Madera County Sheriff
- Madera County Dept. of Agriculture
- CA Dept. of Food & Ag
- CA Regional Water Quality Control Board
- CA Dept of Fish & Game
- CA Dept of Drinking Water & Environmental Management
- US Army Corps of Engineers

MCEHD encourages residents in the area to contact the department directly if they have questions or concerns about their drinking water.

