



Press Release

August 20, 2009 5:05pm Coarsegold, CA - Cows In Fresno River

Removal of the animal carcasses from the ravine/waterway resumed this morning as expected. Efforts to dispose of the carcasses are underway.

In response to public inquiry, when there is a responsible party identified, the County's role is to direct and oversee the nuisance abatement in the most expedient and compliant manner as possible. County staff does not perform the actual physical removal and abatement activity(ies); and will work with the responsible party in the remedy or through further enforcement efforts. Additionally, we have received reports of concern regarding the personal protective clothing used by the work crew. This use of personal protective outerwear is voluntary.

MCEHD has been conferring with technical experts and working with appropriate regulatory entities on the best possible solution. To date the following has been determined:

Risk of botulism from the dead cattle are not a concern because cattle are generally not a common carrier of botulism and there are not any health conditions that the cattle would have developed while down in the ravine (such as pneumonia) that would be a risk to humans.

Drinking water wells, either public or private, if properly constructed with an appropriate annular seal, are not likely to be affected by this situation. Public water systems must perform routine monthly bacteriological testing. The results of this testing is reviewed by this department for possible concerns. If a resident in the area has a concern about their private drinking water well, they can contact MCEHD for guidance on having their water analyzed for bacteria.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Environmental Health Department

