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# The Stanislaus County Experience; A Lesson in Landfilling Large & Small Animals (Heat-Related Deaths of July 2006)

Fink Road Landfill  
County of Stanislaus  
Department of Environmental  
Resources

# FINK ROAD LANDFILL

Department of

Environment Resources

STANISLAUS COUNTY

4000 FINK ROAD





2/11/2010

Project Post-Mortem

# July 18, 2006, 4:45pm

I received a call stating, "3 truck loads of chickens were on their way and to stay open till 1 a.m." I quickly made a call to the CIWMB and received verbal Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) Variance till such time the Emergency Declaration From the County's CEO could be submitted.

We ended up getting 5 loads, staying open till 2 a.m., returning the next morning at 5 a.m. and started receiving birds at 6 a.m.

# Project Goals

- ◆ High-level timing goals; obtaining a SWFP Variance in a timely manner.
- ◆ Ultimate goal of project: dispose of animal carcasses quickly, efficiently & effectively while maintaining a safe and healthy environment.
- ◆ Relationship to other projects: dispose of carcasses without creating any adverse affect on daily operations, including, but not limited to employee or customer discomfort.



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# Activity Description

- ◆ Carcass hauling vehicles would be directed to dump at the toe of the active cell face. Using a bridging technique with no less than 3 ft. of old and new waste to cover and compact carcasses in layers. Poultry haulers were required to use an absorbent such as rice hulls or other types of liquid absorbent for easier cleaner handling and meeting WDRs.

# Activity Description (con't)

- ◆ Two D8 dozers would feed MSW and animals to the 836-G compactor which would spread waste over carcasses while compacting both. A 36" wide track, LGP, D6 dozer would be used at times to push dirt over the area to help keep equipment clean and as daily cover. Tarps were used as daily cover at the end of each day as well. Repeated daily from July 18<sup>th</sup> through August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006.



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Chickens Grand Total:  
3,455.29 Tons  
Or 6,910,580 Pounds



## Chief Executive Office

1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 6800 • Modesto, CA 95354  
209/525-6333 • Fax 209/544-6226

### FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

Date: July 24, 2006

To: Sue Markie, Integrated Waste Management Board  
Gary Hinshaw, Office of Emergency Services  
Sonya Harrigfeld, Environmental Resources  
Dennis Gudgel, Agricultural Commissioner

Fax #: (916)319-7453  
(209)552-3602  
(209)525-6773  
(209)525-4790

Sender: Leticia Lomeli for Rick Robinson

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You should receive 2 page(s) including this cover sheet.  
If you do not receive all the pages, please call (209) 525-6333.

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Attached is the signed Proclamation of Existence of a Local Emergency by the Director of Emergency Services.

**PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY  
BY THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
COUNTY OF STANISLAUS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING THE  
EXISTENCE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY  
DUE TO A HIGH NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK  
DEATHS RESULTING FROM HIGHER  
THAN NORMAL TEMPERATURES

PROCLAMATION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, Stanislaus County Code section 2.08.050 B.7, and section 2.52.050, provides that the Chief Executive Officer for Stanislaus County serves as the Director of Emergency Services and, in that capacity, is authorized to exercise control of County government in extreme emergencies when there is not sufficient opportunity for the Board of Supervisors to act; and

WHEREAS, Stanislaus County Code section 2.52.080 A.1 authorizes the Director of Emergency Services to issue a proclamation of local emergency if the Board of Supervisors is not in session;

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session;

WHEREAS, there have been extraordinarily high air temperatures in Stanislaus County throughout the late spring and early summer months; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Emergency services was advised by the Director of Environmental Resources that there has been a very high number of livestock deaths attributable to the excessive heat, and that as a result of the high number of deaths, there is a shortage of capacity at processing facilities to dispose of the excessive number of carcasses, which have accumulated at various property locations in Stanislaus County; and

WHEREAS, there exists capacity at the Fink Road Landfill to dispose of excess livestock carcasses; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Officer has determined that the continued accumulation of livestock carcasses will result in a public health hazard and that is necessary to bury such carcasses as soon as practicable to protect the public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the State Office of Emergency Services has not adopted guidelines under the provisions of Government Code section 8570.5 (h) for the removal and disposal of extraordinary numbers of dead livestock, and, based on the adoption of section 8570.5, it is clear that the State has determined that the burial of the unusually high number of livestock carcasses would qualify as an emergency under the circumstances described herein;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED THAT:

1. A state of local emergency exists throughout Stanislaus County based upon the high accumulation of livestock carcasses, the unavailability of sufficient capacity at processing facilities to dispose of livestock carcasses, and the determination of the Public Health Officer that the continued accumulation of livestock carcasses will result in a public health hazard.
2. During the existence of this local emergency, the Public Health Officer, the Director of Environmental Resources, and the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner are directed initiate all reasonable measures to mitigate the potential public health hazard, including, but limited to, coordination with the Director of Public Works for the burial of livestock carcasses which have accumulated throughout Stanislaus County at the Fink Road Landfill, the cost of which shall be borne by livestock owners or operators of disposal facilities who dispose livestock carcasses at the Fink Road Landfill.
3. Strict compliance with any applicable regulatory statute, local ordinance, order or permit that in any way prevents, hinders, or delays mitigation of the effects of the emergency are suspended during the time the emergency conditions exist; provided, however, the Department of Public Works shall make all appropriate notifications to the California Integrated Waste Management Board of this state of local emergency and the actions of Stanislaus County under this proclamation, and shall, if necessary, apply for an emergency waiver of standards pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 17210 et seq.
4. This proclamation and the acts of burial of livestock carcasses pursuant to this proclamation are hereby determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and the provisions of the CEQA Guidelines section 15269 as an emergency project.
5. The Office of Emergency Services shall take appropriate steps to notify the State Office of Emergency Services of this proclamation.
6. This proclamation of emergency shall continue in effect for seven days after the date of issuance, unless ratified by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, and in that case, shall continue until the state of emergency is terminated by the Board of Supervisors.

Dated: July 24, 2006



Richard Robinson  
Director of Emergency Services

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# CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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July 25, 2006

Mr. Michael Franck  
Landfill Manager

Fink Road Landfill  
PO Box 86  
Crows Landing, CA 95313

**RE: Emergency Waiver of Standards Request for the Fink Road Landfill  
Facility No. 50-AA-0001**

Dear Mr. Franck:

Enclosed is Emergency Waiver of Standards No. EA-2006-05 for the Fink Road Landfill, granted pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 17210.4, by the California Integrated Waste Management Board as the solid waste enforcement agency for Stanislaus County.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this Emergency Waiver, please contact me at 916.341.6324 or Randy Friedlander of my staff at 916.341.6718.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Susan Markie, Supervisor  
Enforcement Assistance Section  
Facilities Operations Branch  
Permitting and Enforcement Division

Cc: Bryan Kumimoto, Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources  
Rick Robinson, Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office  
Victor Izzo, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board



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# Procedures

- ◆ Highlight any procedural differences from daily operations; all equipment and staff being utilized, equipment consistently running. Planned work, worked plan.
- ◆ Discuss benefits, and issues of using new procedures; our operators had to learn each others moves, equipment capabilities and not to deviate from the work plan.
- ◆ Making the project flow with each machine having a specific duty to achieve one final outcome.



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# Team/Resources

- ◆ Resources allocated to this project;
  - Landfill Staff: very willing and supportive
  - Equipment; Two D-8's, one (LGP) D-6, one 836-G compactor and one 450 STX 4X4 tractor w/tandem 17yd scrapers
  - Location; Second lift in new LF-2, Cell-4
  - Support inside & outside: State and Local Government Agencies, Landfill staff and haulers working together helped create a smooth running operation



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**Cows Grand Total:  
1,187.14 Tons  
Or 2,374,280 Pounds**

# Technology

- ◆ New technology being used: 836-G--120,000 lbs. compactor and Laser equipped machinery
  - Benefits; maximum compaction with grade control.
- ◆ Standards being adopted: achieving an operational goal thought to be impossible
  - Benefits; operators belief in achieving the impossible, training, standard operational procedures for future use.
- ◆ Standards specifically being ignored: the use of dirt in place of MSW
  - Drawbacks & benefits; the cost of wasted air space; using dirt kept the equipment cleaner.





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4000 Fink Rd, Newman, CA 95360



Fink Road, 3.5 miles to Crows Landing, CA.

Fink Road Landfill Office

California Aquaduct

Active Tipping area

Interstate I-5

Nearest Residence

LF-1

LF-2

LF-2

LF-3

Avanta Energy of Stanislaus

White Waste Recycle Location

CRT & CEW Recycle Location

Tire recycle location

© 2007 Google™

1271 ft  
Pointer: 37°23'22.61" N 121°08'06.69" W elev 269 ft

© 2008 Europa Technologies  
Image © 2008 DigitalGlobe  
Streaming 100%

Eye alt 5002 ft

# Current Status

- ◆ High-level overview;
- ◆ State and Local Government Agencies support
- ◆ Landfill Staff & haulers support imperative
- ◆ Specific equipment handling procedures
- ◆ Invaluable experience
- ◆ In a few short days later, like it never happened





# Thank you for your time.

## Contact Information:

Fink Road Landfill, Stanislaus County, Department of Environmental Resources, 4000 Fink Rd. P.O.Box#86, Crows Landing, CA. 95313

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