-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

August 19, 2020

PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY DUE TO POTENTIAL FOR THE INCREASED ACCUMULATION OF ANIMAL MORTALITY IN THE COUNTY OF KINGS

Hanford – Supervisor Joe Neves, in his capacity as Emergency Services Director for the County of Kings, has issued a local emergency proclamation in response to the accumulation ofcarcasses, which need to be disposed of within Kings County.

Baker Commodities is the only provider of rendering services for livestock producers within Kings County. Due to extreme heat and increased demand for processing, Baker Commodities has suspended pickups until a backlog of carcasses can be addressed. Baker Commodities is unavailable to pick-up during this period. The accumulation of carcasses creates a potential for sanitary and safety issues within the County, and the situation requires alternative means for managing the safe disposal of carcasses. This emergency proclamation provide a means for County agencies to designate alternative disposal methods for carcasses until normal services are restored. Rendering services are expected to resume for fresh mortalities on August 21, 2020.

Pursuant to the County’s Emergency Action Plan for Dead Animal Management and the Emergency Mortality Disposal Advisory put out by the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) on August 18, 2020, during this local emergency, alternative disposal methods for carcasses maybe utilized including: direct transport to alternative rendering facilities; direct transport to permitted landfills that are approved to accept carcasses~~;~~ and on-farm composting that meets the requirements outlined by CDFA and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). RWQCB issues discharge waivers during locally proclaimed emergencies to designate alternative disposal methods of carcasses. The link below includes the conditional waiver requirements and blank conditional waiver.

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2018-0017.pdf>

The California Regional Water Control Board (Fresno Office) may also assist with any questions concerning the conditional waiver process. They can be reached at (559) 445-5116.

Businesses that have obtained waivers from the RWQCB to temporarily compost or bury animals onsite must register their operation with the Kings County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Services Division prior to implementation of those measures by calling (559) 584-1411.

Waste Management’s Kettleman Hills Facility has implemented a livestock disposal procedure. For questions regarding the requirements, contact Waste Management at (559) 834-9151. As a courtesy, and as staffing resources allow, County Environmental Health Services staff will provide an inspection of self-haul trailers to assist businesses with compliance with Waste Management’s disposal requirements. Please note that a passing County inspection does not guarantee acceptance at the landfill, but the inspection is designed to assist in identifying any readily apparent problems.

Any additional questions regarding the disposal of carcasses can be directed to the Department of Public Health Environmental Health Services Division at (559) 584-1411. Please also use this number for scheduling a courtesy self-haul inspection.

The CDFA Emergency Mortality Disposal Advisory can be found here:

[insert link]