

FSV Public Records Request Uncovers Attacks by Bulls on EBRPD Park Users

Friends of Sycamore Valley recently did a CA Public Records Act request for logs from the EBRPD Public Safety Dispatch System for the period of January 1, 2003 to the present.

There were 38 reported incidents of loose cattle in residential areas, blocking bike trails, and chasing people over this period.

On January 18, 2004 **a bull attacked a group of 9 adults and children at Round Valley Regional Park.** Several in the group climbed trees to get away from the bull. Rancher Duane Martin claimed there was nothing he could do unless he was given an eartag number, as he could not pull ALL the cows out of the park!! So obviously the bull is still roaming the parks. Just remember that the next time your being trampled by a bull, get that eartag number!!

Bulls are known to be especially aggressive and dangerous. What is the park district management thinking?

Loose cattle are not something that should be ignored or treated lightly. In October 2002 a woman walking to the bus stop was attacked by a loose cow and the Fresno courts awarded her \$915,000 for her injuries.

The rancher's grazing lease with the EBRPD requires that ranchers maintain fencing. The park district does not enforce any of the restrictions in the grazing leases and the fences in most parks are in disarray. A fence at Sycamore Valley has nearly all of the fence posts rotted out and about 500 feet of fencing is nearly laying on its side adjacent to sensitive habitat. Loose cattle have been reported to the district by FSV yet these reports are not listed in the log. So the district records do not reflect all reported incidents and obviously those incidents which didn't get reported because a ranger wasn't around and the park district does not provide any mechanisms such as forms to report incidents.

When will the EBRPD management begin to put the public safety first, when they are behind bars for manslaughter and the public ends up paying for a \$1 million lawsuit?

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