

VALLEY AIR NEWS

A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - August 2015

District kicks off Air Alert season Urges residents to reduce emissions related to beginning of school year

The Valley Air District held a press conference on August 19, announcing the beginning of the Air Alert season and the potential for exceptionally high levels of ozone that often accompany the beginning of the school year. Emissions related to the increase in traffic and vehicle idling that occurs during the Back-to-School season often bring episodes of poor air quality.



Air Alerts are declared Valley-wide when conditions such as increased emissions, high temperatures and stagnant air flow are favorable for the build up of ozone pollution. During an Air Alert episode, which may last several days, residents and businesses are urged to reduce vehicle emissions by driving less, refraining from idling their vehicles, carpooling or vanpooling and avoiding the use of drive-through services. Other measures, such as shifting ozone-creating activities including lawn maintenance to early mornings, can also help offset rising ozone levels.

Programs and tools

The District also offers these programs and tools to help protect and educate students and the public on air quality issues in the San Joaquin Valley:

- The Healthy Air Living Schools program which includes the Turn the Key, Be Idle Free campaign
- The Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) which gives resident current hourly air quality data www.valleyair.org/RAAN
- The Web-based Archived Air Quality (WAAQ) system which gives residents historical air quality data www.valleyair.org/WAAQS

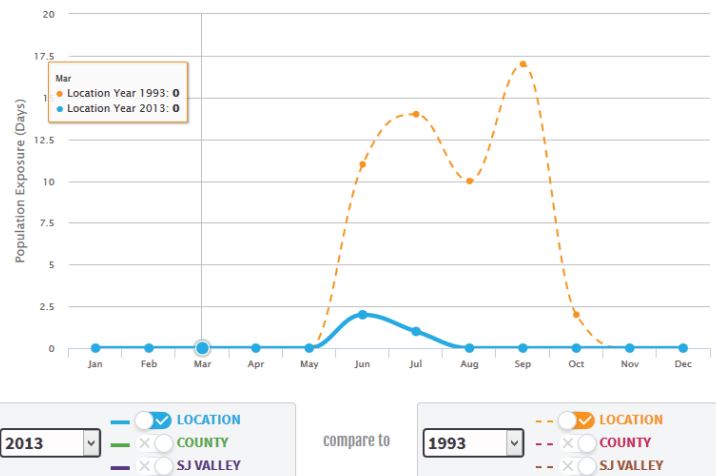
WAAQ System WEB-BASED ARCHIVED AIR QUALITY

The District recently unveiled a state-of-art web tool for exploring historical air quality information neighborhood-by-neighborhood.

The Web-based Archived Air Quality (WAAQ) system allows anyone to compare air quality information over the past two decades in any Valley neighborhood.

The program allows access to historical air quality information on the PM2.5 (fine particulate matter pollution) and ozone pollution.

The chart below shows the difference in ozone pollution levels at the address 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, from 1993 to 2013. This is an example of what users of WAAQS will see when entering the data they wish to research.



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