

Breezes cool Valley temps into the 80s

By Jim Guy / The Fresno Bee
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A marine breeze moving into the central San Joaquin Valley this week will bring with it near ideal temperatures, according to the National Weather Service.

A low-pressure system over the Valley will draw breezes in from the Bay Area. The high today is expected to be 84 with a low tonight of 55 and a high Thursday of 89.

The breezes have prompted a wind advisory in the Kern County mountains, where gusts of up to 45 mph can be expected today. There also will be some gusts on the west side of the Valley, but they will not be strong enough to prompt an advisory, the weather service said.

Air quality in Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties will be unhealthy for sensitive groups today. In Madera and Merced counties, air quality will be moderate, according to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Los Gatos district gets air quality mini-grant

Contra Costa Times Tues., June 14, 2010

The National Center for Safe Routes to Schools is giving the Los Gatos Union School District \$1,000 to sample the air quality at Blossom Hill, Daves, Van Meter and Lexington elementary schools, as well as Fisher Middle School.

Students will look for differences in air quality when cars are idling in drop-off lanes, compared to air quality at non-drop-off and pick-up times.

The LGUSD mini-grant is one of 34 that was awarded nationally. The grants are given to help communities create walking and bicycling to school programs.

Locally, Blossom Hill parent Thomas Cook applied for the grant. He is a member of the school's Safe Routes to School Committee. "This is a great opportunity for the kids to see for themselves the effect vehicles may be having on their school's air quality."

[Modesto Bee, Letter to the Editor, Wednesday, June 16, 2010](#)

Daily life has impact

The letter "'Paddle to sea' environmental outrage" (June 10) sarcastically called on our environmental center and other organizations to oppose the Tuolumne River Trust's Paddle to the Sea event. He urged us to protest boats being too close to a bird defending its territory. Although apparently intended to be sarcastic, the letter underscored a key reason why we need conservation laws in our country. Every day human activities in our region contribute to air and water pollution, disturb wildlife, or consume habitat. Few people mean to harm the environment. But all those little impacts add up. By having laws to protect wildlife, air and water — especially on public lands — lawmakers clearly intended to minimize ecological harm.

If thousands of cows graze in the Stanislaus forest at taxpayers' expense, it is both balanced and logical to attempt to minimize their impacts to water and wildlife. Likewise, whether we're paddling on a river or doing activities in our own yards, whatever we can do to minimize harm to nature all adds up to make a significant difference for our region's environment.

John Buckley, Twain Harte