

[Fresno Bee Earth Blogs, Monday, Sept. 17, 2012:](#)

Will ozone from China be factored into cleanup plans?

by Mark Grossi

Scientists are exploring a game-changer in the battle over the San Joaquin Valley's dirty air: China might play a bigger role in ozone pollution than anyone knows.

Researchers already have established pollution is floating high above the Pacific Ocean to the United States. The issue is hot because air agencies continue to account for pollution sources as California struggles to meet federal standards.

The question now: Does a significant amount of pollution from China and other Asian countries work its way down to the Valley floor?

And if it does, the next question won't be answered by scientists. Federal, state and local leaders will need to answer this question: Does that change the air cleanup strategy here?

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District is paying \$130,000 for the study from the University of California, Davis, to take see if the ozone reaches the Valley floor. Last week, a plane flew around the Valley taking ozone samples at various altitudes.

The idea is to track a plume of pollution several thousand feet above the California coast to the Valley. Scientists will analyze the ozone samples and data on wind patterns to figure out if the pollution drops low enough to become part of the Valley's problem.

David Lighthall, district science adviser, said he expects to see some results from the study next year.

Citrus groves absorb tons of ozone pollution each year

By Mark Grossi

Who knew citrus trees played any part in the San Joaquin Valley's air quality -- both in cleaning the air and emitting ozone-making gases?

The Valley's large citrus belt absorbs 9,000 tons of ozone each year, a new University of California study shows. See the study here: [Karlik - Final Report 8-15-12.pdf](#)

The study was done by John Karlik, a researcher at the UC Cooperative Extension in Bakersfield, and Allen Goldstein, a professor at UC Berkeley. A grove in Tulare County was used for the field work.

The study notes that trees emit natural ozone-making gases. Oak, eucalyptus and pine typically send out a lot of these gases. But the researchers in this study say citrus trees are not big contributors.

[Letter to the Fresno Bee, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012:](#)

Should be for organic farming

I would suggest we reserve Williamson Act relief for organic farming operations. For far too long, we have been subsidizing the poisoning of our land, air and water. These chickens are coming home to roost now in our toxic water and air. The toxic load in our atmosphere is deadly and choking.

Every effort should be made to encourage the transition to sustainable and healthy farming practices in our region. Maybe tonnage of toxic chemicals applied should be taxed to make up the

loss of revenue from Williamson Act support for organic farmers. We should lead the world back to responsible agriculture. It is profitable no matter how you look at it.

As to the large component of diesel exhaust in our air pollution inventory, compare the cost of cleaner diesel engine technology with the non-attainment fines we are now paying. Surely there is a wiser economy here as well!

Jemmy Bluestein, Clovis