



February 27, 2009

Karen Magliano, Chief
Air Quality Data Branch
California Air Resources Board, PTSD/AQDB
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Submittal of Exceptional Event Demonstration for Santa Barbara County, October 22, 23, 2007

Dear Ms. Magliano:

Enclosed please find the document titled "Exceptional Event Demonstration for High Ozone in Santa Barbara County Due to Wild Fires (October 22, 23, 2007)."

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District is submitting this request for exceptional event status for exceedances of both federal and California ozone standards on October 22 and October 23, 2007, due to wildfires in Southern California. We submit this documentation for California Air Resources Board concurrence and ask that this request be forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency for their approval.

The Exceptional Event Documentation has been publicly noticed and available for review and comment through our website, www.OurAir.org. No comments have been received as of the date of this letter.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. Should you or your staff need additional information, please contact Joel Cordes (cordesj@sbcapcd.org, 805.961.8816) or myself (bratzb@sbcapcd.org, 805.961.8890).

Sincerely,

Bobbie Bratz
Public Information and Community Programs Supervisor
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District

cc: Gayle Sweigert, Manager, ARB Air Quality Analysis Section
Joel Cordes, SBCAPCD

**Exceptional Event Demonstration
for High Ozone in Santa Barbara County
Due to Wild Fires (October 22, 23, 2007)**

Submitted to the California Air Resources Board
March 2009



**260 North San Antonio Road, Suite A, Santa Barbara, Ca 93110
OurAir.org**

Exceptional Event Demonstration for High Ozone in Santa Barbara County Due to Wild Fires (October 22, 23, 2007)

On October 22 and 23, 2007 Santa Barbara County experienced exceedances of both federal and state of California ozone standards. The state ozone exceedances were county-wide, occurring from Carpinteria in the south to Vandenberg Air Force base in the north. The federal exceedances occurred at Carpinteria, El Capitan and LFC1. A map of Santa Barbara County monitoring sites is provided in figure 1. A table listing the maximum 8 hour averages and maximum 1 hour averages of ozone concentrations on these two days is provided in table 1. The hourly averages of the highlighted ozone values for these two days have been flagged in AQS as exceptional events due to the wildfires burning in Southern California during this ozone episode.

Figure 1: Santa Barbara County Monitoring Site Locations
2007 Santa Barbara County Air Quality Monitoring Stations

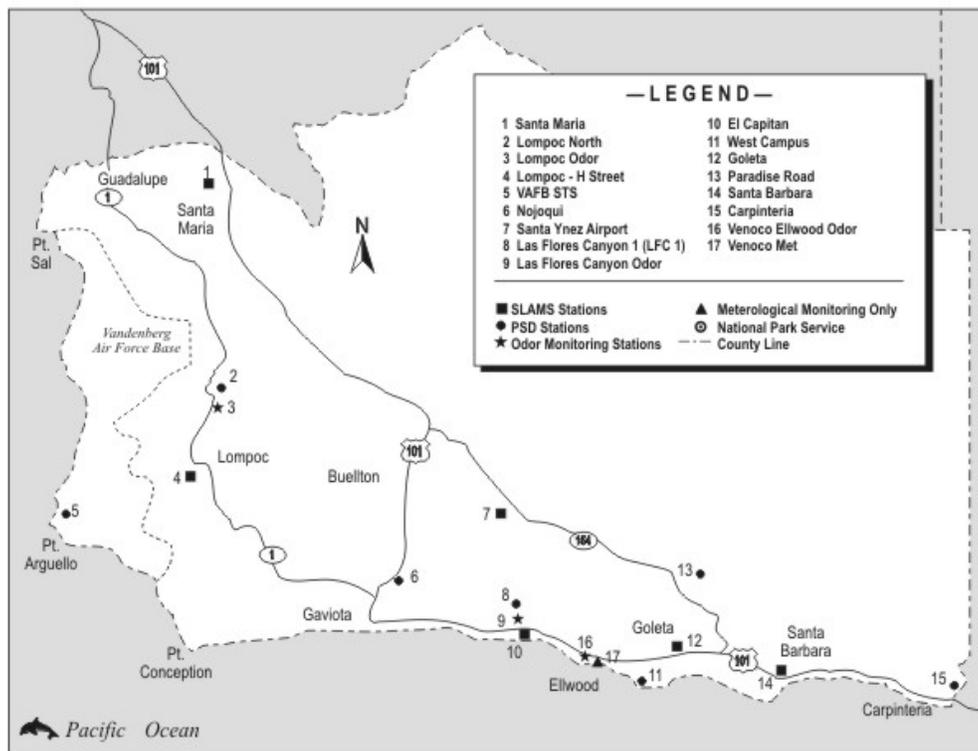


Table 1: Ozone Concentrations

Site Code	Site Name	Ozone (ppm)			
		Max 1-hour average		Max 8-hour average	
		10/22/07	10/23/07	10/22/07	10/23/07
060830008	El Capitan	0.066	0.095	0.054	0.079
060830011	Santa Barbara	0.064	0.079	0.051	0.069
060831008	Santa Maria	0.052	0.059	0.038	0.045
060831013	LompocHSP	0.075	0.070	0.069	0.065
060831014	Paradise Rd	0.085	0.057	0.072	0.048
060831018	Nojoqui	0.067	0.059	0.062	0.047
060831021	Carpinteria	0.074	0.096	0.064	0.082
060831025	LFC 1	0.080	0.092	0.079	0.086
060832004	Lompoc H	0.060	0.078	0.045	0.060
060832011	Goleta	0.060	0.075	0.049	0.066
060833001	Santa Ynez	0.068	0.047	0.057	0.040
060834003	VAFB	0.066	0.082	0.069	0.074

 Exceeds Federal 8 hour Ozone standard of .075 ppm
 Exceeds State 8 hour Ozone standard of .070 ppm
 Exceed State 1 hour Ozone standard of .09 ppm

At the time of the exceedances, a significant amount of smoke and pollutants generated from large wildfires in the Los Angeles and San Diego areas and smaller fires in Ventura County was being transported into Santa Barbara County. The smoke caused elevated particulate concentrations and poor air quality throughout the region. Table 2 lists the particulate concentrations collected on these days from BAMS monitors in the county while table 3 lists the particulate concentrations collected from hi-volume samplers. Figures 2 and 3 are satellite products showing the smoke intrusion.

Table 2: Particulate - BAMS Samplers

Particulate daily average from BAMS samplers							
Site Code	Site Name	PM10 ug/m3			PM2.5 ug/m3 *		
		10/21/07	10/22/07	10/23/07	10/21/07	10/22/07	10/23/07
060830011	Santa Barbara	286	113	126	23	33	57
060831008	Santa Maria	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	23	18
060832004	Lompoc H				5	41	32

 Exceeds Federal 24 hour PM10 Standard of 150 ug/m3
 Exceeds State 24 hour PM10 standard of 50 ug/m3
 Exceeds the level of the Federal 24 hour PM2.5 standard of 35 ug/m3

* Non-FRM sampler

Table 3: Particulate - Hi-Volume Samplers

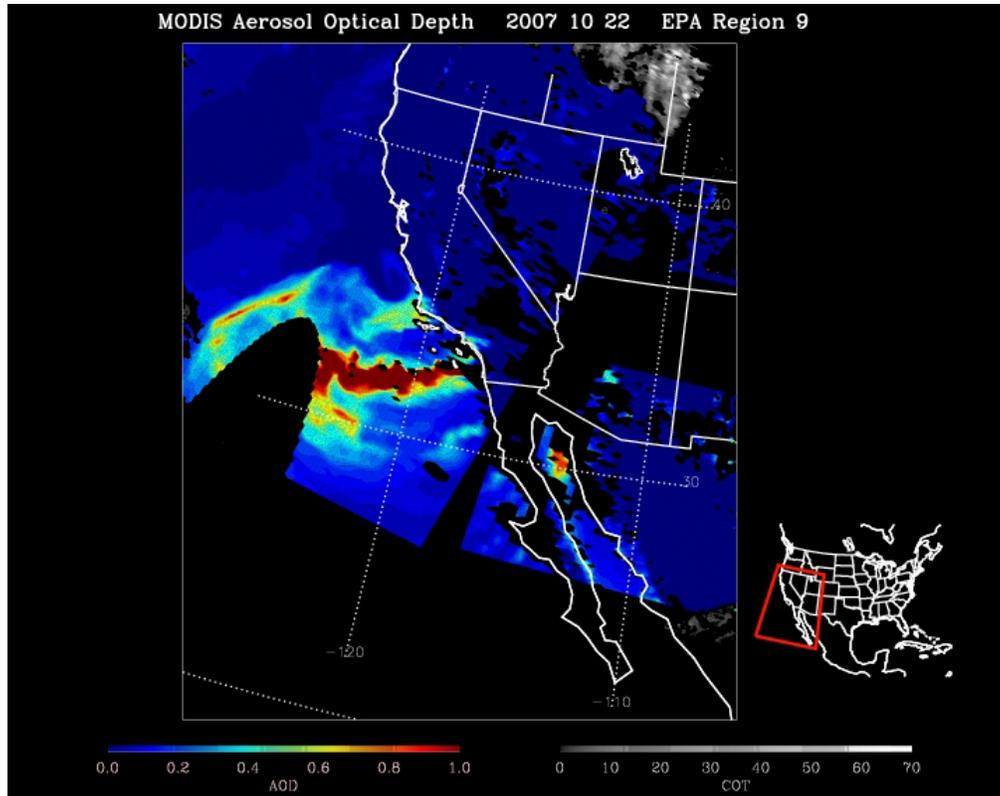
Particulate Daily Averages from Hi-Volume Samplers		PM10 ug/m3	PM2.5 ug/m3
Site Code	Site Name	10/21/07	10/21/07
060830008	El Capitan	228	
060830011	Santa Barbara		12
060831008	Santa Maria	40	3
060831025	LFC 1	320	
060832004	Lompoc H	38	
060834003	VAFB	68	

Exceeds Federal 24 hour PM10 Standard of 150 ug/m3
 Exceeds State 24 hour PM10 standard of 50 ug/m3

Figure 2: Intrusion of Smoke Particulate from Wildfires into Santa Barbara County



Figure 3: Western US Aerosol Optical Depth -22 October 2007



Intense high pressure at both the surface and aloft was the dominant meteorological feature that existed during the time of the October 22 and 23 ozone exceedances. As shown in figure 4, a strong high pressure system aloft was centered over the eastern Pacific just off the northern California Coast on the afternoon of the October 22. By the afternoon of October 23, the upper-level high had weakened and moved east centering over the central California/Nevada border (Figure 5). At the surface, high pressure was centered over the Great Basin area of the western United States and a weak trough was positioned along the California coast creating a strong offshore pressure gradient (Figure 6). By the afternoon of the October 23, the offshore pressure gradient had decreased as the surface high over the Great Basin weakened and surface pressure increased along the coast (Figure 7).

Figure 4: 500 mb Height Analysis - 22 October 2007; 1700 PDT

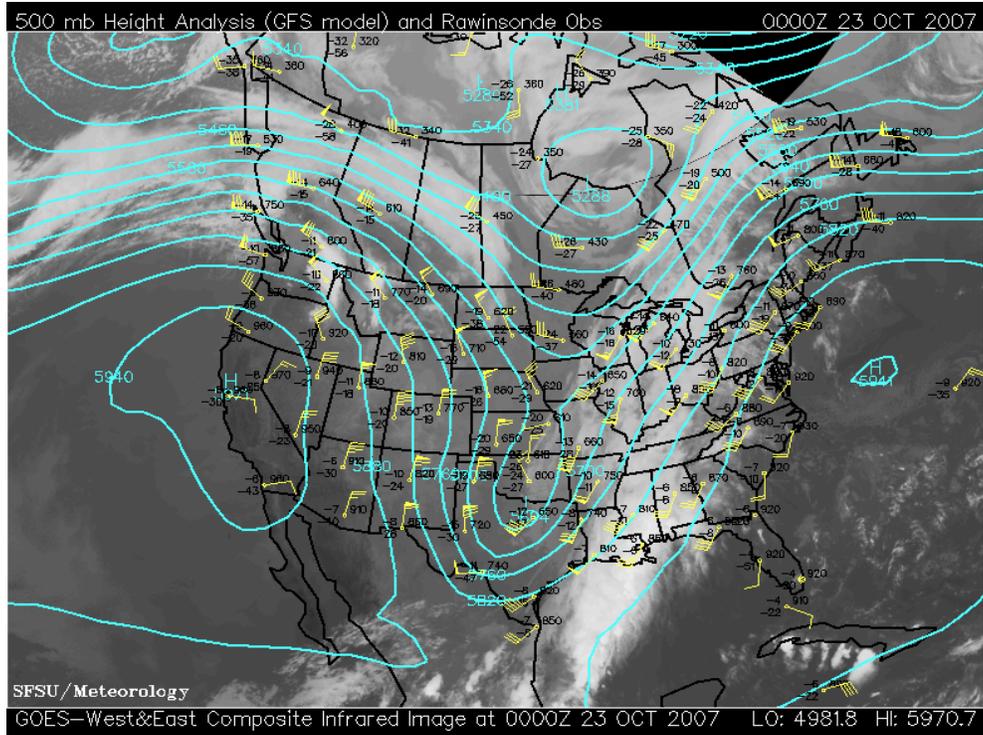


Figure 5: 500 mb Height Analysis - 23 October 2007; 1700 PDT

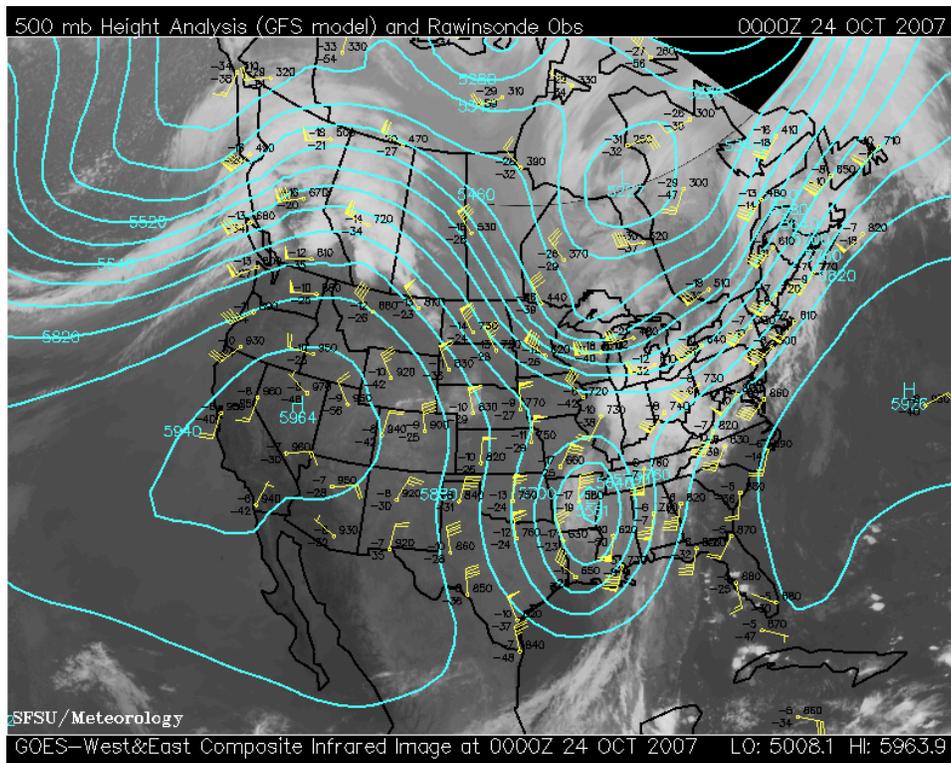


Figure 6: Sea-level Pressure Analysis - 22 October 2007; 1700 PDT

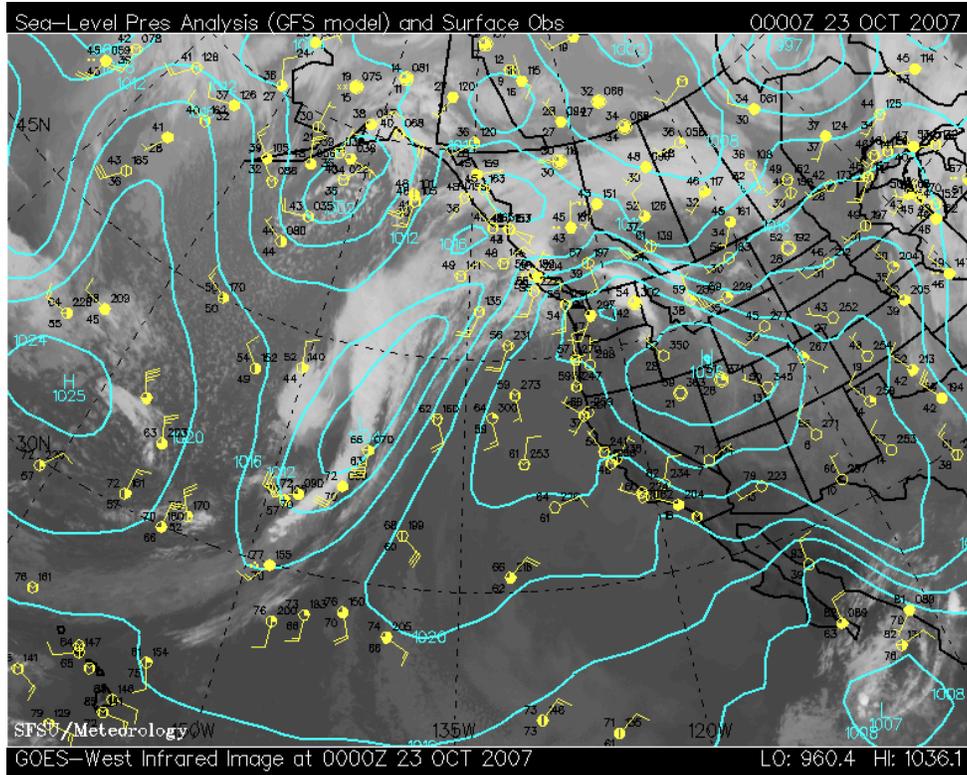
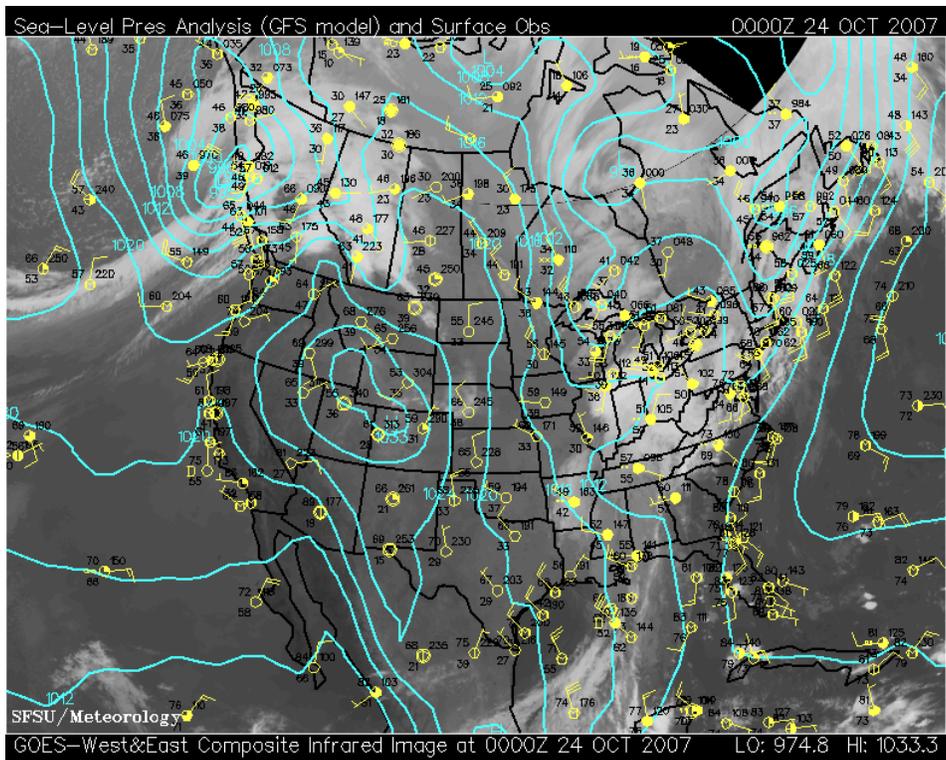


Figure 7: Sea-level Pressure Analysis - 23 October 2007; 1700 PDT



The synoptic pattern lead to “Santa Ana” conditions in Southern California, which are characterized by strong easterly winds and a hot and dry atmosphere. It should be noted that the low-level easterly winds associated with Santa Ana conditions rarely penetrate into the Santa Barbara area due to blockage from the local topography. While the fire areas south of Santa Barbara were experiencing strong easterly winds, coastal Santa Barbara was under the influence of a light sea breeze. This can be seen in the October 23 profiler data from Goleta (Figure 8) that show a mild sea breeze undercutting the upper-level easterly winds. Weak westerly flow predominated up to about 900 meters above sea level and then began to shift to the east above this altitude.

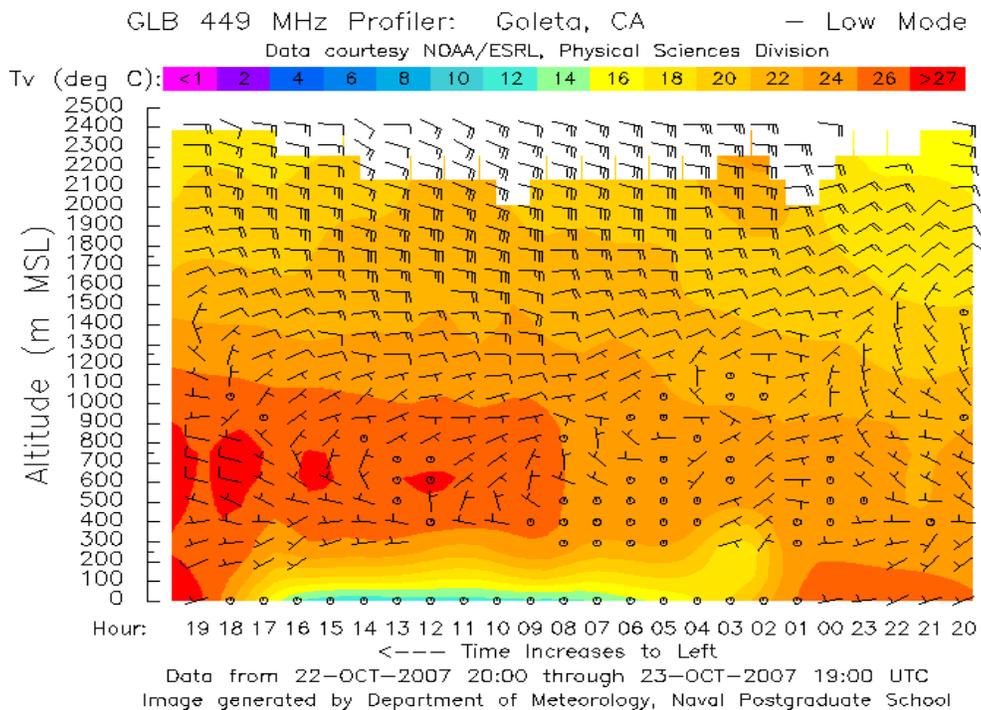
Pollution concentrations in the Santa Barbara area during and soon after Santa Ana events are highly dependent on pollution levels in upwind regions, predominately the Los Angeles Basin. While Santa Barbara County often experiences elevated levels of ozone under Santa Ana conditions, these meteorological conditions must be coupled with high levels of ozone and ozone precursors in the upwind air mass. The severity of the impact on Santa Barbara County is then dependent upon several factors including the level of upwind pollution and meteorological conditions. It is highly unlikely that Santa Barbara County would experience an ozone exceedance during and immediately following Santa Ana events unless there is sufficient pollution being transported into the area from the Los Angeles Basin. It should be noted that the meteorology associated with Santa Ana’s leads to transport conditions that can potentially cause high ozone concentrations in Santa Barbara County if upwind concentrations are sufficient.

During the period of October 20 through October 23, the time period prior to and during the Santa Ana event, ozone concentrations in the Los Angeles Basin and Ventura were relatively low with none of the sites exceeding state or federal ozone standards. Both the Los Angeles Basin and Ventura County are upwind of Santa Barbara County during Santa Ana conditions. As shown in Table 4, hourly average ozone concentrations ranged from about 40 to 60 ppm throughout the Los Angeles Basin during the period of October 20-23. The highest concentration recorded in Ventura County during the period of October 20-23 was 0.067 ppm at the Ojai monitoring site. These levels of pollution indicate that the LA Basin and Ventura County were “clean” upwind areas prior to and during the time of the exceedances in Santa Barbara County. This clearly suggests that the upper-level transport of smoke and emissions from fires burning in Southern California fires were impacting Santa Barbara County air quality and no exceedances would have occurred but for the smoke and associated pollution that was transported into the County.

Table 4: Maximum Hourly Ozone Concentrations at Los Angeles and Ventura County Sites (ppm)

Site	October 20, 2007	October 21, 2007	October 22, 2007	October 23, 2007
Santa Clarita	0.041	0.042	0.046	0.036
Crestline	0.061	0.044	0.051	0.041
West Los Angeles	0.042	0.051	0.037	0.048
Burbank	0.041	0.045	0.041	0.034
Glendora	0.054	0.056	0.043	0.037
North Long Beach	0.037	0.049	0.052	0.043
Riverside-Rubidoux	0.056	0.044	0.047	0.039
Simi Valley (Ventura)	0.045	0.043	0.048	0.042
El Rio (Ventura)	0.043	0.050	0.052	No Data
Ojai (Ventura)	0.050	0.063	0.067	0.063
Thousand Oaks (Ventura)	0.052	0.043	0.056	0.040

Figure 8: Goleta Wind Profiler; 22-23 October 2007



Under the Santa Ana conditions that occurred on October 22 and 23, the smoke and pollutants generated from the wildfires were transported out to sea by the strong easterly winds. Local coastal sea breezes then carried the pollutants back onshore into the Santa Barbara area. Satellite imagery (Figures 9 and 10) clearly illustrate the easterly transport of smoke from the Los Angeles and San Diego fires out to the ocean. These images also show that the smoke has been carried into the Santa Barbara area by weak onshore winds impacting air quality throughout the region.

Figure 9: MODIS Image - 22 October 2007

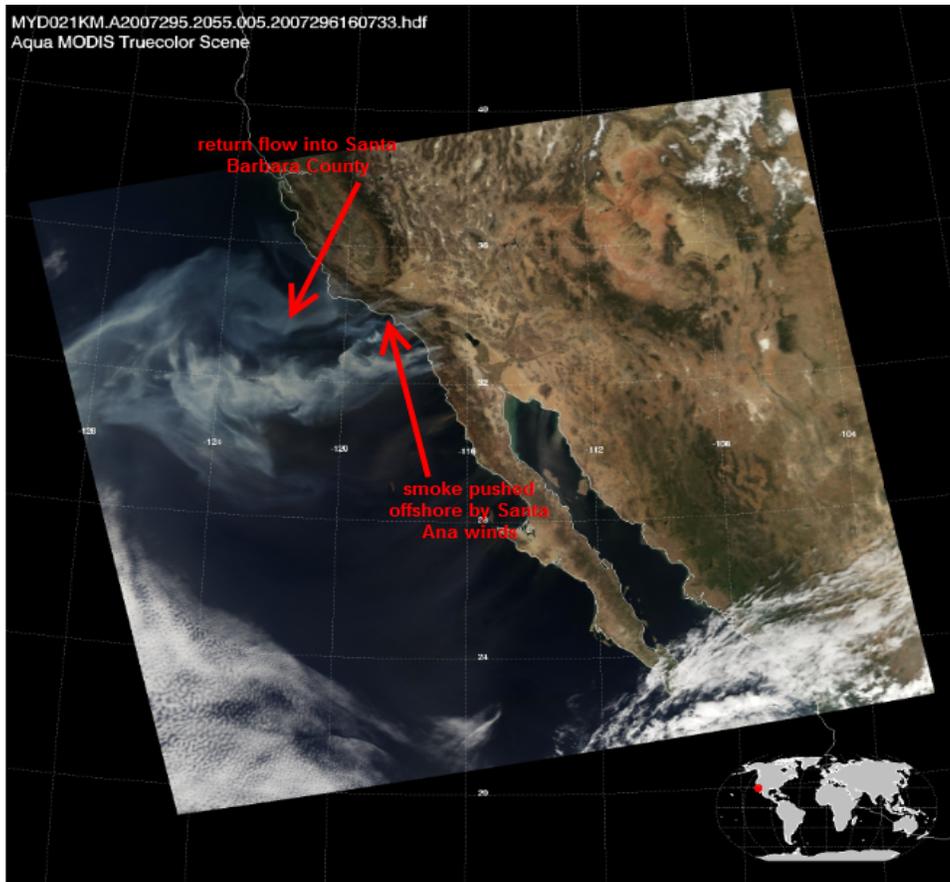
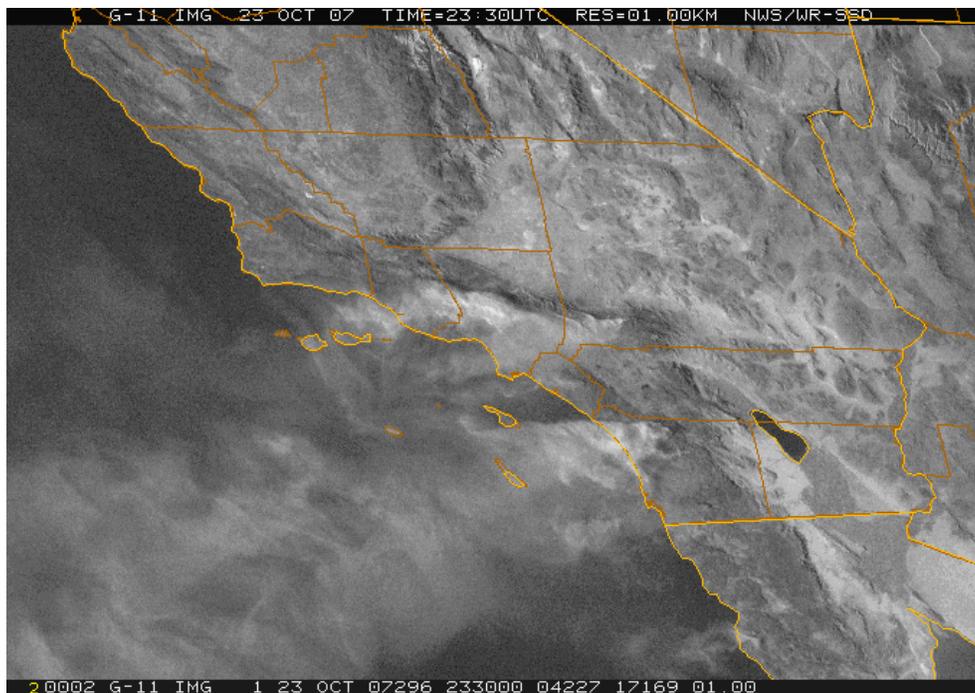
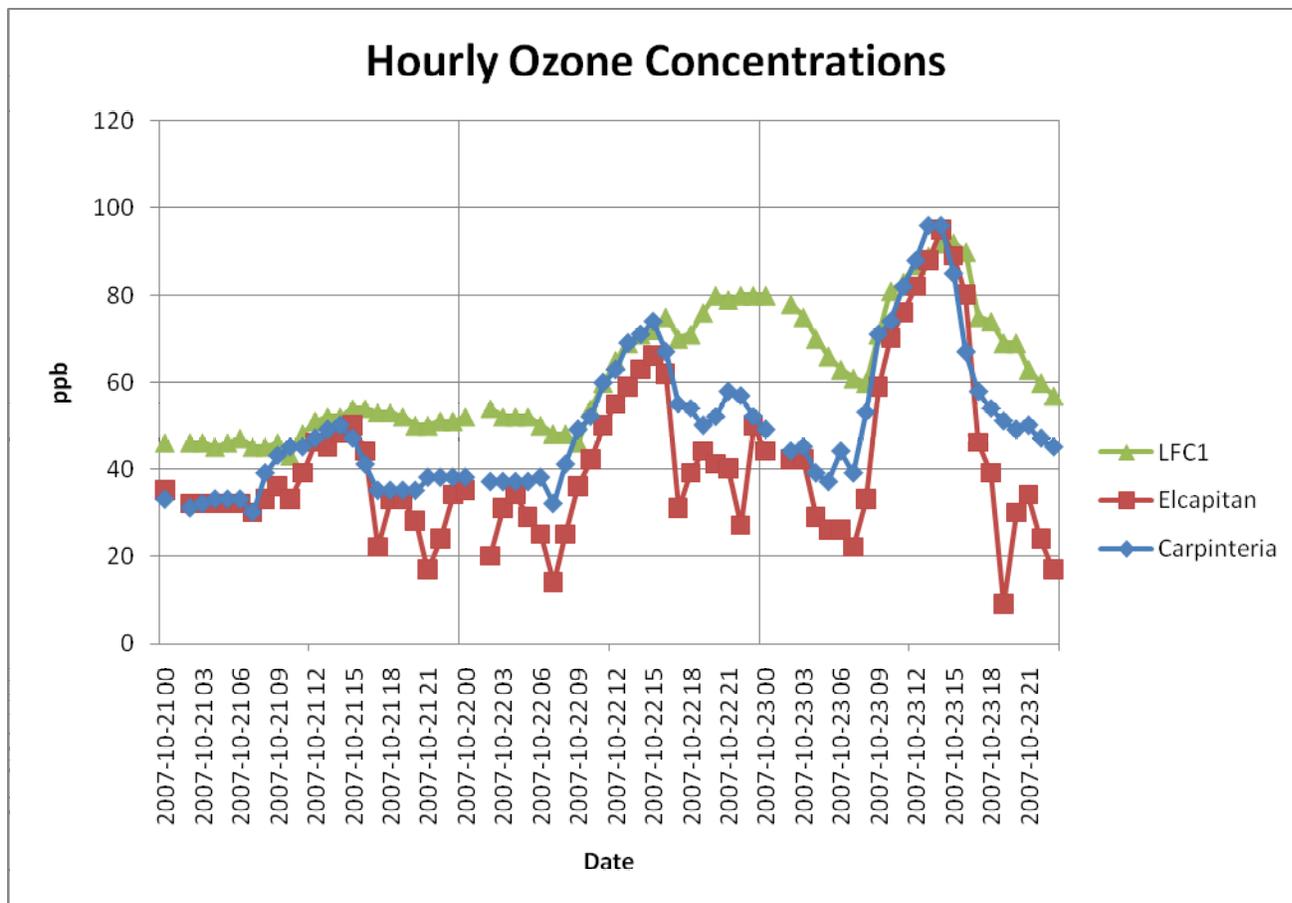


Figure 10: Visible Satellite Imagery - 23 October 2007; 1630 PDT



Ozone levels began to rise on October 21 and peaked on October 23. This episode was unusual in that it did not exhibit the typical diurnal pattern where ozone concentrations generally increase during the day and decrease at night. Figure 11 shows the hourly averages for October 21 – 23 at the three sites where the federal 8-hour ozone standard was exceeded.

Figure 11: Hourly Ozone Concentrations, October 21 – 23, 2007



On the first day of the ozone episode (October 21), the ozone concentrations began to rise slightly during the day. In the evening, the concentrations at Carpinteria and El Capitan began to decrease, which is the typical diurnal pattern. The ozone concentrations at LFC 1, however, remained elevated throughout the evening.

On day two (October 22), the ozone concentrations began to rise again at hour 9. The values at Carpinteria and El Capitan peaked at hour 15 while the ozone levels at LFC1 did not peak (0.080 ppm) until hour 20. The concentrations remained elevated at LFC1 until after an auto-calibration at hour 02 the next morning. The exceedance of the 8-hour standard at LFC1 was unusual in that the eight hour averaging period included only nighttime hours (1900 – 0200). These nighttime concentrations at LFC1 indicate that an area of elevated ozone persisted at higher altitudes due to transport emissions from fires burning in Southern California.

On day three (October 23), the concentration at LFC1 decreased to .060 ppm at hour 8. Ozone concentrations at each of the sites peaked at hour 14 then decreased steadily for the remainder of the day although LFC1 concentrations decreased at a much slower rate than El Capitan and Carpinteria. Ozone concentrations remained high enough, however, for 8-hour averages to exceed the federal ozone standard at all three sites. These concentrations appear to be influenced by the previous days persistent area of elevated ozone concentration combined with additional emissions from the fires

As shown in Figure 12, two additional sites exhibited nighttime peaks in ozone concentrations. As can be seen in this figure, the ozone concentrations at Lompoc HS&P and VAFB had a similar diurnal pattern as LFC1 with ozone concentrations either remaining elevated or rising during nighttime hours. These two monitoring sites rarely measure high ozone concentrations and their nighttime peaks on October 22 indicate that an unusually polluted air mass was transported into the area from the fires burning in Southern California.

Figure 12: Hourly Ozone Concentrations, October 21 – 23, 2007

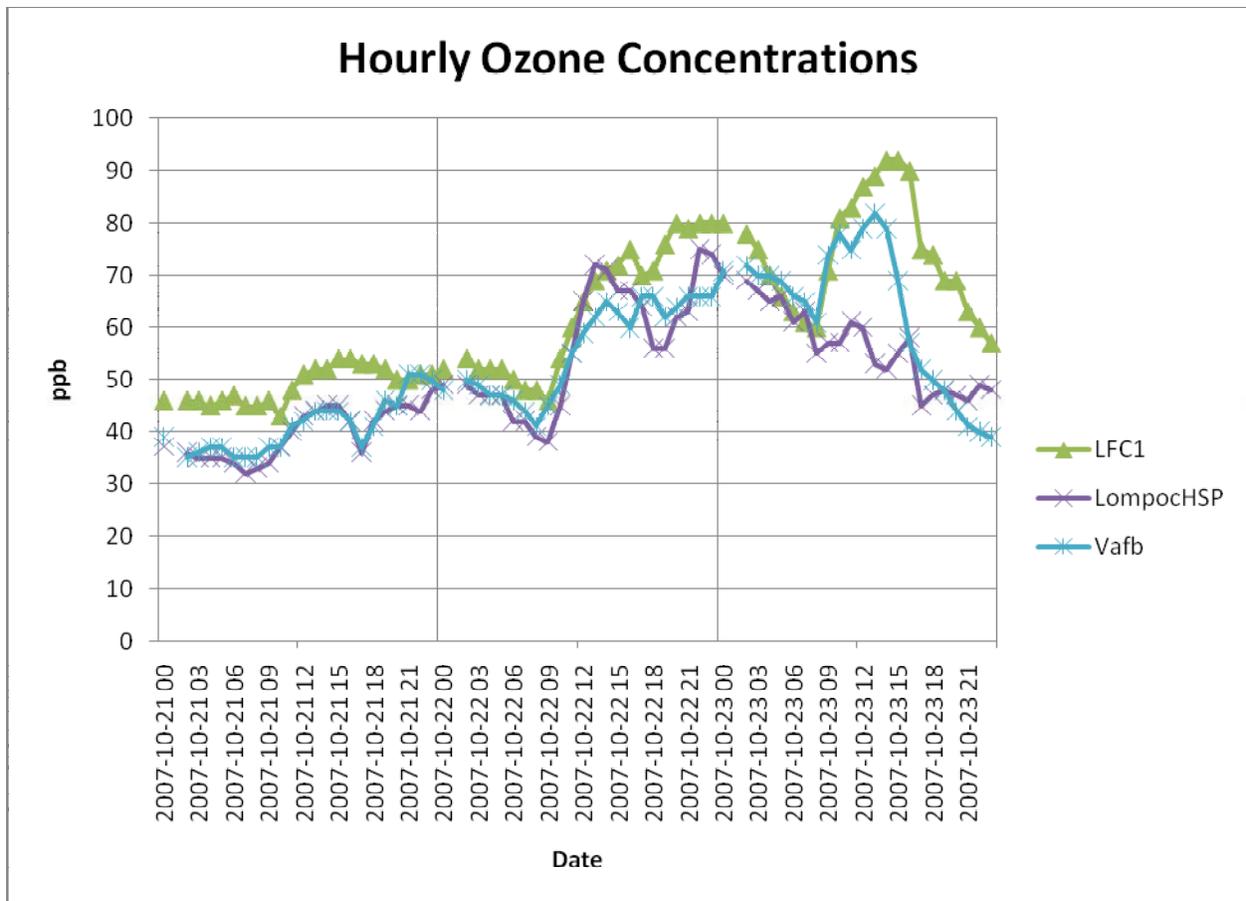
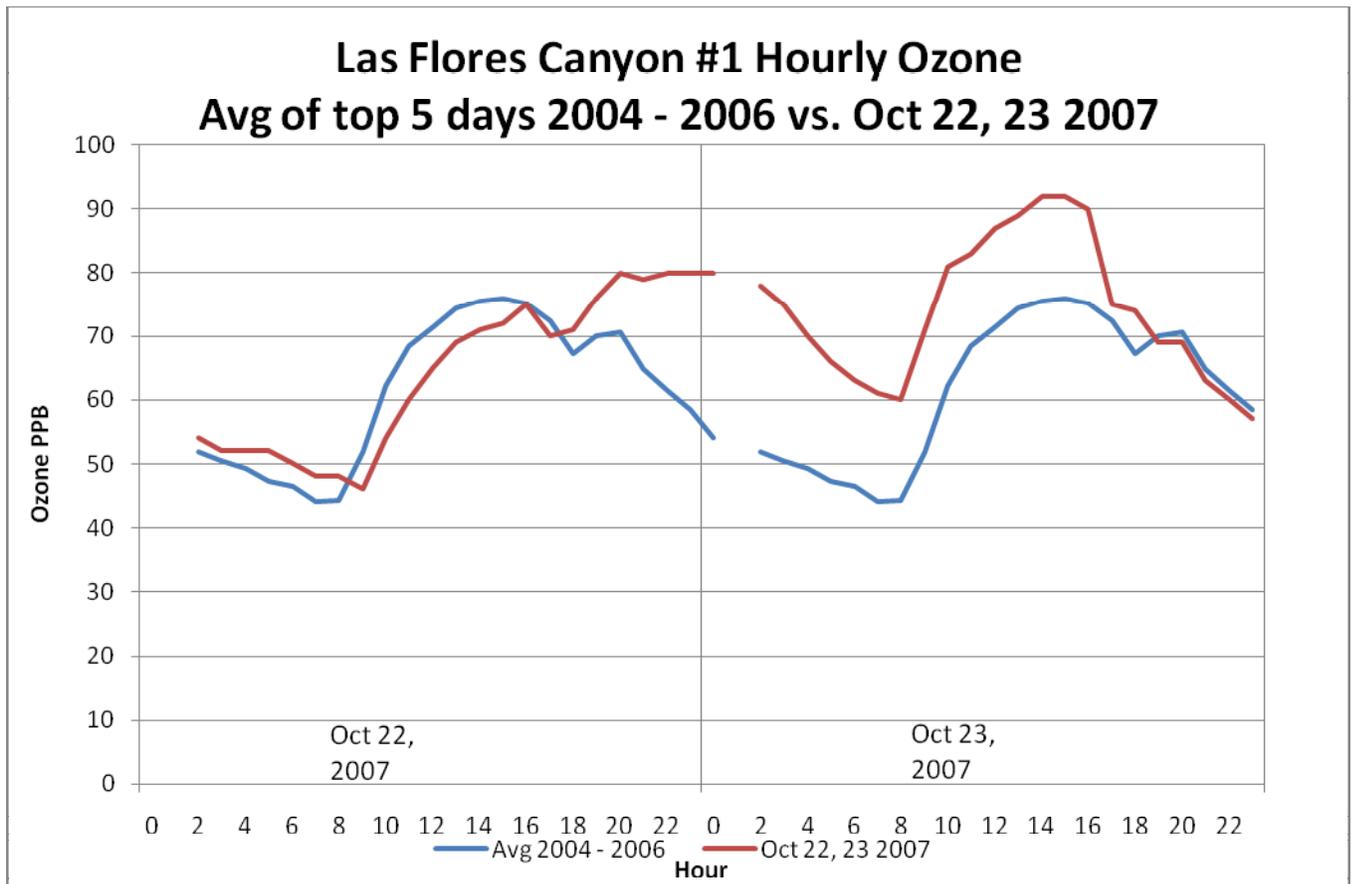


Figure 13 presents an evaluation of the diurnal pattern of peak ozone concentrations between 2004 and 2006 and the October 22-23, 2007 exceedances at the LFC1 site. As can be seen in this figure, peak ozone concentrations typically occur during the afternoon at the LFC1 site. In contrast to the normal diurnal pattern, the LFC1 site exhibited high night time ozone concentrations starting during the evening of October 22 and continued into the early morning of October 23. This deviation from the normal diurnal pattern of maximum concentrations on October 22-23, 2007 is further evidence that pollution was transported into the Santa Barbara area. Maximum ozone concentrations at night along with the fact that the upwind areas of the Los Angeles Basin and Ventura County had low pollution levels during the period of October 20-23, 2007 strongly suggests that smoke from fires burning in Southern California predominately contributed to ozone exceedances in Santa Barbara County.

In conclusion, smoke and pollutants were being transported into Santa Barbara County from several fires in Southern California during this ozone episode. The transport of smoke is clearly evident in the satellite imagery submitted with this document. In addition, the particulate concentrations measured in the county were exceptionally high during the period, which provides further evidence that emissions from the fires were transported into the county. The ozone concentrations were unusually high during these days and exhibited unusual diurnal patterns. We are therefore requesting concurrence of the exceptional event flags placed on the ozone data for these days due to the influence on our local air quality from the fires burning in Southern California.

Figure 13: Comparison of Diurnal Ozone Pattern Between



During the October 2007 fire events the APCD, in coordination with the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department, issued a number of advisories regarding the health impacts from smoke and ash due to the Southern California wildfires. In addition, several TV and radio interviews were aired.



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Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Quality Today's Air Quality Pollutants & Health Monitoring Air Quality Attainment Class Air Toxics Planning Clean Air Plans Land Use & CEQA Transportation Business News/Notices/Meetings Permits & Engineering Compliance/Breakdowns Download Documents Rules & Regulations Agriculture Air Toxics Business Assistance Funding Programs Community Outreach News/Notices/Meetings Kids & Teachers Special Projects Publications View Public Records Regional Marine Shipping More... Contact Us 961-8800 Site Map 	<p>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 20, 2007</p> <p>CONTACT: Tom Murphy, 805.403.1096 Bobbie Bratz, 805.455.6403</p> <p>See links to up to date info on this page.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Air Quality Advisory Due to Blowing Ash</p> <p>Santa Barbara, CA-The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) today issued an air quality advisory for southern Santa Barbara County. Ash from the summer's Zaca Fire is becoming airborne with high winds in the area.</p> <p>High winds forecast through this evening will continue to bring fine ash particles into the south coast. Particulate levels are higher than normal and will vary with prevailing wind direction.</p> <p>Persons sensitive to particulates should be cautious and use "common sense" to protect your family's health. Everyone, especially people with heart or lung disease (including asthma), older adults and children should limit time spent outdoors, and limit prolonged or heavy exertion. If you have symptoms of lung or heart disease that may be related to excess particle exposure, including repeated coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness or pain, palpitations, nausea or unusual fatigue or lightheadedness, contact your health care provider.</p> <p>Said Air Pollution Control Officer Terry Dressler, "We encourage everyone to pay particular attention to any health problems that they may be experiencing and to contact their physician if they are feeling ill."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">###</p> <hr/> <p>◀ Return to News Releases or News & Notices</p>
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Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District

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Note: The Air Quality Advisory is no longer in effect.
See links to up to date info on [this page](#).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 2007

Public Health Contacts:
Michele Mickiewicz, Public Information Officer, 805-451-3497 (cell)
Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, Public Health Department Director, County Health Officer, 805-681-5105

APCD Contacts:
Bobbie Bratz, Public Information Officer, 805-455-6403(cell)
Tom Murphy, APCD Division Manager, 805-403-1096

Air Quality Advisory for Smoke, Ash, and Soot

Santa Barbara, CA — The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) have upgraded the precautionary advisory issued yesterday to an Air Quality Advisory for Santa Barbara County communities. Residents are advised to minimize time outdoors and avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. These precautions are especially important for people with respiratory and heart conditions.

The air quality conditions have degraded from Monday's levels due to high winds blowing smoke from the fires burning in southern California and continued impacts of ash and soot from the Zaca Fire.

Everyone is advised to be cautious and use common sense to protect your family's health, especially people with heart or lung disease (including asthma), older adults and children should limit time spent outdoors, and limit prolonged or heavy exertion. If you have symptoms of lung or heart disease that may be related to excess smoke or particulate exposure, including repeated coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness or pain, palpitations, nausea or unusual fatigue or lightheadedness, contact your health care provider.

Dr. Elliot Schulman, County Health Officer, said, "People are urged to continue being vigilant while the smoke and ash conditions continue. It is especially important for people with asthma or other respiratory diseases or heart conditions to monitor their health and consult with their health care providers if their symptoms worsen."

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Note: The Air Quality Advisory is no longer in effect.

[en Español](#) (PDF)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 24, 2007

Public Health Contacts:
Michele Mickiewicz, Public Information Officer, 805-451-3497 (cell)
Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, Public Health Department Director, County Health Officer, 805-681-5105

APCD Contacts:
Bobbie Bratz, Public Information Officer, 805-455-6403
Tom Murphy, APCD Division Manager, 805-403-1096

Air Quality Conditions Improving

Santa Barbara, CA — The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) have lifted the Air Quality Advisory for Santa Barbara County communities. Residents are advised to pay attention to their local conditions and minimize time outdoors and avoid prolonged or heavy exertion if experiencing smoke or ash in the area. These precautions are especially important for people with respiratory and heart conditions.

The air quality conditions have improved from Tuesday's levels although there is still smoke in the area from the fires burning in southern California and continued resuspension of ash and soot left over from last Saturday's high wind event.

County health and air pollution control officials still advise everyone to be cautious and use common sense to protect their family's health, especially those with heart or lung disease (including asthma). Sensitive individuals should limit time spent outdoors, and limit prolonged or heavy exertion. If you have symptoms of lung or heart disease that may be related to excess smoke or particulate exposure, including repeated coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest tightness or pain, palpitations, nausea or unusual fatigue or lightheadedness, contact your health care provider.

Dr. Elliot Schulman, County Health Officer, said, "While conditions are improving, residents are urged to continue with caution when smoke and ash are present. It is especially important for people with asthma or other respiratory diseases or heart conditions to monitor their health and consult with their health care providers if their symptoms worsen."

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7. News Items Issued				
Type of Outreach	Subject	Contact Persons & Organizations Involved	Date	Target Audience
News releases	Zaca Fire advisories and precautionary statements	Bobbie Bratz, Tom Murphy, Terry Dressler, Mary Byrd, and partners at Public Health and County Fire	Range: July13-29, 2007	Santa Barbara County media and residents
News release	Green Award Winners	Frances Gilliland	9/17/2007	Santa Barbara County media and residents
News releases	Air quality advisories (ash, soot, dust) and precautions	Bobbie Bratz, Tom Murphy, Terry Dressler, Mary Byrd, and partners at Public Health and County Fire	Range: 10/20/2007-12/28/2007	Santa Barbara County media and residents
News release	APCD files intent to sue USEPA	Tom Murphy, Terry Dressler, Bill Dillon, Bobbie Bratz, Mary Byrd	10/22/2007	Santa Barbara County media and residents
1. Television				
Type of Outreach	Subject	Contact Persons & Organizations Involved	Date	Target Audience
ksby-tv	Zaca Ash	Tom Murphy	10/20/2007	tv audience
kcoy-tv	Zaca Ash	Bobbie Bratz	10/21/2007	tv audience
multiple stations	Fire smoke and ash	Terry Dressler	fall 2007	tv audience
multiple stations	APCD sues EPA	Terry Dressler, news release	10/22/2007	tv audience
multiple stations	Greka	Terry Dressler	2007-2008	tv audience
2. Radio				
Type of Outreach	Subject	Contact Persons & Organizations Involved	Date	Target Audience
Gary & Catherine radio	Sedgewick smoke/Zaca ash	Bobbie Bratz	10/22/2007	radio audience
KCLU Public Radio	APCD Sues EPA- ships	Terry Dressler	1/23/2008	radio audience
Andy Caldwell Radio Show	APCD Sues EPA- ships	Terry Dressler	1/29/2008	radio audience
Gary & Catherine radio	Earth Day-Car Free	Mary Byrd	4/18/2008	radio audience