

PM10 – Chester (Tables 10, 15)

The one Hi-Vol sampler located near the downtown area of Chester was removed from Chester in January, 2004. Due to the excellent correlation between the Hi-Vol and the BAM we now rely solely on the BAM for our Chester PM10 data. Fourteen years of data show air quality may be improving slightly. The apparent trend toward an improvement in Chester air quality may be the result of recent wet years in Northern California. The Chester BAM recorded six exceedances of the CAAQS during 2005, however, the annual arithmetic mean was close to Chester's all-time low at 20.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Long Term Outlook: It is the District's best guess that annual PM10 levels in Chester will probably begin to slowly rise as more people move into the Chester area. The greatest increases in PM10 levels will most likely be realized in 1 to 5 years with the anticipated increases in prescribed burning. The NSAQMD stands ready to monitor and document these increases. The anticipated increases in prescribed burning have the potential to overwhelm all existing particulate mitigation efforts currently in place.