

PM10 – Loyalton (Table 9)

There is one Hi-Vol sampler located behind the Loyalton Hospital adjacent to the Loyalton High School Agricultural area. The sampler was turned off in July 2000 and was re-activated in July 2001. It should remain in service for many years to come. Over the last thirteen years this site has averaged almost 4 exceedances of the CAAQS per year. 2005 was a typical year for Loyalton with only 4 exceedances of the CAAQS. At this point in time no discernible pattern has surfaced for this site, though there is some indication that air quality has improved somewhat, most likely due to wet winters. Some exceedances have occurred in the summer, some in the winter. Some violations were clearly due to nearby wildland fires and local agricultural operations. Loyalton air quality appears to be stabilized.

Long Term Outlook: In January of 2001 the Sierra Pacific Industries lumber mill in Loyalton shut down, most likely forever. The 15 – 20 tons of PM10 no longer emitted by the mill each year will probably not be noticed by the PM10 sampler. If we see any reduction in PM10 levels it will probably come from reduced woodstove use when laid-off workers move away. Other factors remaining constant, the PM10 levels in Loyalton will remain fairly consistent with past years. A recent development that could produce a small increase in ambient PM10 levels is the renewed interest in Loyalton as a bedroom community for Reno and Truckee.