

PM10 – Quincy (Tables 11, 14)

Excluding wildfires, 2005 saw the highest number of exceedances of the CAAQS since 1995 on the continuous PM10 sampler. The Hi-Volume sampler recorded only 1 exceedance of the CAAQS during the same period. There were no continuous PM10 data recorded in Quincy during 2004. The High Volume PM10 sampler in Quincy recorded 0 exceedances of the CAAQS in 2004.

There are now two PM10 samplers located in Quincy. One is a BAM sampler and the other is a CARB - owned, District - operated Hi-Vol sampler. A PM2.5 sampler was added in early 1999. Almost twelve years of TEOM data show air quality has improved dramatically in the Quincy area. The TEOM was retired from service in August of 2003 as it had reached the end of its useful life. The TEOM was replaced with a BAM during the fall of 2004. The highest 24 hour concentration recorded in 2004 was a 49 ug/m³ on the Hi-Volume sampler. Despite the possible aberration 2005 data might represent, it appears that the efforts made by the NSAQMD and Plumas county in Quincy over the last 14 years have really paid off. The NSAQMD considers Quincy to be a real air quality success story.

Long Term Outlook: Since Quincy is making multiple efforts to clean up their local air, through banning open burning and upgrading non-EPA certified woodstoves, it seems very likely that air quality will improve over the next 5 - 10 years, if population growth doesn't negate the current trend. This positive trend could be reversed if the anticipated increases in prescribed burning become a reality. Increased oversight of the U.S. Forest Service prescribed burning program by the NSAQMD will take on a new urgency. The anticipated increases in prescribed burning have the potential to overwhelm all existing particulate mitigation efforts currently in place.