

## **THE 8-HOUR OZONE STANDARD**

There is now both a National and State 8-hour ozone standard. These standards are based on research that shows significant adverse health effects from chronic exposure to relatively low levels of ozone. The long-time 1-hour NAAQS for ozone has been supplanted by the 8-hour standard in those areas already in attainment of the 1-hour standard. The 8-hour standard is a rolling 8-hour average. Any 8-hour average greater than 8.5 pphm is considered harmful to the public health. Since the NSAQMD is a downwind receptor and all of its exceedances are due to transport, it is expected and has been shown that there will be many exceedances of the ozone NAAQS and CAAQS in the years to come. In April of 2004 the EPA designated western Nevada County as "Basic" non-attainment for the 8-hour standard (CAA, Title I, Part D, Subpart 1). The full consequences of this new designation are yet to be determined, but no doubt some additional regulatory mandates will be placed on the regulated community in western Nevada County. 2005 saw the adoption of the 8-hour CAAQS (0.070 ppm).