

NORTHERN SIERRA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Ozone Emergency Episode Plan

PREPARED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL CLEAN AIR ACT

Proposed for Adoption February 24, 2020

Purpose

This Ozone Emergency Episode Plan provides the basis for taking action to prevent ambient ozone concentrations from reaching levels which could endanger public health, or to abate such concentrations should they occur. It identifies criteria for the four trigger levels for emergency episodes and components for public announcements whenever an episode has been identified. Additionally, it specifies emission control strategies to be taken with each successive level of an ozone emergency episode. The Significant Harm Level specified in 40 CFR Part 51.151 is a 2-hour average of 0.6 parts per million (ppm). The highest concentration ever recorded in the Emergency Episode Plan area was a 2003 value of 0.12 ppm in western Nevada County.

Area Characterization

The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD or District) is a mountainous California air district that covers the counties of Nevada, Sierra, and Plumas. Most of the District is sparsely populated, with the exception of several small towns. There are no “urbanized areas” in the NSAQMD.

Population summary (2010 US Census Data):

Total Population 122,211

Nevada County 98,764 (approx. 80,000 in the nonattainment area)

Sierra County 3,240

Plumas County 20,207

Incorporated city population within the ozone nonattainment area:

Grass Valley 12,860

Nevada City 3,068

Incorporated city population outside the ozone nonattainment area:

Town of Truckee 16,180

Portola 2,104

Loyalton 769

Total Area: 4,549 square miles (larger than Delaware and Rhode Island combined).

The overall density of the NSAQMD is less than 27 people per square mile (24 acres per person).

The Sierra Nevada mountain range splits the air district, which varies in elevation from several hundred feet above sea level to mountain peaks reaching more than 9,000 feet above sea level. The towns of Portola, Loyalton, and Town of Truckee are east of the Sierra crest and have very different weather from the western Nevada County nonattainment area. Historical ozone data from Grass Valley (in western Nevada County) and Truckee give no indication of a connection between conditions on the east side and west side of the Sierras, with ozone concentrations consistently lower on the east side. Therefore, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) limited its non-attainment designation to the western portion of Nevada County.

Most of the ozone observed in the nonattainment area is transported from the upwind Sacramento region and, to a lesser extent, the San Francisco Bay Area (as documented in the NSAQMD’s 2008 Ozone SIP). From south to north, the western portion of the NSAQMD is divided topographically and meteorologically by a series of massive river canyons, some more than 2,000 feet deep, that run predominantly east/west. These canyons, by their profound

mixing effects on tropospheric air masses, serve to disrupt the spread of ozone from the upwind urban areas located in other air districts further south.

The NSAQMD's only current ozone monitor is located at an elevation of approximately 2,860 feet, in the city of Grass Valley in western Nevada County. Previous monitoring in Truckee and Quincy demonstrate that western Nevada County tends to have much higher ozone concentrations than other parts of the NSAQMD. This is due to its proximity to the Sacramento region and the resulting transport on high ozone days. Western Nevada County is also the most densely populated portion of the NSAQMD, has the most traffic, and is the warmest during the summer months (due largely to its lower elevation). If any part of the NSAQMD were to ever exceed an ozone concentration of 0.2 ppm or higher, it would likely be western Nevada County (unless wildfire emissions cause a localized spike elsewhere). Nonetheless, this Emergency Episode Plan covers the entire NSAQMD.

Legal Authority

The Federal Clean Air Act (CAA or Act)¹ gives the U.S. EPA the legal authority to halt the emission of air pollutants causing or contributing to the injury of the public or their welfare. The U.S. EPA is further authorized to either bring a lawsuit in federal court or, if such civil action cannot assure prompt protection of public health or welfare, to issue such orders as may be necessary to protect public health, welfare, or the environment. As required by CAA section 110(a)(2)(G), similar authority as granted to the U.S. EPA Administrator is vested in the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the air districts under the California Health & Safety Code (H&SC)². This section of California law applies to a range of emissions violations and imposes penalties that are equivalent to or exceed federal penalties for violations.

Under the authority of the H&SC, CARB is responsible for controlling emissions from mobile sources, while districts have primary responsibility for controlling emissions from non-mobile sources. H&SC Section 41700 states that sources are prohibited from emitting any pollutant(s) that cause injury, detriment, nuisance, annoyance to the public, or that endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of the public. Furthermore, H&SC Section 42450, et seq. gives districts specific authority to abate emissions from any source violating H&SC Section 41700 or any other order, rule, or regulation that prohibits or limits the discharge of pollutants, consistent with applicable notice and hearing requirements. Under H&SC Section 41509, CARB or other local agency rules cannot infringe upon a district's authority to declare, prohibit, or abate a nuisance, and California's Attorney General is authorized to enjoin any pollution or nuisance, either on his or her own or by request.

In addition to the authority under H&SC, local air districts can work with the local governing body of a city, county, or city and county, pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act³, to proclaim a local emergency when there are conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a city, county, or both a city and county, caused by such conditions as air pollution⁴. When a local emergency is declared, cities and counties shall implement their emergency plans and take actions to mitigate or reduce the emergency threat.

¹ Federal Clean Air Act Section 110(a)(2)(G)

² California Health and Safety Code Section 42400 et seq.

³ California Emergency Services Act, California Government Code Section 8550-8668

⁴ California Government Code Section 8558 (c)

Actions may include deploying field-level emergency response personnel such as law enforcement, activating emergency operation centers, and issuing orders to protect the public. Through a local emergency declaration, air districts can obtain law enforcement aid from local governing bodies to accomplish necessary actions for preventing ambient ozone concentrations from reaching the significant harm level.

Requirement for a Plan for the Prevention of Air Pollution Emergency Episodes

Under the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)⁵, regions that have hourly ozone concentrations above 0.10 ppm are classified as Priority I Regions and are required to develop a “Contingency Plan” which must, at a minimum, provide for taking action necessary to prevent ambient ozone concentrations at any location in such region from reaching the significant harm level of 0.6 ppm referenced above. Per the definition at 40 CFR Part 51.100(m) “*Region* means an area designated as an air quality control region (AQCR) under section 107(c) of the Act.” All of Plumas, Sierra and Nevada County are in the Mountain Counties Intrastate Air Quality Control Region as designated in 40 CFR 81.274.

As set forth in the CFR, three trigger levels (stages) are established for ozone pollution episodes: Alert level (0.2 ppm), Warning level (0.4 ppm), and Emergency level (0.5 ppm)⁶. Corresponding actions for each specified trigger level would be identified and will be implemented when the ambient ozone hourly concentration measurements reach the specified trigger levels. These elements and actions should provide for rapid short-term emission reductions at each trigger level, to avoid high ozone concentrations from reaching significant harm levels during an episode.

Development of the Ozone Emergency Episode Plan

Western Nevada County is classified as non-attainment for the 2008 and 2015 federal ozone eight-hour average standards. Since western Nevada County has had more than one day with a maximum one-hour concentration greater than 0.10 ppm between 2014 and 2017, it triggers the Priority 1 classification for emergency episode planning. Therefore, the NSAQMD is required to prepare an ozone emergency episode plan (Plan) to comply with the Infrastructure State Implementation Plan submitted by CARB.

Table 1 shows the number of days exceeding the 1-hour 0.10 ppm threshold at the Grass Valley ozone monitoring site, in western Nevada County, from 2014 through 2017. During this time, the maximum ozone one-hour concentration was 0.108 ppm. The highest ozone concentration ever recorded in the NSAQMD was 0.165 at the Grass Valley monitor in 1999. The NSAQMD operated an ozone monitor in Quincy from 1992 through 2006 which had only one day in that 14-year period with a concentration above 0.10 ppm (0.105 ppm on June 12, 1995). The NSAQMD also operated an ozone monitor in Truckee from 1992 through 2011 which never reached .10 ppm. Also, CARB operated a seasonal (summer months) ozone monitor at White Cloud (12.7 miles east-northeast from the Grass Valley monitor) from 1995 through 2015. The White Cloud monitor recorded hourly values above 0.10 ppm during 12 years out of the 21, with a maximum of 0.12 ppm in 2003, but no values reaching 0.10 ppm in the seven year period of 2009 through 2015. Some of the historic high ozone concentrations may have been caused or exacerbated by wildfires.

⁵ 40 CFR 51.150 and 51.151

⁶ 40 CFR 51 Appendix L

Table 1
Western Nevada County Ozone Monitoring Site
Number of Days with Maximum 1-hour Concentration Greater than 0.10 ppm

		2014	2015	2016	2017
Grass Valley – Litton Building	# of Days	0	1	3	5
	Max Conc.	0.089	0.101	0.101	0.108

Data downloaded from CARB's Aerometric Data and Management (ADAM) system on 9/19/19

Basic Plan requirements are specified in 40 CFR §51.152 (Contingency Plans):

- (a) Each contingency plan must -
 - (1) Specify two or more stages of episode criteria such as those set forth in appendix L to this part, or their equivalent;
 - (2) Provide for public announcement whenever any episode stage has been determined to exist; and
 - (3) Specify adequate emission control actions to be taken at each episode stage. (Examples of emission control actions are set forth in appendix L.)
- (b) Each contingency plan for a Priority I region must provide for the following:
 - (1) Prompt acquisition of forecasts of atmospheric stagnation conditions and of updates of such forecasts as frequently as they are issued by the National Weather Service.
 - (2) Inspection of sources to ascertain compliance with applicable emission control action requirements.
 - (3) Communications procedures for transmitting status reports and orders as to emission control actions to be taken during an episode stage, including procedures for contact with public officials, major emission sources, public health, safety, and emergency agencies and news media.

Industrial Abatement Plan and Inspection Discussion

One of the emission control actions set forth in 40 CFR Part 51, Appendix L is an industrial abatement strategy. An industrial abatement strategy is a pre-planned document prepared by a permitted industrial source (facility) which contains the necessary actions to rapidly reduce that facility's emitted ozone precursor emissions when an episode level is triggered. In order to require such a strategy, an emission threshold should be established for the industrial abatement strategy requirement. Depending on the ozone emergency plans approved by the other air districts in California, the emission thresholds to require the industrial abatement plans are as low as 50 tons per year (tpy) for both reactive organic gases (ROG) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions. Table 2 shows the four highest ozone precursor emitting facilities in the entire NSAQMD. None of these facilities are located within the nonattainment area (they are all in areas designated as Unclassified/Attainment). The table indicates that there are no facilities in the Western Nevada County nonattainment area that emitted more than two tons of NOx or ROG in 2018.

There are three sources of ozone precursors in the NSAQMD that emit more than 50 tons of ozone precursors per year. They are all located at high elevation 50 miles or more downwind from the ozone monitor. These sources are all wood-fired power plants (not a listed source type in 40 CFR Part 51, Appendix L, Part B - Source curtailment) and their ozone precursor emissions are from the burning of biomass in large boilers. Those boilers take several hours to start up and shut down, during which time emissions increase greatly due to inefficient

combustion. They are most efficient (lowest emissions) when operated at a steady state. During different stages of emergency episodes, these facilities will be requested to initiate specified emission control actions as outlined below.

Table 2
All NSAQMD Sources Emitting More Than 2 Tons per Year of NOx or ROG (2018)⁷

Distance from Ozone Monitor and Elevation	County	Facility	Facility SIC	NOx (tpy)	ROG (tpy)
50 miles, Elev. 3460'	Plumas	Sierra Pacific Industries	2421	269.5	35.5
74 miles, Elev. 4560'	Plumas	Collins Pine	2421	116.6	15.3
53 miles, Elev. 4975'	Sierra	American Renewable Power	4931	65.4	4.6
50 miles, Elev. 5760'	Nevada	Teichert Aggregates	1442	2.2	1.5

All three of the District's major sources are at least 50 miles from the ozone monitor and are located in places where transport of ozone precursors is not possible given the complexity of the terrain and prevailing wind patterns. In addition, all three sources are under permit and are required to report any malfunction or breakdown immediately, and they all have continuous emission monitors. As reflected in Table 3, the vast majority of ozone precursor emissions in western Nevada County (and throughout the NSAQMD) are from natural vegetation. The next largest category of emissions is mobile sources. Furthermore, in instances of wildfires, additional emissions of precursors are possible. These additional emissions combined with transport of ozone and precursor emissions from upwind AQCRs make it more likely to cause high ozone concentrations in the NSAQMD than local stationary industrial sources.

⁷ CARB CEIDARS database system. Data shown for calendar year 2018.

Table 3

2020 Emission Projections for Western Nevada County Tons per Day

Summer Emissions, Grown and Controlled, Anthropogenic

ROG	NOX	
0.00	0.07	FUEL COMBUSTION
0.00	0.00	WASTE DISPOSAL
0.52	0.00	CLEANING AND SURFACE COATINGS
0.14	0.00	PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND MARKETING
0.13	0.03	INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES
1.15	0.00	SOLVENT EVAPORATION
0.36	0.14	MISCELLANEOUS PROCESSES
1.01	2.16	ON-ROAD MOTOR VEHICLES
<u>0.96</u>	<u>0.74</u>	OTHER MOBILE SOURCES
4.27	3.13	TOTAL

Source: California Air Resources Board, CEPAM V1.05_RF1160

https://www.arb.ca.gov/app/emsinv/2016ozsip/2016ozsip/fcemssumcat_sip16wnnoz105.php

Biogenic Emissions, May through September, average

ROG	NOx	
226.2	0	BIOGENIC (FROM VEGETATION)

Source: CEPAM V1.03

For the reasons noted above, the NSAQMD proposes to rely on both continuous emission monitoring technology and inspection to verify compliance of sources with their permit conditions and to ascertain compliance with applicable emission control action requirements during any ozone emergency episode stage, as outlined in the *Actions for Each Emergency Episode* section below. The notification list contained later in this document includes all sources emitting more than 50 tpy of NOx or ROG. In the event that safety conditions or the implementation of this plan temporarily prevent in-person inspection, NSAQMD may verify compliance with applicable emission control actions remotely. NSAQMD commits to documenting evidence of compliance status in those circumstances, such as emails from regulated facilities verifying that controls are being implemented, and records of telephone conversations that verify compliance. The NSAQMD receives quarterly data from all of the continuous emission monitors, which can be used to double-check that compliance with all permit conditions and emission limitations was maintained during an ozone emergency episode.

If any source emitting more than 50 tpy of NOx or ROG becomes established in the future in the NSAQMD, it will be evaluated to determine if an industrial abatement strategy or other specific control measures are reasonable and feasible in the case of an ozone emergency episode. If such a plan or measures are deemed reasonable and feasible, the NSAQMD will work with the source to develop an industrial abatement strategy or other prescribed emission reduction measures which will then be added to the contingency plan actions as appropriate.

Health Advisory Level

The NSAQMD proposes 0.15 ppm as a Health Advisory level to initiate emergency actions. The Health Advisory level (0.15 ppm) is lower than the Alert level (0.2 ppm), which is the lowest of

three trigger levels listed in 40 CFR Part 51, Appendix L. Other air districts in California have approved an Advisory level of 0.15 ppm, including Amador and San Luis Obispo.

Ozone concentrations in Western Nevada County have been substantially reduced through the implementation of existing state and local control measures and a state implementation plan (SIP). The SIP has been developed to identify emission control strategies for mobile and non-mobile sources. Based on the SIP commitments, the NSAQMD adopted or amended rules and developed programs to facilitate progress towards attaining the federal ozone standards. Since the current 2015 federal ozone 8-hour average standard (0.070 ppm) is more stringent than the previous 8-hour standard, the District believes that the development and implementation of control regulations and programs identified by the relevant ozone SIPs will ensure that the 1-hour ozone maximum concentrations are unlikely to reach the proposed Health Advisory level of 0.15 ppm.

In addition, the NSAQMD regulates various types of open burning, including for residential, land development, fire hazard reduction, vegetation management, ecological, and agricultural purposes. The NSAQMD works cooperatively with CARB and fire agencies to provide daily burn day notifications based on meteorological conditions, air quality forecasts, and fire safety. The burn day information is broken down into burn day types to help indicate the quality of a burn day. The District has the authority to override a CARB-declared permissive burn day. Through existing burn programs, the NSAQMD works carefully to ensure that adequate burning for firesafe activities is possible while avoiding public health impacts from smoke and ozone precursor emissions.

In conclusion, the District believes that the proposed Health Advisory level of 0.15 ppm is an appropriate and reasonable level, in addition to the required ozone emergency episode levels set forth in the CAA, to initiate and fulfill the air pollution emergency episode actions proposed by the Plan.

Emergency Episode Criteria

Table 4 summarizes the four emergency episode trigger levels proposed by the NSAQMD for the 1-hour ozone concentration. The following section identifies the corresponding actions for each trigger level, when the corresponding 1-hour ozone concentration is reached.

Table 4

Trigger Levels of Ozone Emergency Episodes in Western Nevada County

	Health Advisory	Alert (Stage 1)	Warning (Stage 2)	Emergency (Stage 3)
Ozone (1-hour average)	0.15 ppm	0.20 ppm	0.40 ppm	0.50 ppm

Proposed Actions for Ozone Emergency Episodes:

The actions identified for each trigger level of the ozone emergency episodes include public notification and emissions mitigation for industrial and mobile sources. The purposes of these actions are 1) to provide notification to the public when atmospheric stagnation conditions would result in substantially high ozone concentration measurements, and 2) to reduce the ozone precursor emissions rapidly in order to lower the ozone concentration below the triggered emergency episode level. At all trigger levels, the NSAQMD will coordinate with county health officers regarding appropriate messaging (the county health officer has the authority to cancel public events and school activities if warranted).

Air Pollution Forecast

The NSAQMD's air pollution forecasting is informed by prompt acquisition of forecasts of atmospheric stagnation conditions and updates of such forecasts as frequently as they are issued by the National Weather Service. Additionally, the NSAQMD's ozone monitor is included in the Sacramento regional "Spare the Air" program (www.sparetheair.com/airalert.cfm), which provides air quality forecasting and public notification via email and the Internet, along with suggested actions to minimize emissions when ozone concentrations are expected to be elevated. Finally, the NSAQMD contacts CARB's meteorology department for input when conditions are uncertain or are expected to be unusual.

Based on information from the National Weather Service, Spare the Air, and CARB's meteorologists, the NSAQMD posts ozone forecasts on the NSAQMD web site (www.myairdistrict.com), submits them to local media, and provides them to EPA's Air Now web site (www.airnow.gov).

Emergency Episode Declaration

Whenever the ozone 1-hour concentration, measured at the permanent location within the NSAQMD, reaches or is predicted to reach any of the episode trigger levels (stages) as shown in Table 4, the NSAQMD shall declare that an emergency episode is in effect.

In addition, should the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) of a district adjacent to the NSAQMD declare a stage 1, 2, or 3 episode within that district and request assistance, the NSAQMD may implement measures as described in this Plan as though the comparable level had been measured within the NSAQMD.

Notification of an Emergency Episode

The District has established an air quality health advisory list serve (available via www.myairdistrict.com) that anybody may sign up for. As of November 2019 the list contained more than 1,000 contacts, including school representatives, athletic coaches, public and private health care professionals, medical facility representatives, radio stations, newspapers, summer camp directors, and individuals of all descriptions who simply want to be informed. It is typically used several times per year for wildfire smoke advisories and would be used for ozone advisory notifications as well.

In addition, the District shall establish and periodically update and review an emergency episode notification list (List). When any emergency episode is declared, the APCO shall notify the officials on the List. The List shall include, and is not limited to, the following entities:

California Air Resources Board;

The County Executive Officers, chief executive officers of the incorporated municipalities within each county, police chiefs, fire chiefs, federal land management agency coordinators and any other public safety officers as deemed appropriate by the APCO;

County Health Officers;

County Offices of Emergency Services;

County Office of Education Superintendents, school districts' superintendents, and private schools' principals;

All air pollution control districts within the Sacramento Valley and Mountain Counties as well as all upwind and downwind districts;

Major newspapers in daily circulation and major television and radio stations (including those who are part of the emergency broadcast system) broadcasting within affected area for appropriate warning, notices, and advisories;

Regional Spare the Air Programs;

District permitted facilities that emit more than 50 tpy of NO_x or ROG; and

District Staff who are responsible for public outreach.

Content of Notification

Notification of an emergency episode shall include information on the predicted or current episode level, the expected duration of the episode, the expected geographic boundaries of the affected area, a statement for the public on the health significance of the air quality during the episode, and the appropriate voluntary or mandatory actions proposed for each episode level. See attached sample notification text for the Advisory level.

Termination of an Emergency Episode

The District shall declare an episode as terminated when the 1-hour ozone concentration measurements from the permanent monitoring site falls below the level of the Alert stage and the meteorological data indicates the ozone concentration is expected to continue decreasing.

Notification of the Termination of an Episode

Upon the declaration of the termination of an episode, the District shall notify those agencies and organizations specified in the List.

Actions for Each Emergency Episode

When an emergency episode is declared, the District shall implement the following control actions. Each progressive episode stage shall include the actions prescribed at the advisory level and the previous stage (unless they conflict).

Health Advisory Level

- Prohibit all open burning, including agricultural and forest management burning, and incineration throughout the affected area, except in an emergency situation as provided for in Section 41862 of the California H&SC;
- Communicate with county health officers regarding coordinated messaging;
- Prepare the advisory notification;
- Notify those public agencies and organizations identified in the List that a health advisory episode has been declared;
- Advise the County Office of Education Superintendent in each county that sustained strenuous activities by students (for both public and private schools) lasting longer than one hour should be discontinued;
- Through the County Offices of Emergency Services in each county, notify the news media to broadcast the appropriate warning to the public, which will include a recommendation that the public curtail unnecessary motor vehicle operation;
- Work with industry to identify targeted facilities with possible emission control actions to reduce the relative emissions; and
- Coordinate with the County Office of Emergency Services in each county to identify possible actions which shall be taken when NSAQMD declares a local emergency for an air pollution episode (e.g. ceasing painting, construction, lawn mowing, pesticide application, and charcoal grilling).

Alert (Stage 1) Episode

- Prepare the emergency episode notification;
- Notify those public agencies and organizations identified in the List that an Alert episode has been declared;
- Request the County Office of Education Superintendent in each county contact the School Superintendents and coordinate with private schools, to suspend students' strenuous activities and consider keeping students indoors;
- Through the County Office of Emergency Services in each county, notify news media to broadcast the appropriate warning to the public, which will include a request that the public curtail any unnecessary motor vehicle and motorized equipment operation;
- Request facilities emitting more than 50 tpy of any ozone precursor to initiate specified emission control actions to reduce emissions (including reducing or curtailing production, allowing workers to telecommute, and recommending that employees refrain from using their vehicles until the episode is terminated);
- Inspect sources emitting more than 50 tpy of any ozone precursor to ascertain compliance with applicable emission control action requirements.

Warning (Stage 2) Episode:

- Request that those agencies and organizations in the List, within the scope of their authority;
- Close all non-essential public agency facilities, except emergency facilities and those facilities necessary in emergencies to protect national security or national defense;
- Request that employees of closed facilities and non-essential public agency employees refrain from using vehicles until the episode is terminated;
- In conjunction with county health officers, request closure of all public and private schools and other educational facilities;
- Request facilities emitting more than 50 tpy of any ozone precursor to initiate emission control actions for maximum emission reduction;
- Request that asphalt production facilities curtail production;
- Request the suspension of all indoor and outdoor events at parks or recreational facilities open to the public;
- Request the suspension of all scheduled athletic events; and
- Request that the County Executive Officers and Health Officer consider declaring a local emergency for air pollution, pursuant to any established procedures, and implement emergency control measures, pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, when the ambient ozone concentration continues rising and reaches the 1-hour level of 0.40 ppm.

Emergency (Stage 3) Episode: In addition to the actions associated with the Stage 2 Warning episode, the following actions should be implemented in the event of an Emergency episode that reaches Stage 3.

- Request that County Executive Officers declare a local emergency for air pollution and initiate emergency operations plans;
- Request the media broadcast to the public that a local emergency exists for air pollution, due to high ozone concentrations;
- Hospitals within the affected area shall be notified of the alert level to prepare for the possible increase in the number of patients seeking treatment;
- Close principal streets, as deemed necessary by the County Executive Officers, Health Officers, APCO, and local law enforcement agencies;
- Request that the County Offices of Emergency Services engage with the State agency for necessary actions pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, which includes prohibiting the use of all motor vehicles except for emergencies, or any other action warranted;
- Encourage municipalities to restrict all non-essential construction and painting; and
- Advise the public to forego all lawn care and mowing activities and stop the use of lawn and garden chemicals.
- Through the County Offices of Emergency Services, the following actions shall be conducted, but are not limited to:
 - Close all government facilities which are not immediately necessary for public health and safety, national security, or national defense;
 - Close all recreational facilities, including, but not limited to, those servicing

- boating and off-road vehicles;
- Close all non-emergency commercial and industrial facilities;
- Request implementation of emergency carpooling, or the use of mass transportation.

Commitment

The NSAQMD commits to implementing the proposed actions associated with each stage identified in this Plan. The implementation of the Plan is intended to prevent the ambient ozone concentration (averaged over two hours) from reaching the Significant Harm level of 0.60 ppm.

SAMPLE PUBLIC NOTIFICATION TEXT (to be placed on NSAQMD letterhead when appropriate)

AIR QUALITY HEALTH ADVISORY -- OZONE

Counties of Nevada, Sierra, and Plumas

[Days of Week, ***Date through *****Date]**

The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District and the Nevada, Sierra, and Plumas County Public Health Departments are issuing a joint Air Quality Health Advisory to notify the public of expected poor air quality through *****Date. With high temperatures and southwest afternoon winds, ozone in western Nevada County is likely to reach at least the “Unhealthy” range in the afternoons and evenings each day through [*****end date], and fall into the Good to Moderate range in the mornings. [***** Specify days] will likely have the highest ozone concentrations.

Exposure to elevated ozone concentrations can result in eye and throat irritation, headaches, nausea, shortness of breath, congestion, coughing, impaired lung function, and chest pain. People most likely to feel health effects from ozone are the elderly, children, individuals with asthma or other cardiovascular conditions, pregnant women, and anyone who is exercising or working for extended periods outdoors.

The following actions are recommended:

- Limit outdoor exercise to the morning hours and limit outdoor activity in the afternoon and evening to no more than one hour;
- Sensitive individuals should avoid outdoor activity, especially in the later part of the day, and run the air conditioner on the “recirculate” setting if that is an option;
- People with asthma should follow their asthma management plan;
- Avoid unnecessary activities that contribute to air pollution, including painting, motorized equipment use, recreational boat and vehicle use, pesticide use, campfires, and charcoal grilling;
- Minimize driving;
- Contact your doctor if you have symptoms of cough, shortness of breath, chest pain or severe fatigue.

Near real-time air quality conditions may be found at www.sparetheair.com (click on “Current Conditions” on the left) or at www.myairdistrict.com (click on “Local Air Quality” in the lower middle portion). Take into consideration that ozone values typically increase between the afternoon hours of 2 and 10 PM.