

## DISCOVER-AQ OUTLOOK JANUARY 17, 2013

The Pacific Coast ridge continues to hold firm over our study area. The ridge line lies just off the coast today, and is expected to move ashore over the next couple of days. The ridge is keeping relatively clear skies over the region with low dew points at the surface due to subsiding dry air. A brief episode of fog occurred at Hanford this morning with visibility dropping to 0.5 miles at around 8 AM, quickly rebounding to 1.25 miles at 8:15. However, IFR conditions (< 3 mi. visibility or ceiling < 1000 ft.) persisted from 5 – 10 AM at this site. Visalia also experienced IFR conditions from 3 AM to 9:15 AM in mist this morning, but visibilities there never reached full fog values. Friday morning should have relatively similar conditions, but with perhaps a bit more fog especially farther south in the valley. With the ridge overhead over the weekend, expect more of the same, but with increased likelihood of more widespread and persistent morning fog. Today's MOS forecast has higher surface RH on Sat. AM than on Sunday, so there is some possibility that the fog may be more extensive Saturday AM. Some tropical moisture is beginning to show up on the west side of the ridge and is being advected toward the California coast today. We need to be on the lookout for cirrus tomorrow. Looking farther ahead, Monday looks about the same as Sunday. On Tuesday, a short-wave trough will approach from the NW and pass over CA on Wed, bring increased chances of cloudiness. The ridge will reestablish on Thur. and Fri. next week.

Air quality for PM2.5 reached Code Orange today in Fresno and is forecast to be similar tomorrow. Kings, Tulare, and Kern Counties will be near the border of Code Yellow and Orange.

Recommendation is to fly on Friday after a check of the fog situation early in the morning.