

## DISCOVER-AQ OUTLOOK January 20, 2013

It's the same old story.....Pacific Coast ridge still hanging in there creating conditions today and tomorrow very similar to the past few days. Fog this morning still confined to a fairly narrow band stretching from west of Fresno to Corcoran. This is the lowest altitude region of the valley. Hanford remained below 0.25 miles visibility from 5 AM to 10 AM today. Visalia briefly dropped below 0.25 mi. around 4 AM today, but remained in the 1.5 to 2 mi. range until 10 AM. Low visibility in haze prevented some of the missed approaches in the P-3B flight today. NWS Hanford reported the fog thickness as 750 ft. at Hanford. Fog was a bit more widespread and persisted longer today than yesterday. In general, the haze was more extensive and visibilities lower than yesterday. Highest PM2.5 readings we have seen so far, with Bakersfield exceeding 70 micrograms/cubic meter during part of the day.

Tuesday will also look reasonably good for flying, but with a chance of high cloudiness coming in late in the day. Wednesday should have considerable cloudiness and will likely not be a good fly day. Cloud conditions are more uncertain as we go from Thursday through Saturday, but there is good likelihood of cloudiness due to the subtropical moisture associated with a cut-off low to the southwest of the California coast. A frontal system may pass through the area and bring some precipitation and a change of air mass next weekend.

Air quality is forecast to continue to deteriorate tomorrow with Code Orange for PM2.5 forecast for the entire study region.