

DISCOVER-AQ OUTLOOK Jan. 21, 2013

Today was another day very similar to the past few days. It started out with some early AM fog in the central part of the SJV. Hanford fog began at 2:18 AM and remained with <0.25 mi visibility until 9 AM. Hanford jumped to 1.25 mi. just before the P-3B arrived and the plane was able to do a missed approach there on the first circuit. Visalia went to 0.5 mi visibility briefly at 7:35 AM, but quickly recovered to 1.5 mi. at 8 AM. Haze was prevalent throughout the valley with visibilities of 3 mi. at a number of locations. PM2.5 was the highest at the southern end of the valley. However, most other locations except Huron and Tranquility were in the Code Orange range. We expect another morning fairly similar tomorrow, although the fog could be a bit more widespread and longer-lasting. Cirrus could be moving into the study area by afternoon tomorrow, but is expected to be less than 50% coverage. Wednesday will likely have considerable high cloudiness, and will not likely be a good day to fly. We may get some clearing on Thursday, but clouds will roll in on Friday associated with the cut off low off the coast of southern California. These clouds will likely persist on Saturday. A frontal system will approach from the northwest on Sunday, and pass the SJV by Monday, flushing out the valley.

Code Orange for PM2.5 is forecast for tomorrow for Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties and Code Yellow for Kings County.

We recommend flying on Tuesday, but not on Wednesday. Thursday may be possible.