

DISCOVER-AQ OUTLOOK January 23, 2013

Extensive cloudiness today over the entire study region, as well as Palmdale. The clouds are the result of the complex trough system to our west which is comprised of a shortwave travelling to our north and a more southerly portion of the trough to the SW of the California coast. The southerly system will cut off from the main westerlies and continue to affect the weather in southern and central CA over Thursday and Friday. Extensive cloudiness expected both days. A break in the clouds may occur on Saturday before another trough moves toward us from the Gulf of Alaska. That trough will bring a cold front through the SJV region on Sunday, finally flushing out the valley. A cold northwesterly flow will occur on Monday, and a new Pacific Coast ridge will build over the region on Tuesday and will be the dominant feature next week.

Code Orange air quality continued in the SJV today despite the change in weather conditions. However, insufficient winds have occurred to clean out the region. Code Yellow for PM2.5 is forecast for tomorrow except in Kern Co., which is forecast to still be Code Orange.

No flights will be possible tomorrow due to the cloud situation. We will check tomorrow morning to see what the cloud situation will be like for a PODEX stratocumulus flight on Friday. However, present thinking is that conditions on Saturday will be more conducive.