

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 14, 2013

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AIR QUALITY HAS DETERIORATED DUE TO STAGNANT CONDITIONS

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA, – The San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and County Public Health Department are advising the public of deteriorating air quality, which is expected to continue throughout the week.

Stagnant weather conditions are allowing air pollutants to be trapped near the ground. In the wintertime, when the weather remains cold and stagnant for several days, wood smoke can build up and pollution levels rise. Very sensitive individuals such as infants, as well as children and adults with existing respiratory or heart conditions may experience adverse health effects. The public is advised to consult your doctor if you are experiencing health problems. For those affected, some relief may be gained by staying indoors, limiting strenuous activities and setting any heating and ventilation systems to recirculation.

County officials will continue to closely monitor air pollution levels throughout our region. The forecasted air quality index (AQI) is available on the website http://www.slocleanair.org/air/AirForecasting_map2.php. The AQI focuses on health effects individuals may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air. The forecasted AQI is also available to the public via email. Sign up to receive the daily air quality forecast via email by visiting <http://www.slocleanair.org/air/AirForecasting.php>. A recorded message describing San Luis Obispo County air quality conditions is available by calling (805) 781-4390.

In addition, the SLO County Air Pollution Control District will hold a public meeting on January 16 at 5:30 pm at Mesa Middle School's Hawk Hall in Arroyo Grande to share results of a special air monitoring study that assessed the neighborhood impacts of the windblown dust from the Oceano Dunes during high wind conditions.

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