

Central Valley's gusty winds expected to stick around

By Diana Aguilera

The Fresno Bee, Thursday, Oct. 3, 2013

Gusty winds that pushed through the Valley on Thursday are expected to linger Friday, prompting local air officials to issue a health alert through Friday night.

Winds gusted to 40 mph on the Valley's west side Thursday, kicking up dust and making driving difficult for tall vehicles.

The California Highway Patrol on Friday morning reported high winds on the Grapevine, the Interstate 5 pass between the San Joaquin Valley and Los Angeles.

Gary Sanger, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Hanford, said strong winds will pick up again Friday mainly in the south end of the Valley.

A high-pressure area moving into the Great Basin is creating conditions for strong eastern breezes, with winds expected to gust up to 35 mph in the south Valley. The high winds are expected to die down Friday night.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District issued a caution Thursday for the region because of blowing dust until Friday night. Small particles can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease and trigger asthma attacks, the district warned.

Friday's high in Fresno is forecast at 82 degrees with overnight temperatures expected to dip to 53 -- slightly lower than the average for this time of the year, Sanger said.

Weekend highs in Fresno are expected to hover around the mid to upper 80s and lows are forecast at 57 degrees.

Wind kicks up dust on Valley's west side

By Jim Guy, staff writer

The Fresno Bee and Merced Sun-Star, Thursday, Oct. 3, 2013

Winds gusting up to 40 mph on the Valley's west side are kicking up dust, making driving difficult for tall vehicles and raising health concerns.

Brian Ochs, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Hanford, said a low-pressure area over the Great Basin is creating conditions for strong northwest breezes.

The high winds are expected to die down Thursday night in the central part of the Valley, but are expected to persist along the Grapevine and in Kern County.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District issued a caution for the region because of the dust. Small particles can cause serious health problems, aggravate lung disease and trigger asthma attacks, the district warned.

Rideshare Week

Merced Sun-Star, Sunday, Oct. 6, 2013

The 2013 Rideshare Week challenge kicks off today, encouraging people to carpool, vanpool or use transit instead of driving alone. It is sponsored by Commute Connection in partnership with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. Businesses and individuals can join the Commuter Challenge for a chance to win \$500 in gift cards to raffle off to employees and one of six Nexus 7 tablets, respectively. Register and get more

Win prizes during Rideshare Week

Stockton Record, Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013

STOCKTON - Commuters who pledge to carpool or take transit to work next week stand to win gift cards and other projects during 2013 Rideshare week.

Sponsored by Commute Connection and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Rideshare Week is an effort to get cars off the road and fight air pollution in San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced counties.

This year organizers are offering six Nexus 7 tablet computers and \$500 in gift cards for people who make a pledge to change their community habits the week of Oct. 7.

Those interested can register at www.commutecconnection.com/rideshareweek.htm.

There's also information on the website to connect commuters with information on transit and a database to help connect carpoolers.