

Interim Air Quality Advisory Program for San Joaquin Valley Schools

Overview for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Citizen's Advisory Committee

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Goals and Rationale

- 1. New health research: Greater risk for children;**
- 2. Lower Federal NAAQS (65 to 35 ug/m³) and revised AQI = Increased frequency and geographic extent of Red Days;**
- 3. Opportunity to expand and extend success of AQ Flag Program;**
- 4. Create communication network for real-time notification of elevated PM 2.5 and ozone;**
- 5. Growing wildfire risk of simultaneous elevated ozone and PM 2.5;**
- 6. Increase capacity of schools to easily access and respond to real-time (hourly) AQ data—more health protective and flexible.**



EPA Pending PM 2.5 AQI Thresholds

Current AQI - PM _{2.5}			AQI Under Consideration - 24-hour Average (µg/m ³)†	Recommended EEP Priority Region Classification *	Recommended EEP Action Level **
Category	Index Values	24-hour Average (µg/m ³)			
Good	0-50	0.0-15.4	0.0-15.4		
Moderate	51-100	15.5-40.4	15.5-35.4		
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	40.5-65.4	35.5-55.4		
Unhealthy	151-200	65.5-150.4	55.5-140.4		
Very Unhealthy	201-300	150.5-250.4	140.5-210.4	Priority Level II	Alert
Hazardous 1	301-400	250.5-350.4	210.5-280.4	Priority Level I and IA	Warning
Hazardous 2	401-500	350.5-500	280.5-350.4		Emergency
Significant Harm Level (SHL)			350.5		



Fresno PM 2.5: Winter 2008-09 Comparison of Previous (1997) vs. Pending AQI

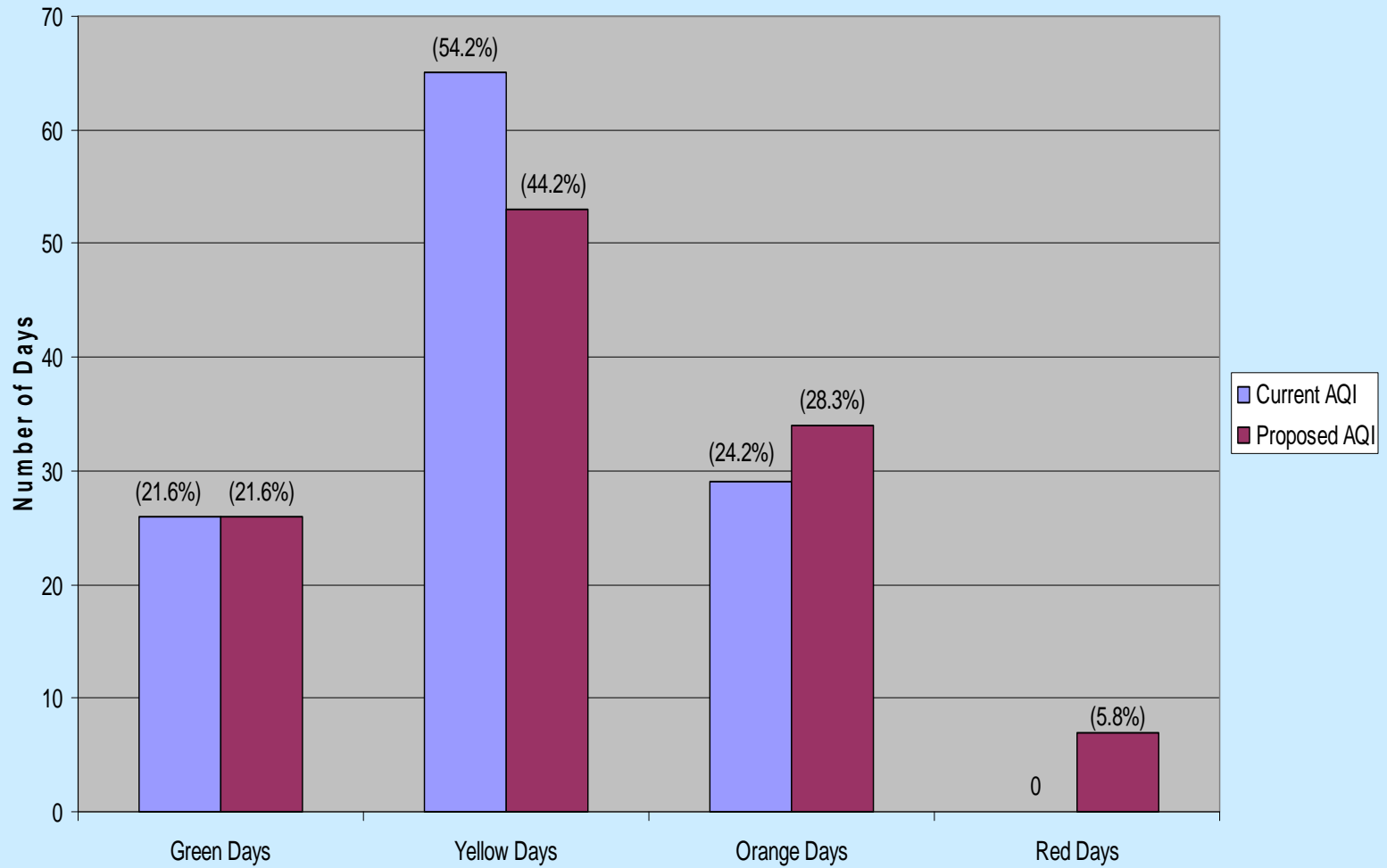
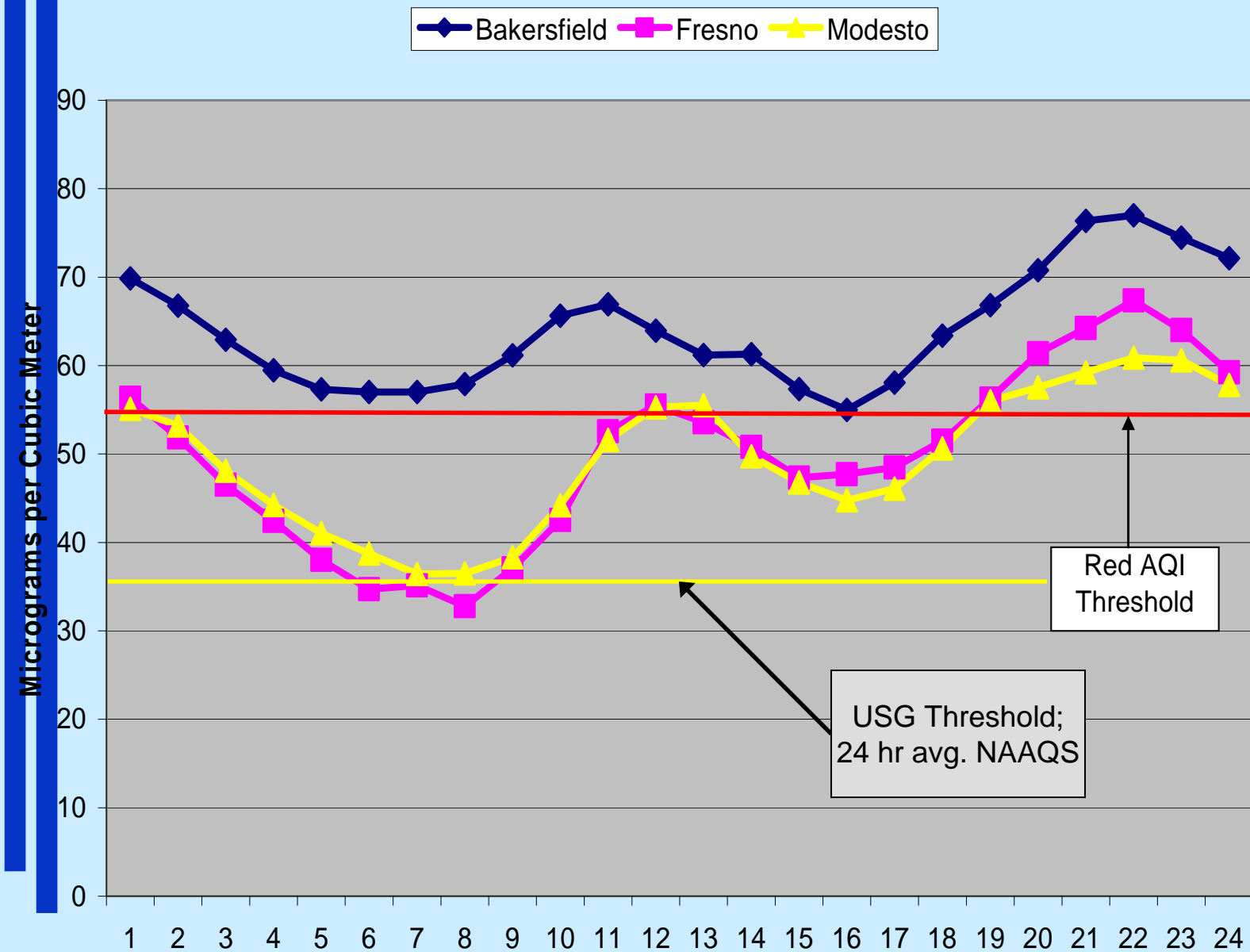
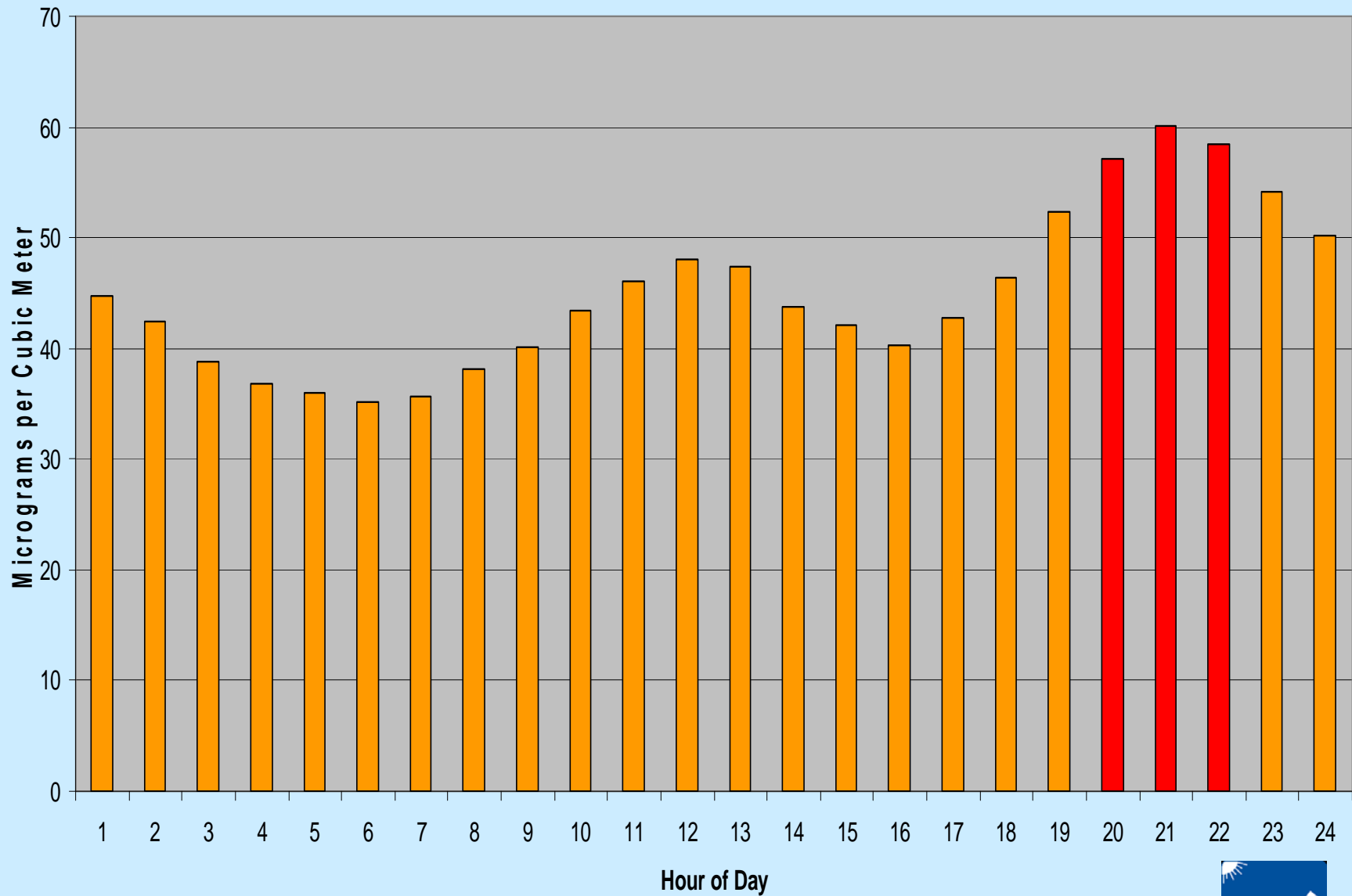


Figure 1: Winter 2008-09 Comparison of Average Hourly Profiles for 25 Days with Highest PM 2.5 Concentrations



Visalia N. Church St. Hourly PM 2.5: 2005-2008 Average of USG Days



Key Elements of Interim Program

- 1. PM 2.5 program development in winter 2009-10:**
 - A. Coordination with UCSF-Fresno, ALA, and Asthma Coalitions;**
 - B. Valley-wide stakeholder input;**
- 2. Revised user interface for hourly monitors:**
 - A. Easy access;**
 - B. Clear communication of concentration and AQI status;**
- 3. Assignment of participating schools to nearest hourly monitor (now in all 8 counties):**
 - A. Automatic email notification when monitor exceeds 55 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (new Red AQI threshold);**
- 4. Goal is for all Valley Districts to participate irrespective of Flag Program participation;**



- 5. Red zone notification backstops District AQI prediction;**
- 6. Strengthened flexibility and health protectiveness;**
- 7. Schools have the knowledge to optimize scheduling and minimize risk;**
- 8. District emphasis on activity restrictions for elementary children in Red AQI zone (> 55 ug/m³) with guidance for secondary students.**

