

Outdoor Air Quality and Schools



Air quality advisories are issued, often as joint advisories by the Air Pollution Control District and the Public Health Department, when air quality may be poor (*Air Quality Watch*), or is already poor (*Air Quality Warning*) in regions of Santa Barbara County.

- Weather, winds, the path of wildfires, and other factors can change quickly and affect air quality, so it is important to be aware of conditions at a particular school site.
- Schools may need to reschedule outdoor activities.

Exercising outdoors when air quality is poor is bad for students' health, particularly for sensitive groups.

Sensitive Groups

Children – more vulnerable because they breathe more air for their size, they spend more time playing hard outdoors, and their lungs are still growing and developing.

People with lung or heart conditions (like asthma)

People who exercise outdoors

Markers for Poor Air Quality

Wildfires → **smoke** may be present in the air

High Temperatures → high levels of **ground-level ozone (smog)**

Season/Time of Day → high levels of **ground-level ozone (smog)** are typically found April-October from 3-5 pm

*High Winds** → high levels of **particles**

**Winds can be high typically in fall or spring, often in late afternoon.*

Pollutants of Concern

Smoke and Ash	Dust Particles	Ground-level Ozone (smog)
Produced when wood and other organic matter burn, a complex mixture of gases and fine particles	Fine pieces of dust and sand that are airborne, they can travel deep into our lungs	A gas that is created when pollutants react chemically in the presence of sunlight and heat
Health Effects		
Can cause burning eyes, runny nose, respiratory illness such as bronchitis; Can aggravate heart and lung conditions; Can cause exposure to cancer-causing substances.	Can cause coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties, and heart impacts, including increased risk of heart attacks.	Can cause irritation of throat and eyes, coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, breathing difficulties; Can aggravate asthma symptoms and long term can harm lung development.

The air district's network shows results at www.ourair.org/todays-air-quality/. Results are shown by the Air Quality Index (AQI) ratings and colors. See maps on pages three and four for locations of schools and monitoring stations.

Stations Monitoring Ozone and Particulates			
Location	Ozone	PM10	PM2.5
Santa Barbara	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (104)	Good (26)	Moderate (54)
Santa Maria	Good (49)	Good (28)	Good (31)
Lompoc H St	Moderate (54)	Good (23)	Good (40)
Goleta	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (106)	Good (18)	Good (44)
El Capitan	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (106)	Good (22)	
Las Flores Cyn	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (127)	Good (19)	
VAFB	Moderate (87)	Good (31)	
Carpinteria	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (132)		
Lompoc HS and P	Moderate (77)		
Nojoqui	Moderate (90)		
Paradise Rd	Moderate (51)		
Santa Ynez	Moderate (61)		

Air quality is generally good in the region, consider localized conditions.

Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.

The following people should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion:
 -people with lung disease, such as asthma
 -Children and older adults
 -People who are active outdoors

The higher the number, the more air pollution we are breathing. An AQI of 100 corresponds to the federal health standard for that pollutant. The AQI numbers and corresponding ratings are shown for the current hour, and are updated hourly.

You Should Know

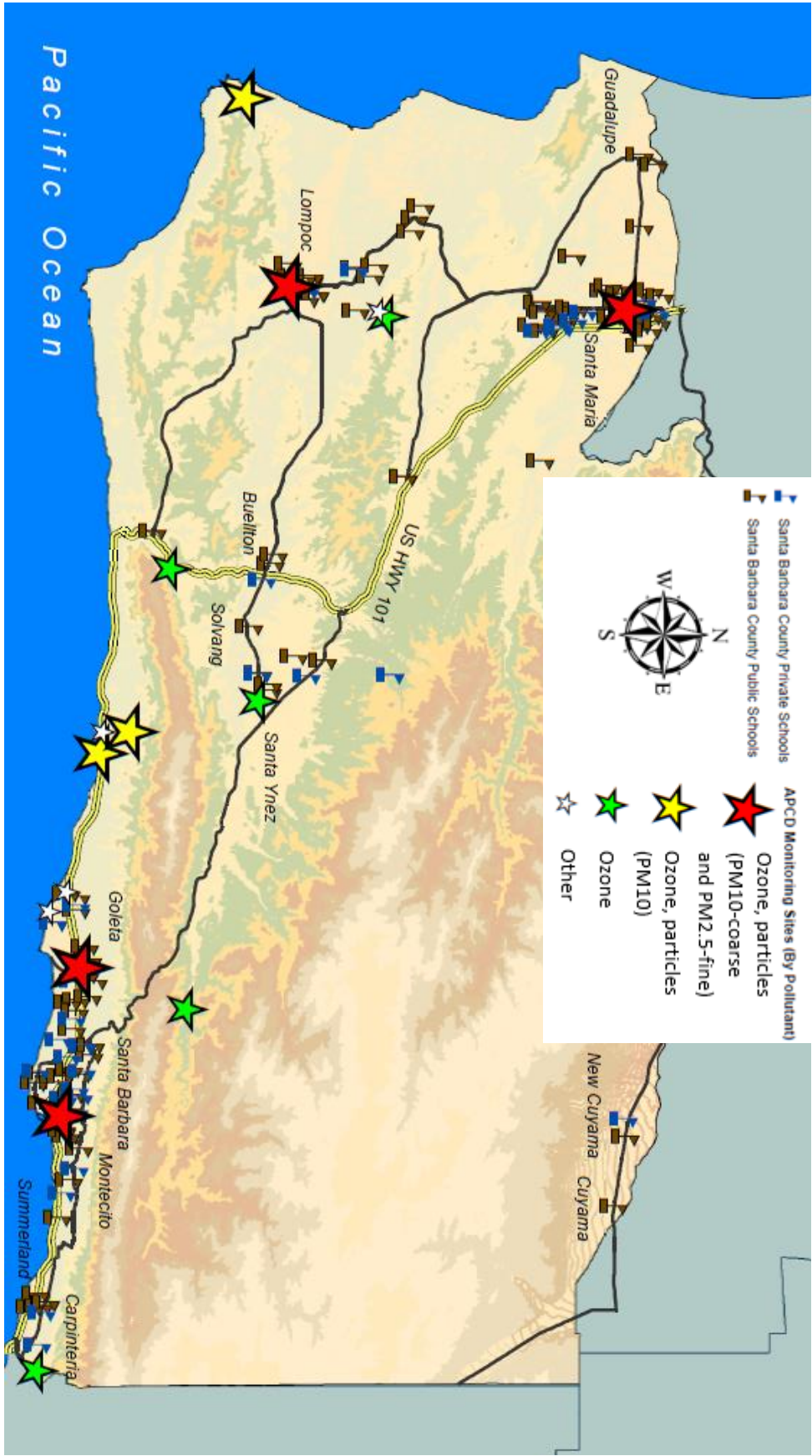
- The air district's network of air monitoring stations provides air quality data for regions, however, some areas are not covered, and conditions in localized areas are often not reflected in the regional data.
- Even if there is an air quality advisory, if air quality at a school site is not impacted, outdoor activities should continue.
- Even if there is not a regional air quality advisory, outdoor activities should not continue at a particular school site if air quality at the site is poor.

Note: It is important to remember that outdoor activity is beneficial for students.

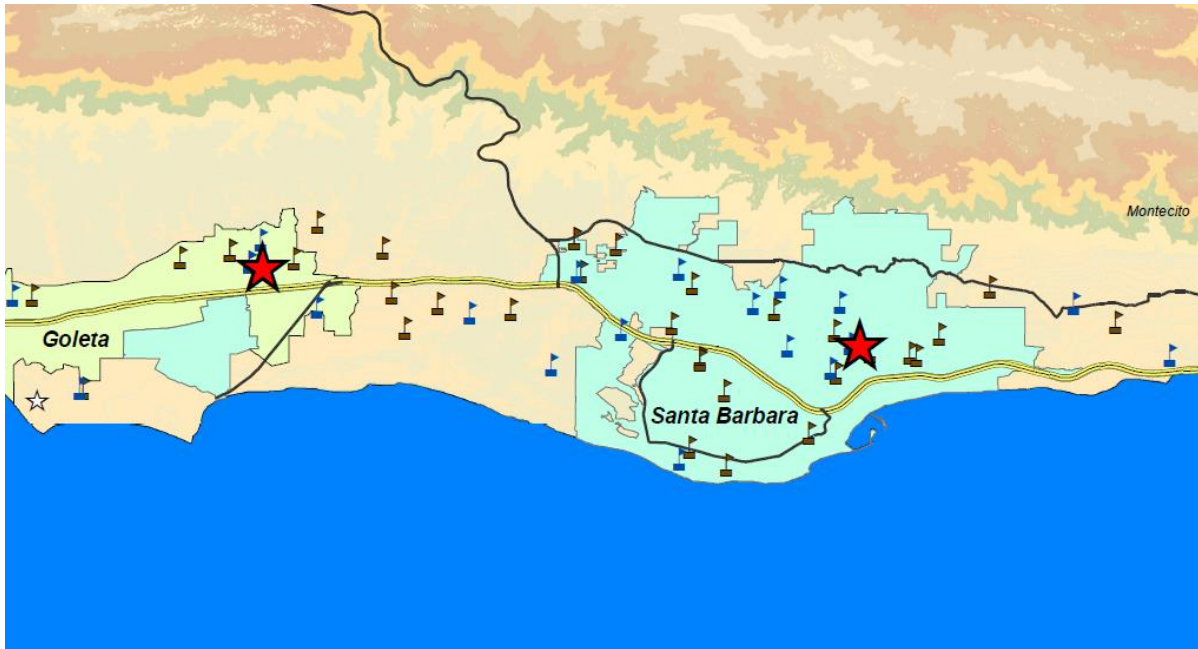
Helpful Links

Air Pollution and Health: www.ourair.org/apcd/air-pollutants-and-health/
 Students and Teachers: www.ourair.org/learning-about-air-pollution/
 Smoke and Health: www.ourair.org/sbc/about-smoke-and-health/

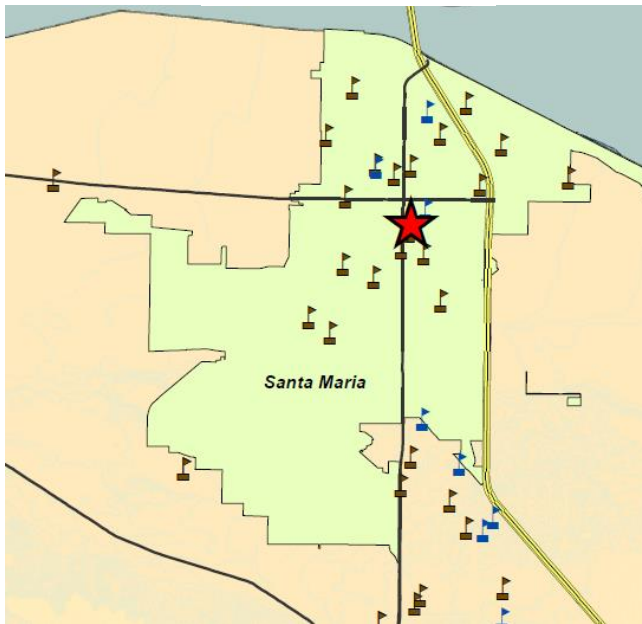
Santa Barbara County Schools and Air Monitoring Sites



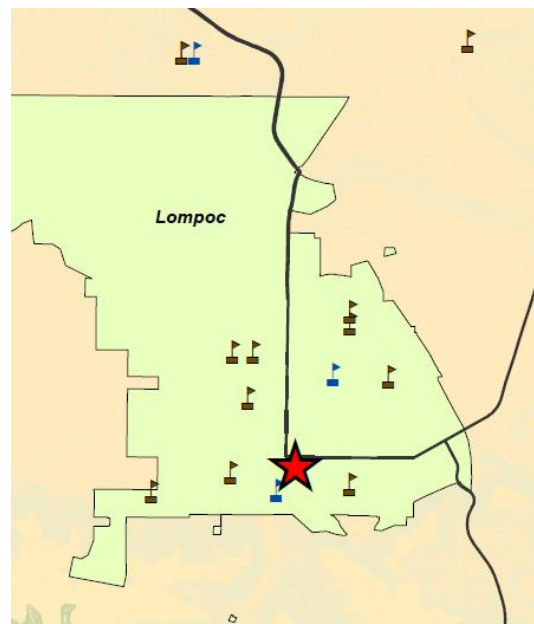
Santa Barbara and Goleta





Santa Maria







Lompoc



-  Santa Barbara County Private Schools
-  Santa Barbara County Public Schools

APCD Monitoring Sites (By Pollutant)

-  Ozone, particles (PM10-coarse and PM2.5-fine)
-  Ozone, particles (PM10)
-  Ozone
-  Other



For additional information regarding the District's Air Quality Monitoring Program, please contact (805) 961-8800.