

Air Quality Update

Fresno City Council - Workshop

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Overview

- Air Quality Trends
 - Valley's Historic Achievement
- Drought Impact on Air Quality
- Upcoming Priorities
 - New Streamlined Approach to CEQA
 - New Federal Mandates
 - Neighborhood-by-Neighborhood Air Quality Data for Valley Residents
 - Transition from School Flag Program to RAAN
 - Additional Wood-burning Restrictions



Valley's Historic Achievement

- Zero 1-hour Ozone violations in 2013
 - First time in recorded history
- Valley now meets the standard for the mandated three year period (2011 – 2013)
- First and only region in nation to go from “Extreme” to attaining the standard
- Despite strings of triple-digit temperatures and wildfires, 2013 cleanest year on record:
 - 1996: 281 hours over the standard
 - 2012: 7 hours over the standard
 - 2013: 0 hours over the standard



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Drought Impact On Air Quality

- Strong and persistent high pressure ridge over California in winter of 2013/14
- Essentially no rain, November-January
- 2013 was the third year of drought conditions
- 2013 was the driest year in 119 years in California (since records have been kept)
- Drought Emergency Proclamation by Governor
- Extreme weather conditions led to poor air quality throughout California
- These historic abnormal conditions are not considered “exceptional events” by EPA



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Drought Response – District Initiatives

- Expedited permitting and registration of temporary equipment for farmers and water districts
- Voluntary Emissions Reduction Agreements to mitigate air impacts and streamline CEQA
- Support CEQA Waivers (where air impacts mitigated and projects comply with air regulations)
- Work with ag to develop and streamline approval of less water-intensive dust control measures
- Provide direct support and consultation for farmers and water districts to find air-friendly and cost-effective solutions to address water supply needs
- Explore potential regulatory changes to accommodate emergency response





District as CEQA Commenting Agency

- Lead Agencies are required to request input from Responsible and Commenting Agencies
- District receives requests for comments from 8 Counties, 59 Cities, and other Lead Agencies
- Over 2,800 requests received in 2006
- Over 1,500 requests received in 2013
- Over 7,000 hours spent addressing these requests
- Activity expected to increase





New CEQA Streamlining Approach

- Programmatic approach in lieu of case by case commenting – partnership with Lead Agencies
 - Develop source category specific templates
 - Templates with project design elements, applicable rules
 - Incorporated upfront by Lead Agency
 - District to provide online tools to assist Lead Agencies and project proponents
 - Memorandum Of Understanding with Lead Agencies
- Use on projects with non-significant impacts
 - Provide project-specific comments on projects with potentially significant impacts
 - Maintain current commenting approach with Lead Agencies that choose not to sign MOU

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Benefits of Programmatic Approach

- Improve efficiency and expedite processing time for the District and Lead Agencies
- Improve effectiveness of incorporating clean air elements in project design
- Enhanced communication
 - On-going collaborative meetings with Lead Agencies
 - Comprehensive web-based assistance
- Improved project design through early selection of project design elements, mitigation options
- If approved by your Board, will measure effectiveness of the programmatic approach and provide updates

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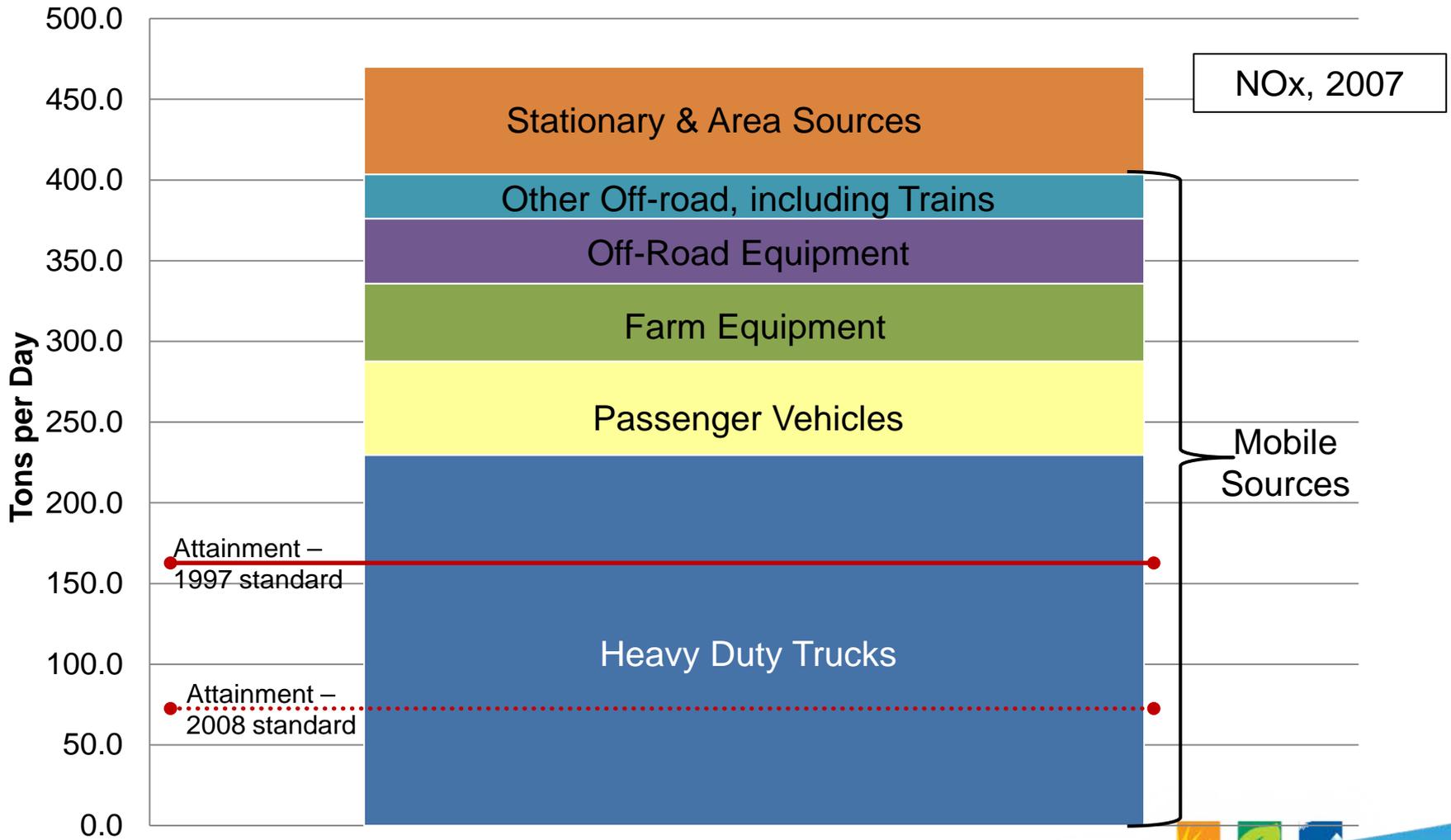
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Implementation – Action Plan

Fall 2014	Workshops
Winter 2014/ Spring 2015	Develop Category Specific Templates
Spring 2015/ Summer 2015	Develop MOUs
Summer 2015	Execute MOUs
Fall 2015	Start periodic collaborative meetings

Meeting the Latest Federal Ozone Standard





Other Areas

- Neighborhood-by-Neighborhood Air Quality Data for Valley Residents
- Transition from School Flag Program to RAAN
- Additional Wood-burning Restrictions



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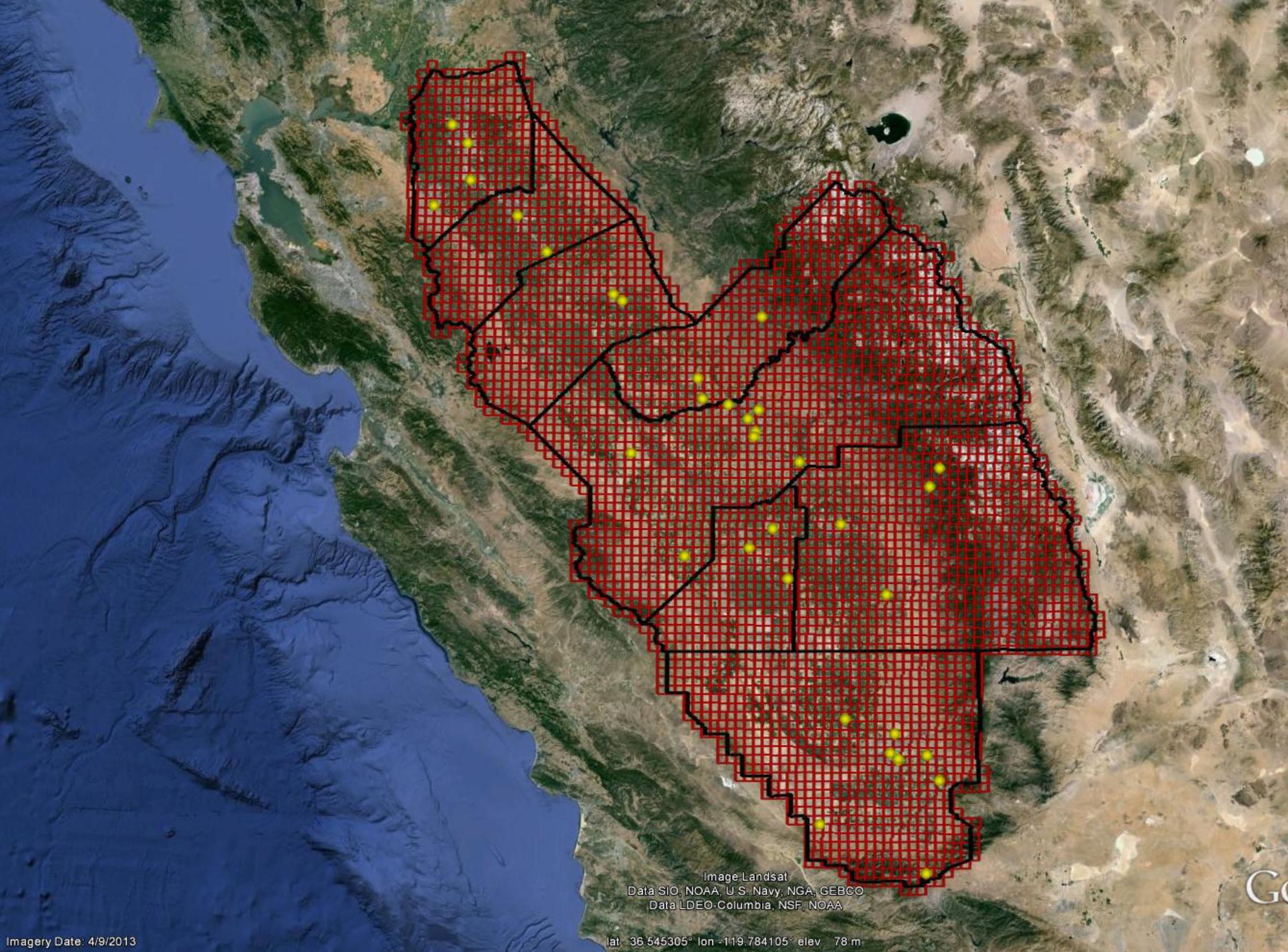


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