



**LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**
885 Lakeport Blvd
Lakeport, CA 95453
Phone (707) 263-7000
Fax (707) 263-0421

Douglas G. Gearhart
Air Pollution Control Officer
doug@lcaqmd.net

-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

CONTACT: Douglas Gearhart, APCO @ 263-7000 **RELEASE DATE:** April 29, 2011

**Lake County Ranked 6th in the Nation for Clean Air
by the American Lung Association**

The American Lung Association (ALA) has released its annual State of the Air Report for 2011. State and local area air quality was graded on an A through F scale by comparing local ozone and small-particulate concentrations with the federal air quality standards. Although many areas, especially within California were given failing grades, Lake County passed with flying colors.

Lake County is awarded an “A” grade for Ozone, a “B” grade for short term particulate pollution, and is ranked 6th cleanest county in the Nation for annual particulate average concentrations. Lake County is 1 of only 9 Counties in California that did not have any days of ozone air pollution levels in the unhealthful range. Lake County did have several days of unhealthy air during the 2008 wildfires. The wildfire impacts have affected Lake County’s rating for several years as the grading is based on the past three years of data. Even with the wildfire impacts, Lake County is the only county in California to place in the top 10 cleanest counties in the country for small-particulate levels and San Benito is the only other county in California to make the top 25.

This impressive record has been documented by continuous air quality monitoring over the past three years, which showed that ozone and small particles in the air never exceeded allowable levels during that time.

The ALA grades are the latest recognition of a long history of air quality accomplishments in Lake County. Strong local support for clean air measures has enabled the county to comply in full with not only the Federal Clean Air Standards, but also with the more rigorous California standards for ozone and other air pollutants for the past 21 years. No other Air District in California can match that record.

Douglas Gearhart, Air Pollution Control Officer of the Lake County Air Quality Management District, attributes the success of the program to strong community support and cooperation of local agencies, the local Fire Protection Districts, CalFire, the local agricultural community, and industry. “It is great to have our local community nationally recognized by the American Lung Association for their desire to have and maintain clean and healthful air in Lake County.”

