



**LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY
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Lake County Ranked 8th in the Nation for Clean Air by the American Lung Association

The American Lung Association (ALA) released its annual State of the Air 2012 Report. State and local area air quality are 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 received an “A” grade for Ozone, a “B” grade for short term particulate pollution, and is ranked the 8th cleanest county in the Nation for annual particulate average concentrations. Out of California’s 58 counties, Lake County is 1 of only 9 that did not have any days of ozone air pollution levels in the unhealthful range. This impressive record has been documented by continuous air quality monitoring from 2008 through 2010, which showed that ozone in the air never exceeded allowable levels during that time and small particulate only exceeded the allowable limits during the 2008 wildfires.

The wildfire impacts have affected Lake County’s rating for several years as the grading is based on three years of data from 2008 through 2010. 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, with Shasta and San Benito counties being the only other counties in California to make the top 25.

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 22 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, cooperation of local agencies, 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.”