

LAKE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

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Lake County Ranked 15th in the Nation for Clean Air **by the American Lung Association**

The American Lung Association (ALA) released its annual State of the Air 2019 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 “C” grade for short term particulate pollution, and is ranked the **15th Cleanest County in the Nation** for annual particulate average concentrations. Lake County did not change significantly from our previous annual averages even though the period of time covered by this report includes the Valley fire, Rocky fire, Jerusalem fire, Clayton fire, Sulphur Fire, the Tubbs Fire, and other major fires in the region. Out of California’s 58 counties, Lake County is 1 of only 8 counties in California that did not have any days of ozone exceeds from 2015 through 2017.

The report presents data showing what the residents of Lake County actually are breathing on a daily basis. This report does not exclude wildfire impacts or other natural events that are excluded when determining our attainment status. The “C” grade for short term particulate pollution is the result of impacts from the 2015, 2016, and 2017 wildfires. This report does not include the 2018 Ranch, River, or the Camp Fires. This report shows that despite the Valley, Rocky, Jerusalem, Clayton, and other fires, and the short term smoke impacts from these fires, the residents of Lake County still enjoy some of the cleanest air in the Nation.

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 29 consecutive 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 for maintaining clean, healthful air, cooperation of local Government, including the County of Lake, Cities of Lakeport and Clearlake, the local Fire Protection Districts, CalFire, the agricultural community, industry, the District Board of Directors, and to the dedication and hard work of AQMD staff. “The 15th cleanest county in the Nation for Particulate Matter is a significant indicator of the hard work and dedication this community has to maintaining a healthful environment.

