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-PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE-

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Reduced Smoke Results in Good Air Quality in Lake County Caution is Still Urged

The Mill fire continues to burn in Northern California resulting in smoke, haze and degraded air quality. Because of the weather patterns and control of the Mill fire most of Lake County has experienced improved healthful air beginning Thursday afternoon. Many areas of Northern California remain under health warnings for air quality.

Ozone and Particulate levels have exceeded allowed State and Federal health based standards in the past two days. These standards are designed to protect sensitive groups of the population, from small respirable particulate, ultrafine inhalable, particulate, and ozone.

Smokey conditions can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and air passages, which can be hazardous in young children, the elderly, individuals with heart conditions or chronic lung disease such as asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory conditions.

The improved air quality is a direct result of the progress in controlling the wildfires and the sustained westerly transport winds. Presently the Mill fire is still a significant concern for air quality in Lake County. Smoke impacts in Lake County are still possible, at times smoke can be transported to sea within a circulation cell, and then return back over Northern California in a wide band of smoke filled air, or the wind can shift due to changing weather patterns transporting smoke directly into the basin.

Conditions are improving and GOOD air quality is forecast once again for Lake County on Friday, July 13, 2012. Caution is still urged as condition can change rapidly. Residual haze and particulate from the wildfires can be expected to intermittently impact areas of Lake County through the weekend, until the numerous fires are out.