



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**ISSUED BY THE BUTTE COUNTY AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**BUTTE COUNTY MEETING NATIONAL AIR QUALITY STANDARDS FOR OZONE POLLUTION**

October 31, 2022

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) took final action in October 2022 to determine that Butte County attained the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone pollution.

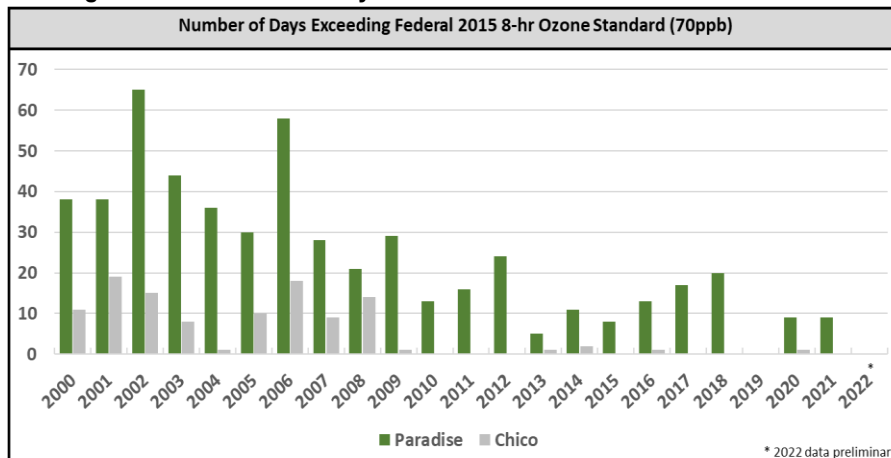
**Ozone Pollution**

Ozone at ground-level is a gas created by chemical reactions between volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) in the presence of sunlight. Ground-level ozone can harm human health and the environment. Ozone exposure has been associated with increased susceptibility to respiratory infections, increased medication use by asthmatics, and increased health care visits for individuals with respiratory disease. Ozone pollution typically peaks in the summer months and is monitored in Butte County by the California Air Resources Board in Chico and at the Paradise Airport.

**National Ozone Standards**

In 2008 the US EPA strengthened the NAAQS for ozone pollution to an 8-hour average of 75 parts per billion (ppb). Butte County met this standard by the 2015 deadline however the US EPA further strengthened the health-based NAAQS to 70ppb in 2015. Butte County was designated nonattainment for the 2015 ozone standard in 2018 based on data measured at the Paradise Airport monitoring station. The deadline to meet the 2015 ozone standard was August 2021.

**Meeting the National Air Quality Standards**



Ambient concentrations of ground-level ozone have shown steady improvement in Butte County and throughout the Sacramento Valley air basin since the early 2000s. Improvements can be attributed in part to reduced emissions of VOCs and NOx from vehicles, stationary sources (such as engines, boilers, and gas stations), and areawide sources (such as paint coatings and consumer products).

The US EPA evaluated Butte County ozone data from 2018 through 2020 and found that Butte County met the new national ozone standard by the August 2021 deadline. Several ozone exceedances in 2018 were considered "exceptional events" due to summer wildfires and were removed from consideration when evaluating attainment.

If you have any questions, please contact Jason Mandly, Senior Air Quality Planner, [jmandly@bcaqmd.org](mailto:jmandly@bcaqmd.org) or (530) 332-9400, Extension 108.