

**From:** [Rosalind Peterson](#)  
**To:** [Faust, John@OEHHA](mailto:Faust_John@OEHHA)  
**Subject:** Questions & Public Comment - October 9, 2012  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 09, 2012 5:26:05 AM

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October 9, 2012

John Faust  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment  
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Oakland, CA 94612  
Tel.: (510) 622-3185

Dear Mr. Faust:

I am unclear about California local county air quality districts within the State of California. Since they only monitor for ozone and size of particulates (rather than type of particulates), how can their use be of value to the public?

I know that samples are collected from each county that could be analyzed for types of particulates like aluminum coated fiberglass (chaff), expended by the ton each year by our military. And yet, this knowledge is stored but never used when considering types of pollution.

We have inversions here in the Ukiah Valley (Ukiah, California), from October through February every year and yet agriculture and backyard burning is permitted here each year during these inversions and throughout the winter. The burning continues for days 24/7 as those burning in their backyards and agriculture burns smolder all night. With our air quality district only registering ozone and particulate size it appears that our air quality is good when it is absolutely awful each year. We have the photographs of the Ukiah Valley and the burning going on here for years.

Why are there no efforts being made to chip agricultural waste and require that backyard burns (which includes toxics burned at night), be stopped. We have yard waste bins that could be used to dispose of this type of waste or it could be chipped preventing the type of air pollution we experience here each year. Many other counties have the same problems. Limited air testing taking place where testing sites are not in the best location to pick up this type of pollution, a limited number of them in each county, and a refusal to protect public health from smoke sources in local areas.

It is hard to understand the limited types of testing that the State of California is conducting using only ozone and particulate size as a basis in local counties for air pollution. And it is equally disturbing that California only tests for contaminants that the "expect to find" rather than broad samples that would cover the actual types of pollutants that we are being exposed to in California.

In addition, Plumas County, California, has one of the highest pollution rates in the State and yet no one is studying this area. Please note that the health decline and death rate in Chester, California, from the garbage and toxic waste burning conducted there, is staggering in size and scope. And yet, where are your monitors in Plumas County? This information is missing in action with regard to your maps and other information. **You should contact [REDACTED] for the documentation about this pollution problem which is being avoided by the State of California at this time.** [REDACTED]

It is time for the State of California to start testing for all contaminants and to take a look at the type of particles and sources. We need additional and more extensive testing. And we need to chip yard waste and agriculture waste instead of burning it in California. Also we need to stop using waste to energy incinerators for burning toxic waste in California.

**I would like a response to the questions addressed above and this added to public comments removing only the E-Mail and name for [REDACTED] as this was an FYI and contact for you.**

Respectfully,

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