

Children’s Environmental Health Air Quality Study in Crockett
 Preliminary Air Monitoring Results

Crockett Air Monitoring Study

- The Air Resources Board (ARB) conducted air monitoring at John Swett High School in Crockett from October 2001 to May 2003 as part of the Children’s Environmental Health Program. The purpose was to determine if current routine monitoring sites capture children’s exposure to air pollution.
- The data collected was compared to measurements at long-term monitoring sites in San Pablo (El Portal/Rumrill Blvd), Vallejo, Concord, and Fremont.
- The Crockett community was selected due to its proximity to air pollution sources, including oil refineries, major oil storage facilities, and a major freeway.
- Over 60 air pollutants were monitored at the study’s primary site: John Swett High School (Crockett).
- The John Swett High School site did not operate from December 20, 2002 until February 14, 2003 due to a lack of electrical power.

Crockett and Long-term Monitoring Sites



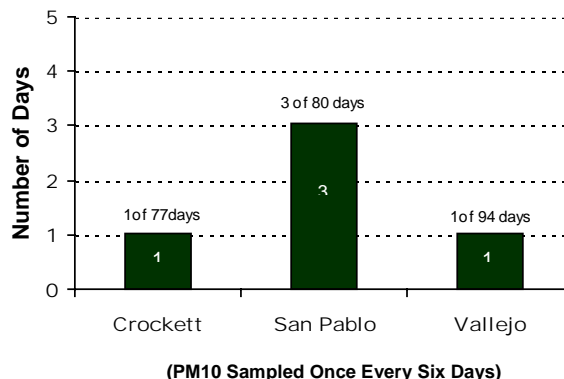
Key Pollutants Measured at Crockett

- Particulate matter (PM₁₀) is made up of small particles in the air that may be breathed deep into the lungs. PM₁₀ can cause breathing difficulties, lung damage, and premature death.
- Ozone is a key component of what is commonly referred to as smog. It can cause breathing difficulties and lung damage.
- Toxic air pollutants include many substances that can cause health affects such as cancer, respiratory problems, and other serious illnesses. Many were monitored for in the Crockett study including benzene and 1,3-butadiene.

Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

- PM₁₀ was monitored at John Swett High School for nineteen months (November 2001 through May 2003).
- The federal 24-hour PM₁₀ standard (150 ug/m³) was not exceeded at any of the sites during the study.
- All three sites examined had exceedances of the State 24-hour PM₁₀ standard (50 ug/m³).
- The San Pablo site exceeded the State 24-hour standard 3 times. The Crockett and Vallejo sites exceeded the State 24-hour standard on one occasion.
- Comparisons of the PM₁₀ from all three sites indicated that the average concentrations of PM₁₀ were similar among Crockett and Vallejo, while San Pablo was slightly higher.

Number of Days Above the State 24-Hour PM₁₀ Standard (50 ug/m³) (October 2001 through May 2003)



PM2.5

- During the study we recorded unexpectedly high PM2.5 measurements at John Swett High School. We later found this was due to an improperly adjusted PM2.5 monitor. In general, the instrument problem caused the monitor to read about 25% higher than actual values. Because of this instrument problem, much of the PM2.5 monitoring data collected in the Crockett study was invalidated. The Crockett PM2.5 values that we were able to salvage were slightly lower than PM2.5 values measured in Concord.

Ozone

- Neither the State nor federal one-hour ozone standards were violated during the 19 months when ozone was monitored at John Swett High School. During that same time period, the State one-hour ozone standard (90 ppb) was violated on one day at the Vallejo site. The Vallejo site is 3.3 miles away from Crockett.

Toxic Air Pollutants

- In general, the levels of toxic pollutants measured at John Swett High School were similar or lower than those measured at Fremont.
- The Fremont site is the closest toxic air monitoring site to Crockett in the Bay Area, but it is about 50 miles away.
- Based on the information collected in this study, the estimated cancer risk associated with toxic air pollutants (not including diesel particulate) in Crockett is 110 excess cases of cancer per million people exposed. This is much lower than the estimated toxic air pollutant cancer risk of 192 in a million in Fremont or the statewide urban average toxic air pollutant risk of 233 in a million. The estimated potential cancer risk represents the chances in a million of developing cancer due to breathing toxic air pollutants. These numbers do not include diesel particulate.
- John Swett High School monitoring site has lower levels of toxic pollutants from motor vehicles, primarily benzene and 1,3-butadiene, than generally seen at other SB25 sites in California.
- Currently, there is no accepted method for measuring diesel particles in the air. As a result, estimates from the study do not include risk from diesel particles.

Crockett Study Site



Conclusions

- The overall air quality measured at John Swett High School was comparable and in some cases better than what was measured at monitoring sites in other nearby cities in the Bay Area.
- For toxics that represent the greatest risk, the levels were lower at Crockett than the levels routinely found at Fremont. However, because Fremont is 50 miles away, it is not very useful for local comparisons.

For More Information

- ARB is in the process of preparing a detailed report on the results of this study. The report will be posted on the ARB Internet website when it is complete.
- For more information about the Crockett Community Environmental Health Air Quality Study, contact ARB's Community Health Program at (916) 324-7156 or go to the Community Health pages on the ARB web site at www.arb.ca.gov.