

Department of Pesticide Regulation

MEMORANDUM



TO:

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FROM:

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Environmental Monitoring Branch

(916) 324-4118

DATE:

July 24, 2003

SUBJECT:

EVALUATION OF AMBIENT AIR MONITORING AND TOWNSHIP-

MONTH USE POUND DISTRIBUTION OF METHYL BROMIDE FOR

SUBCHRONIC EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

In this analysis, township-monthly use levels of methyl bromide in California were calculated for year 2001, and maximum monthly average air concentrations for each township were estimated with the maximum monthly methyl bromide use of that township. The estimation was based on an empirical relationship between ambient air concentration and use in a $6x6^2$ mile area. Also evaluated was the representativeness of the methyl bromide air monitoring by the Air Resources Board (ARB) and the Alliance of the Methyl Bromide Industry (AMBI) in 2001. Based on the Pesticide Use Report (PUR) database of 2001, a frequency distribution curve of townshipmonthly use was derived, and townships with the highest subchronic exposure levels were identified.

Introduction

Subchronic air exposure of methyl bromide has been a concern in heavy use agricultural areas. At the request of the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), ARB conducted ambient air monitoring in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Kern counties in 2000 and 2001 [1,2,3,4]. The Alliance of the Methyl Bromide Industry (AMBI) conducted similar monitoring in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties in 2001 [5], and in Ventura, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties in 2002 [6]. DPR staff analyzed the air monitoring data and established some empirical relationships between the ambient air concentration and the use in certain areas and periods [7,8]. The township use limit, corresponding to a reference concentration, was back-calculated based on a regression model between air concentration and use in a 6x6 area, which was interpolated from uses in 5x5 and 7x7 areas [9]. The air monitoring was intended to cover heavy use areas and periods in California. At the time of monitoring, however, it was uncertain to what extent the surrounding use around monitoring sites would represent a heavy use scenario. Now that the year 2001 PURs have been collected and are available in the PUR database, we can evaluate the use intensity (defined as applied methyl bromide mass in a unit area and in a unit time,

John S. Sanders, Ph.D. July 24, 2003 Page 2

the use intensity (defined as applied methyl bromide mass in a unit area and in a unit time, or lbs/township-month) near the monitoring sites in relation to those in other areas and time periods in California. Moreover, the point measurements at these monitoring sites and the empirical models derived from these measurements could be used to evaluate exposure risks at other times and places in the State. Therefore, the purpose of this analysis is (1) to evaluate the degree of use surrounding the monitoring sites, (2) to estimate the township-month use level and its frequency distribution, and (3) to identify the townships with the highest subchronic air concentration levels in 2001.

Material and Methods

Regression Model

The regression model between air concentration and use over 6x6 mile² area over an 8-week period is described in equation (1). The model was derived using 2000 and 2001 ARB monitoring data and AMBI 2002 monitoring data [9].

$$Y = 0.732 + 0.0000721X \tag{1}$$

where Y represents the mean of weekly average air concentrations over a period of eight weeks, and X is the mean of weekly use pounds over the 6x6 mile² area in the same period (lbs/6x6sections-week). A conversion coefficient of 4.286 is applied to equation (1) to estimate the monthly average air concentration for the center of a township from the township-monthly use pounds. One month is counted as 30 days in this conversion.

Reference Concentration and Township Use Level for Subchronic Exposure

DPR proposed nine parts per billion (ppb) as a regulatory reference concentration for subchronic exposure of methyl bromide. The proposed township use limit corresponding to the nine ppb regulatory goal is 266,194 lbs/township-month [9].

Township-Monthly Use Distribution

Methyl bromide use records of 2001 were queried from the PUR database and summarized by township and month. The resultant list consists of total use pounds for each unique combination of township and month. The list was sorted based on use pounds by ascending order and the cumulative frequency of distribution was calculated and plotted.

Evaluation of Relative Use Around Ambient Air Monitoring Sites

The monthly use of townships with monitoring sites was compared to township-monthly use distribution to gauge the representativeness of location and time of monitoring. This comparison offered an assessment of whether the monitoring was indeed conducted in heavy use townships and months.

John S. Sanders, Ph.D. July 24, 2003 Page 3

Subchronic Air Exposure Level Assessment

From the township-monthly use frequency distribution curve and the use-concentration relationship, air concentration levels for subchronic exposure can be evaluated with respect to the cumulative frequency distribution of methyl bromide use. For any given concentration, a percentage of township-monthly use that might result in a higher concentration level can be determined.

Results

Township-Monthly Use Frequency Distribution

For each township with positive use in year 2001, the use in each month was calculated. The cumulative frequency distribution of township-monthly use in 2001 for the whole state is shown in Figure 1. Although the use pound covers a big range, from 0 to 202,385 lbs/township-month, 90% is less than 17,174 lbs/township-month, and 95% is less than 34,265 lbs/township-month. Of the 860 township-months with methyl bromide use in 2001, no township-monthly use exceeded the proposed use cap (266,194 lbs/township-month).

The maximum monthly use for each township in 2001 was listed in Table 1a, with the estimated air concentration using equation (1). The maximum township-monthly use was 202,385 lbs and the estimated air concentration at this level of use was 4.14 ppb. There were 52 townships with estimated air concentration equal or greater than one ppb for at least one month. This number was 83 in 2000 (Table 1b). The spatial distribution of maximum monthly township use for the state was also shown in Figure 2, and Figure 3-4 shown the maximum monthly township uses for Monterey/Santa Cruz counties and Santa Barbara/Ventura counties. There are only a few townships where the maximum monthly use exceeds 90,000 lbs/township-month or 2.24 ppb of air concentration.

Top Annual Use Townships

Townships are sorted based on their annual total use pounds in 2001, and townships with one or more months of use exceeding the one ppb township-monthly use level are listed in Table 1. The townships monitored by the ARB and the AMBI are marked in the second column with the monitoring sites. All top eight townships of use in 2001 were monitored by either ARB or AMBI and the monitoring took place in months with the heaviest use. The top 15 annual use townships for the year 2000 were also presented in Table 4. The top five use townships remained unchanged from 2000 to 2001, but the use amount decreased.

Percentiles of Monitored Township-Monthly Uses

The ARB air monitoring in Monterey and Santa Cruz was primarily in September and October, and during July and August in Kern County. The AMBI air monitoring in Ventura and Santa

John S. Sanders, Ph.D. July 24, 2003 Page 4

Barbara was primarily in August and September. The monitored township-monthly use was compared to the township-monthly use distribution curve derived from the whole State, and the percentile of top township-monthly use pounds of monitoring are listed in Table 3. Some monitoring sites are not shown in Table 3 because of their relative low percentile of township-monthly use. All top four cases of township-monthly use were monitored. The percentiles of township-monthly use pounds were above 95% for most monitoring sites. In other words, 95% of township-month use pounds in California in 2001, were lower than those of monitored townships and months. Therefore, the monitored sites and months were well chosen. Most of these heavy use cases were in areas of Monterey/Santa Cruz and Ventura/Santa Barbara.

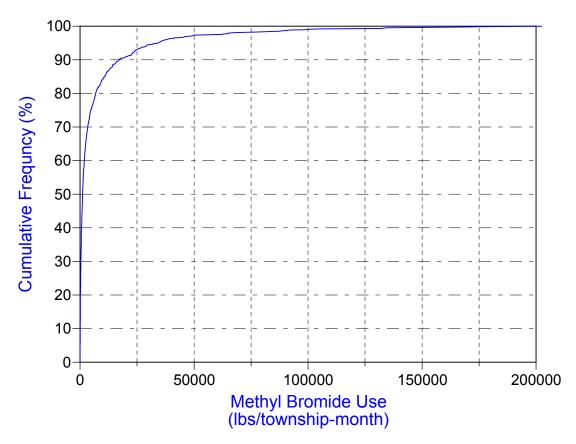
Conclusions

The ambient air monitoring by the ARB and the AMBI was conducted in high-use areas during high-use periods. The monitoring locations and periods covered the townships and months with the top use intensity. The air monitoring captured the heaviest use scenarios in California in 2001.

bcc: Segawa Surname File

References

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- [3] ARB, 2002. Ambient air monitoring for methyl bromide and 1,3-Dichloropropene in Monterey/Santa Cruz Counties Fall 2001. California Air Resources Board. Sacramento, CA.
- [4] ARB, 2002. Ambient air monitoring for methyl bromide and 1,3-Dichloropropene in Kern County Summer 2001. California Air Resources Board. Sacramento, CA.
- [5] Alliance of the Methyl Bromide Industry, 2002. Methyl bromide ambient air monitoring in Oxnard/Camarillo and Santa Maria, August-October, 2001. Alliance of the Methyl Bromide Industry, Sacramento, CA.
- [6] Alliance of the Methyl Bromide Industry, 2003. Methyl bromide air monitoring: Ventura, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties, July-October, 2002. Alliance of the Methyl Bromide Industry, Sacramento, CA.
- [7] LinYing Li, Bruce Johnson and Randy Segawa, 2001. Empirical relationships between use, area, and ambient air concentration of methyl bromide for subchronic exposure concerns. California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Sacramento, CA.
- [8] LinYing Li, Bruce Johnson and Randy Segawa, 2002. Analysis of methyl bromide ambient air concentration data monitored by the Air Resources Board and the Alliance of Methyl Bromide Industry in year 2001(draft). California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Sacramento, CA.
- [9] Memorandum: Bruce Johnson and Lin Ying Li to Randy Segawa: Calculation of a tolerance interval for a township limit on methyl bromide use to control subchronic exposure. California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Sacramento, CA



 $Figure\ 1.\ Frequency\ Distribution\ of\ township-monthly\ use\ of\ methyl\ bromide\ in\ the\ State\ of\ California\ in\ 2001$

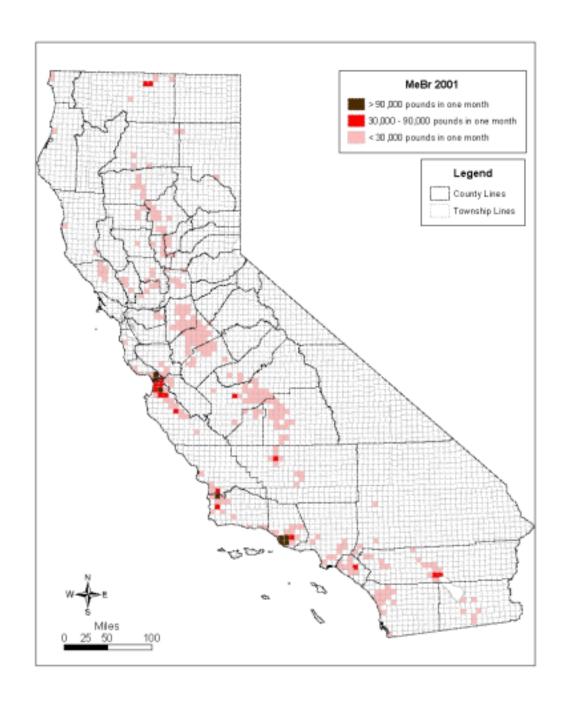


Figure 2. Township use map of methyl bromide in three consecutive months in California in 2001

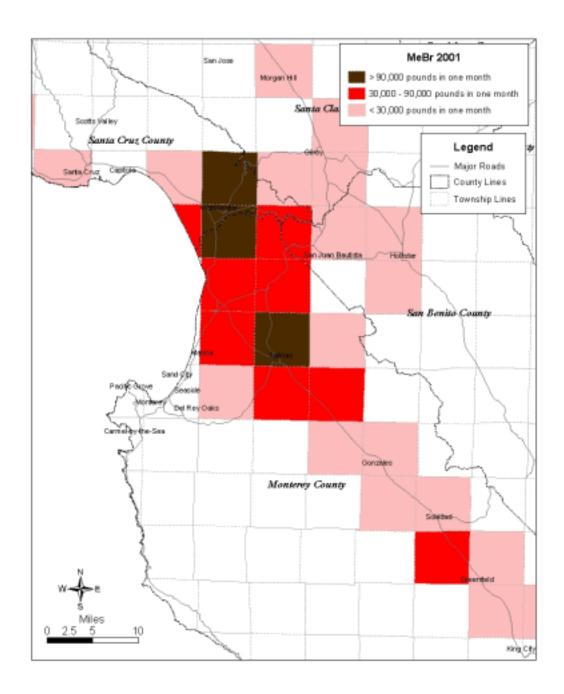


Figure 3. Township use map of methyl bromide in three consecutive months in Monterey/Santa Cruz counties in 2001

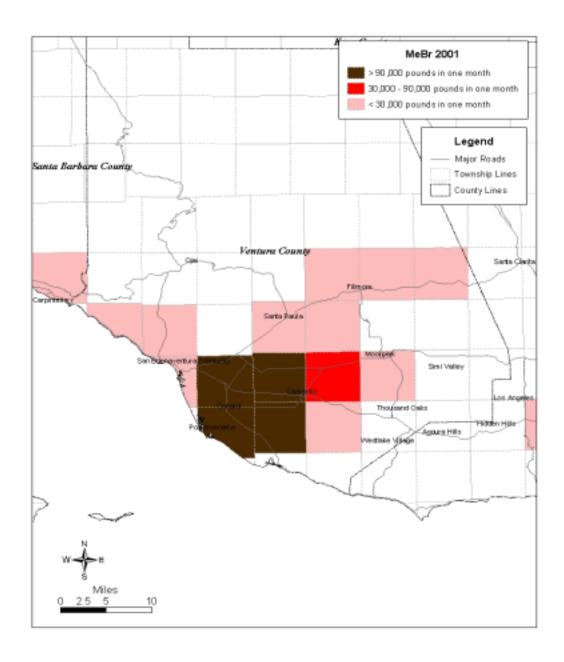


Figure 4. Township use map of methyl bromide in three consecutive months in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in 2001

Table 1a. Townships with estimated air concentration ≥ 1 ppb for at least one month in 2001

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26 M46N02W SISKIYOU 30,714 1.25 27 M37N05E SHASTA 29,613 1.23
27 M37N05E SHASTA 29,613 1.23
20,010 1.20
29 M15S18E FRESNO 28,962 1.22
30 M02S09E SAN JOAQ / STANISLAUS 28,763 1.22
31 S10S04W SAN DIEGO 26,545 1.18
32 M43N05W SISKIYOU 25,467 1.16
33 M32S29E KERN 25,245 1.16
34 M19S25E TULARE 24,858 1.15
35 M08S15E MERCED 24,709 1.15
36 S10N33W SANTA BARBARA 24,161 1.14
37 S09N33W SANTA BARBARA 23,845 1.13
38 S01N20W VENTURA 23,667 1.13
39 M26N03W TEHAMA 23,076 1.12
40 M25S25E KERN 22,995 1.12
41 M14S19E FRESNO 22,537 1.11
42 S02N23W VENTURA 22,479 1.11

Rank	Township	County	Max Month Use Concentration (lbs/mo) (ppb)
43	S06S08W ORANGE		21,059 1.09
44	M14S23E FRESNO		20,893 1.08
45	S11S05W SAN DIEGO		20,461 1.08
46	M14S04E MONTEREY		19,417 1.06
47	M21N03W GLENN		17,558 1.03
48	M03S12E STANISLAUS		17,176 1.02
49	S08S08E RIVERSIDE		17,041 1.02
50	S03N21W VENTURA		16,151 1.00
51	M11S04E SAN BENITO		16,029 1.00
52	H18N01W DEL NORTE		15,646 1.00

Table 1b. Townships with estimated air concentration ≥ 1 ppb for at least one month in 2000

Rank	Township	County	Max Month Use (lbs/mo)					
1	S02N22W	VENTURA	204,198	(ppb) 4.17				
2	M12S02E	MONTEREY / SANTA CRUZ	201,165	4.12				
3	S01N21W	VENTURA	176,720	3.71				
4	S10N34W	SAN LUIS OBISPO / SANTA BARBARA	167,183	3.54				
5	M07S11E	MERCED	109,625	2.58				
6	S02N20W	VENTURA	93,091	2.30				
7	S02N21W	VENTURA	90,127	2.25				
8	M14S03E	MONTEREY	88,833	2.23				
9	M27S25E	KERN	86,883	2.19				
10	M15S18E	FRESNO	85,849	2.18				
11	S10N33W	SAN LUIS OBISPO / SANTA BARBARA	83,351	2.13				
12	M13S02E	MONTEREY	82,321	2.12				
13	S01N22W	VENTURA	73,580	1.97				
14	M14S02E	MONTEREY	70,393	1.92				
15	M25S26E	TULARE	68,150	1.88				
16	M23S26E	TULARE / KERN	61,856	1.77				
17	M37N05E	LASSEN / SHASTA	61,406	1.77				
18	S07S09E	RIVERSIDE	60,760	1.75				
19	S11N34W	SAN LUIS OBISPO / SANTA BARBARA	58,040	1.71				
20	M12S03E	MONTEREY / SAN BENITO / SANTA CLARA / SANTA CRUZ	57,443	1.70				
21	H18N01W	DEL NORTE	56,183	1.68				
22	M11S02E	SANTA CLARA / SANTA CRUZ	54,187	1.64				
23	M46N01W	SISKIYOU	52,741	1.62				
24	S08S08E	RIVERSIDE / SAN DIEGO	46,526	1.51				
25	S05S08W	ORANGE	45,874	1.50				
26	M14S04E	MONTEREY/SAN BENITO	44,968	1.49				
27	M28S21E	KERN	44,901	1.49				
28	M13S03E	MONTEREY / SAN BENITO	44,796	1.49				

Rank	Township	County	Max Month Use (lbs/mo)	Concentration (ppb)
29	S05S07E	RIVERSIDE	43,794	1.47
30	S07S08E	RIVERSIDE	43,457	1.46
31	M14S19E	FRESNO	42,723	1.45
32	S11S05W	SAN DIEGO	41,456	1.43
33	M26S24E	KERN	39,957	1.40
34	M02S07E	SAN JOAQUIN / STANISLAUS	38,198	1.37
35	S06S08W	ORANGE	38,024	1.37
36	S14S13E	IMPERIAL	37,810	1.37
37	M27S24E	KERN	37,103	1.36
38	S02N23W	VENTURA	36,849	1.35
39	S09N34W	SANTA BARBARA	36,616	1.35
40	M15S17E	FRESNO	36,333	1.34
41	M14S23E	FRESNO	36,118	1.34
42	M09S16E	MADERA / MERCED	34,291	1.31
43	M27S26E		32,131	
44		MONTEREY	31,403	1.26
45	M08S15E	MERCED	31,400	1.26
46	M31S29E	KERN	30,930	1.25
47	M19S25E	TULARE	30,720	1.25
48		SAN DIEGO	29,994	1.24
49		STANISLAUS	29,510	
50		RIVERSIDE	29,361	1.23
51	M04S10E	STANISLAUS	28,734	1.22
52		MONTEREY / SANTA CRUZ	28,163	
53	M14S17E		28,098	1.20
54	M04S11E	STANISLAUS	27,562	1.20
55		MERCED / STANISLAUS	27,296	
56		VENTURA	27,146	
57		VENTURA	27,109	
58	S11N18W	KERN	26,680	1.18
59	M06S12E		26,532	
60	M15S23E		25,897	
61		RIVERSIDE / SAN BERNARDINO	25,554	
62	M28N03W		24,819	
63		SANTA CLARA / SANTA CRUZ	24,165	
64		RIVERSIDE	23,324	
65	M06S11E		22,218	
66		LAKE / MENDOCINO	22,137	
67		MONTEREY	22,118	
68		MERCED / STANISLAUS	21,753	
69		SUTTER / YUBA	21,468	
70		MONTEREY	18,816	
71		SISKIYOU	18,494	
72	M11S01E	SANTA CRUZ	18,450	1.04

Rank	Township	County	Max Month Use Concentratio (lbs/mo) (ppb)						
73	M32S29E KERN		18,291	1.04					
74	S05S10W ORANGE		18,109	1.04					
75	S12S04W SAN DIEGO		17,640	1.03					
76	S08S09E SAN DIEGO		17,630	1.03					
77	M07N05W NAPA		17,083	1.02					
78	S09N33W SANTA BARBARA		16,976	1.02					
79	M01S06E SAN JOAQUIN		16,903	1.02					
80	M03N05E SAN JOAQUIN		16,772	1.01					
81	S01N23W VENTURA		16,243	1.01					
82	M03S12E STANISLAUS		16,135	1.00					
83	M46N02W SISKIYOU		15,700	1.00					

Table 2. Top 10 townships of annual methyl bromide use (lbs/township) in 2001 and use distribution in each month

<u>County</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	DEC	<u>Total</u>
Monterey/Santa Cruz	PMS ^a	M12S02E	0	0	1842	811	2049	12927	10957	132797	202385	82054	3411	0	449233
Ventura	ABD^b	S02N22W	675	0	1216	761	11528	99007	134842	154797	34564	3315	984	1037	442726
Ventura	PVW^b	S01N21W	140	0	921	24221	2978	27455	76384	176181	12623	534	6631	553	328621
Monterey	SAL ^a ,LJE ^a	M14S03E	0	0	0	0	8395	49590	39132	104603	66897	38722	2753	0	310092
Santa Barbara	EDW ^b	S10N34W	0	0	0	0	3283	1250	0	17174	132579	99241	1873	0	255400
Ventura	DMC_p	S02N21W	0	0	0	2351	6449	2258	55625	169171	15205	402	0	225	251686
Santa Cruz	SES ^a ,MES ^a	M11S02E	0	0	0	2135	4342	7662	17005	49269	91984	41379	2503	0	216279
Ventura	SHA⁵	S01N22W	225	74	2344	3544	7214	64818	25936	90635	17771	1345	1111	331	215348
Santa Cruz		M12S01E	0	0	0	259	12795	5985	13970	24036	62554	41366	0	0	160965
Monterey		M13S02E	0	0	0	4494	3571	0	0	21978	62607	49809	0	0	142459

Table 3. The percentile of township-monthly use cases monitored by ARB and AMBI in top eight use townships in 2001

<u>County</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	MAR	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	NOV	DEC	<u>Total</u>
Monterey/Santa Cruz	z PMS ^a	M12S02E									100.00	98.37			
Ventura		S02N22W								99.65	95.12				
Ventura	PVW ^b	S01N21W								99.88	86.74				
Monterey	SAL ^a ,LJE ^a	M14S03E									98.02	96.16			
Santa Barbara	EDW ^b	S10N34W								90.00	99.30				
Ventura	DMC_{p}	S02N21W								99.77	88.72				
Santa Cruz	SES ^a ,MES ^a	M11S02E									98.84	96.51			
Ventura	SHA ^b	S01N22W								98.72	90.35				

^a ARB monitoring sites, and monitoring was primarily in September and October b AMBI monitoring sites, and monitoring was primarily in August and September

^a ARB monitoring sites, ^b AMBI monitoring sites
* Numbers in bold fond indicate the township-month use might result in an air concentration higher than 1 ppb

Table 4. Top 15 townships of annual methyl bromide use (lbs/township) in 2000 and use distribution in each month

<u>County</u>	<u>Site</u>	Township	<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	MAR	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>JUL</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	NOV	<u>DEC</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ventura	ABD^b	S02N22W	11708	450	8594	9485	27986	100431	201165	149593	82298	4604	4565	4570	605449
Monterey/Santa Cruz	PMS^a	M12S02E	0	0	1233	2035	9159	21324	5546	85307	204198	130315	8525	804	468446
Ventura	PVW^b	S01N21W	681	0	8058	17955	25089	27212	66077	176720	41847	3825	7136	1013	375613
Ventura	EDW^b	S10N34W	4031	0	0	0	8817	4688	0	643	129447	167183	6415	11000	332224
Monterey	SAL ^a ,LJE ^a	M14S03E	0	0	0	0	23664	48373	40439	43784	90127	34506	774	0	281667
Merced		M07S11E	50607	85849	40554	51774	8678	0	0	0	0	0	0	24154	261616
Monterey		M13S02E	0	0	0	0	1867	14466	5159	51416	79043	88833	19081	0	259865
Santa Cruz	SES ^a ,MES	^a M11S02E	274	0	2486	12010	2620	0	9363	38763	82321	76281	5626	0	229744
Monterey		M14S02E	0	0	48106	1632	6567	1981	1008	8556	50604	83351	15532	0	217337
Ventura	DMC_p	S02N21W	0	0	2728	24053	7169	3645	20765	109625	47674	1444	0	51	217154
Kern	CRS ^a	M27S25E	0	0	5695	0	31211	23419	70393	25915	8149	0	1184	36417	202383
Monterey		M12S01E	0	0	2165	4442	5809	14793	28382	43148	54187	30012	9682	0	192620
Ventura	SHA ^b	S01N22W	2152	23	13112	19910	20738	17899	1727	73580	21591	6863	2808	275	180678
San Luis Obispo	PLN^b	S10N33W	0	2250	1575	0	0	858	0	21825	86883	37639	0	0	151030
Monterey		M13S03E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4029	58040	39720	21291	0	123080

^a ARB monitoring sites, ^b AMBI monitoring sites
* Numbers in bold fond indicate the township-month use might result in an air concentration higher than 1 ppb