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A Monterey Bay Area Smog Forecast—Hope

SALINAS — There's a rule of thumb among air pollution engineers that when a community reaches a population of 500,000, it will have all the elements necessary to produce smog.

The Monterey-Santa Cruz Air Pollution Control District with a current population of about 375,000 is expected to reach the half million mark sometime around 1985.

Does this mean the Monterey Bay Area is doomed to have smog by 1985?

Not necessarily, according to Edward Munson, district smog czar,

"Right now we've got the first signs of air pollution — an occasional drop in visibility," he said.

As for classic photochemical smog — the kind which burns eyes, destroys crops and eats paint from buildings, the Monterey Bay Area air pollution readings are so low that relatively it has clean air.

Munson is frankly optimis-

tic about the Monterey Bay Area's ability to prevent smog.

"A lot depends on the automobile," he said. "Unless there are drastic changes we're in for trouble."

Yet, based on statewide forecasts, Munson feels the automobile will contribute only a minor portion to air pollution by 1974.

"Forecasts now are that automobiles then will emit 90 per cent less unburned hydrocarbons than 1963 models. They will produce 80 per cent less carbon monoxide and 75 per cent less oxides of nitrogen."

There will be other changes by 1985, however, almost all of them the result of tighten-

ing of restrictions either by the state or the Monterey-Santa Cruz District.

"The most obvious of these will be a probable ban on backyard and commercial burning and strict controls on agricultural burning," Munson said.

"Other methods probably will be substituted for burning as a means to clean brush and vegetation from land."

Most of these other controls probably will involve emissions by industries.

"There may be a few industries who won't locate in the Monterey Bay Area because of pollution controls, but as these controls get more strict the technology to meet them will advance," Munson said.

Munson bases much of his

optimism for the future on actions of the district directors, the county supervisors of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties.

"We were the first district in the state to limit emissions of oxides of nitrogen."

"The district is considering standards not only for today, but for future industries which may locate here."

Munson points to a report which the district directors will consider in January which further limits emission of particulates.

"Not only will we be tightening controls gradually because of local factors but also to meet new state requirements as they are developed."

Santa Cruz To Crack Down On UCSC Student Parking

SANTA CRUZ — Students, 50 and 100 cars parked there. 1,200 acres of open land and