

STUDY SHOWS:

Counties Almost 'Pollution-Free'

SANTA CRUZ — The counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz "have relatively pollution-free air," according to a study released Monday by the Monterey-Santa Cruz Air Pollution Control Board.

The two-year study showed that Monterey County had only three days of eye-smarting smog, while Santa Cruz County had six such days.

"No other pollutant was found to have a concentration exceeding state standards" the report said.

Of the six smoggy days in Santa Cruz County, four were in the mountainous Loma Prieta area, indicating the pollutants probably come from Santa Clara County.

The report was prepared for the two county smog districts with the cooperation of the State Department of Agriculture; the University of California, Riverside, Air Research Center; and the Bureau of Air Sanitation of the State Department of Public Health.

The report said the major source of gaseous pollutants in both counties is from motor vehicles.

"The power plant facilities are the largest sources of oxides of nitrogen emission in Monterey County," the report said.

It continued, "Of the oxides of nitrogen emissions, in Santa Cruz County 80 per cent comes from motor vehicles; in Monterey County less than 10 per cent comes from motor vehicles and approximately 90 per cent from electric power production."

The report said that the main source of "particulate matter emissions" in Monterey County is the production of dolomite and magnesia. "These emissions have been reduced from 13 tons a day to six tons a day by the installation of new bag-houses and washing and thickening ponds."

In Santa Cruz County, the report said the largest source of particulate matter emissions was from a cement plant near Davenport. "It is anticipated that these emissions will be greatly reduced by 1973 when old, inefficient kilns will be replaced by new ones," the report said.

The report noted that the City of Santa Cruz is still burning its refuse but has plans to convert its city dump to a land-fill operation.

The report said that the two-year study turned up no evidence of "noticeable air pollution vegetation damage" in Monterey County.