

## DISCOVER-AQ OUTLOOK – January 16, 2013

Generally clear skies persist over the SJV as the DISCOVER-AQ aircraft make their first science flights today. The very high amplitude ridge remains just off the Pacific Coast, and continues to advect dry air from the north and northeast into the region which subsides to near the surface. The relatively low dew point air prevented fog formation this morning, and will continue in this mode on Thursday morning. Some modification of the air mass will be likely by Friday, with some fog possible, but still not anything deep and extensive. Better chances of more extensive fog over the weekend and into Monday. An advancing short wave trough may break down the ridge by Tuesday into Wednesday next week. The global models bring some cirrus into California on Friday and Saturday, but this is not seen in the NAM. This will be a concern that will be readdressed in tomorrow's briefing.

Air quality today is expected to be Code Orange for PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the Fresno area, but Code Yellow in the remainder of the SJV. Similar conditions are expected to persist on Friday.

While conditions are definitely suitable for flying on Thursday, logistical concerns will override. We recommend strong consideration of flights on Friday, but with a reassessment of the fog and cirrus issues at the Thursday briefing.