

DISCOVER-AQ OUTLOOK January 22, 2013

Large aerosol loadings continue in the SJV today, which is likely the last day of the major aerosol episode. High thin cirrus clouds have moved over the region today from the weather system approaching from the west. However, for the most part these cirrus have been above the flight level for the B-200. A narrow ribbon of fog existed in the usual location in the valley this morning, but it was not as deep (300- 400 ft) as prior days. We were able to get the missed approaches in at Corcoran and Hanford on the first circuit. The high cloudiness will increase in coverage and thicken tomorrow as the trough passes to our north. On Thursday, moisture from the cut-off low off the southern CA coast will begin advecting into the region, leading to saturation down to 700 hPa. A small amount of light precipitation may occur in southern CA from this system. The effects of this system will persist on Friday with considerable cloudiness and a chance of precipitation. On Saturday a new trough will approach from the Gulf of Alaska, but the main cloudiness from this system may hold off until Saturday evening. This system will swing a cold front through the SJV on Sunday, leading to possible showers, followed by a change in air mass. Monday will be partly cloudy and Tuesday will see a cold northerly flow. Enhanced pollution conditions in the SJV may not develop again until next Wednesday.

The recommendation will be to not fly on Wednesday. The clouds will likely preclude normal SJV flights on Thurs. and Fri. as well, but we hold out the chance of a PODEX support flight on either Thurs. or Fri.