CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR
2002 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)
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Project Number
J0901

Project Title
South San Francisco's Air Pollution

Abstract

Objectives/Goals
What areas of South San Francisco have the most air pollution (particulate matter), how does it effect the residents, and how does this air quality compare to the rest of our state?

Methods/Materials
Ten index cards with petroleum jelly on six inch high wooden platforms were placed at various locations around South San Francisco for two forty-eight hour time periods. Each index card collected particles from the air which was analyzed, taking into account location and weather conditions. The data was recorded and analyzed. Specifically, they were compared in regards to benefits, detriments, and amounts.

Results
The residential areas had the least amount of air pollution while the industrial sections had the most. South San Francisco#s particulate matter is good compared to the rest of California. It was composed primarily of dirt vs. pollutants like tar or sulfur. The amount of particulate matter in the air appeared to be much less than other parts of California (L.A. in particular).

Conclusions/Discussion
In conclusion, our air is affected by weather, people, and industry, all of which can contribute to air pollution. Particulate matter has a very negative effect on our society. It can only be controlled by using less fossil fuels and being self aware of the particulate matter in our areas. People have to be careful of the harmful substances they put into our air and realize the negative effects that particulate matter has on all of us.

Summary Statement
South San Francisco#s Air Pollution records and analyzes the effects of air pollution, particularly particulate matter, on the air quality of our city and state.

Help Received
I received help from my father, who drove me to the various locations, and my mother who videotaped my presentation.