

# Field Study of PM<sub>2.5</sub> Emissions From a Road-Widening Project

---

Stephen B. Reid, Douglas S. Eisinger, Paul T. Roberts, David L. Vaughn,  
Erin K. Pollard, Jennifer L. DeWinter, Yuan Du, Alison E. Ray, and Steven G. Brown  
Sonoma Technology, Inc.  
Petaluma, CA

Beverly T. Chenausky  
Arizona Department of Transportation

Presented at the  
19<sup>th</sup> International Emissions Inventory Conference  
San Antonio, TX  
September 29, 2010



**Sonoma Technology, Inc.**  
*Air Quality Research and Innovative Solutions*

# Background (1 of 3)

## Project goals

Improve understanding of

- Construction equipment activity and emissions, especially for PM
- Near-road pollutant concentrations resulting from various construction phases
- Opportunities for cost-effective mitigation strategies



### *Selected construction project*

- *Located in a rural part of southern Arizona*
- *Involves widening of State Road 92 from two to five lanes*
- *Spans a 4-mile stretch of SR 92*

# Background (2 of 3)

## Project overview

- Collect activity data to estimate emissions associated with construction equipment exhaust, fugitive dust, and on-road motor vehicles
- Collect air quality and meteorological data to characterize near-field pollutant concentrations
- Conduct field study from January 2009 to January 2010, the period during which most construction activity occurred



# Background (3 of 3)

---

## Project overview

- Emphasis on emissions and air quality impacts by equipment type and phase of construction
  - Land clearing and grubbing
  - Roadway excavation
  - Structural excavation
  - Base and subbase
  - Structural concrete
  - Paving
  - Draining and landscaping



# Summary Findings

---

1. Construction *did* affect PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations
2. Construction *did not* affect PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations
3. Roadway excavation generated the largest fraction of construction emissions
4. Monitored PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, CO, and NO<sub>2</sub> did not exceed standards (NAAQS)
5. Worst-case measured 24-hr PM<sub>10</sub> construction impact: 47 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (might have been worse at unmonitored sites)

# Technical Approach (1 of 6)

## Activity data collection

GPS units installed on 23 pieces of equipment to track locations, movements, and engine status (off, idle, etc.)

- 5 water trucks
- 3 backhoes
- 3 scrapers
- 3 loaders
- 2 motor graders
- 2 gannon tractors
- 1 compactor
- 1 excavator
- 1 sweeper
- 1 cement truck
- 1 semi-truck



# Equipment Photos

Backhoe



Loader



Grader



Gannon Tractor



Roller



Scraper



Excavator



Water Truck



# Technical Approach (2 of 6)

## Activity data collection

- Daily fuel logs provided by construction contractor (fuel consumption by vehicle)
- Daily field diaries provided by ADOT inspectors (summary of work performed, earth moved, equipment used)
- Periodic on-site observations made by STI field technician

AZ12

EQUIPMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION LIST									
Date	EQUIPMENT NAME/NO.	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	
	GANNON GT-3 J.D.	2							
	RACHOE WITH HAMMER B-6								RECEIVED
	310 HURAPHY 26-2								11 0 7 2009
	MAZZUCHE R-3		9						
	1898 2A-4		2		7				
	BROOM BR-1	4							ADOT CONSTRUCTION BENSON, ARIZONA
	BLADE M3-3 CAT				33				
	613C-SCHAPER SC-3		24	22					
	613C-SCHAPER SC-4		41	53	47				
	KOMATSU 400 EX-1	29	17	9					
	2941L-11 J.D.								
	BOHMO CM-1								
	62504 CM-3								
	2941L-8 J.D.	20	8	24	22				
	566 H L-13 CAT	28	8	41	34				
	EX-2720 J.D.								
	CASE GANNON GT-1								
	813 N.E. CAT WEL-8								
	2941L-11 J.D.		2	5					
	BRADDOE 8-4								
	TOTAL	179 gal.	13 gal.	157 gal.	131 gal.				

WEEK OF: 05/24/09 - 05/30/09

Arizona Department of Transportation  
DAILY DIARY  
Quantities Report  
Diary No. 137  
Page 1 of 1

ITEM	Sub-Item	Section	Item Description	Location	Qty	Unit
EQUIPMENT ON PROJECT						
EQUIP NO.	MAKE & MODEL	SUBCONTRACTOR	WORK DESCRIPTION	HOURS		
LABOR ON PROJECT						
SUBCONTRACTOR	CLASSIFICATION	WORK DESCRIPTION	WORKERS	HOURS		
ANNICOLE CONTRACTING COOP.	Laborer	install or baseform curb and gutter and pipe install at page 17	3	10		
ANNICOLE CONTRACTING COOP.	Power Equipment Operator	install of pipe 17 for driveway	1	10		

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

ITEM 3 - This item related Benson Office 0700 Upload and corrected Timesheets

Onsite 0900

Annicole poured 11 jobs for Curb and gutter sta 506+00 LT Hereford rd. sta 18+88 @ intersection for 5 end radius Finished and cured

Began forming N end radius @ Hereford rd. intersection

Continued placing pipe 17 for driveway with utility placed for backfill

Bison crew continued grading from Hereford rd. to Bison Office with hubs in place. Should be ready for stringline first thing in the morning

Cure shipping forms at BE S outlet for wingwall footer

3 message boards set in place for upcoming paving operations. 10 type 9 1/2' set at each location

Requested that Hereford intersection be swept due to excessive gravel

Onsite 1530

6215 1hr  
6225 1hr  
6235 4hrs  
6415 2hrs

Weather: Fair  
Day of Week: Monday

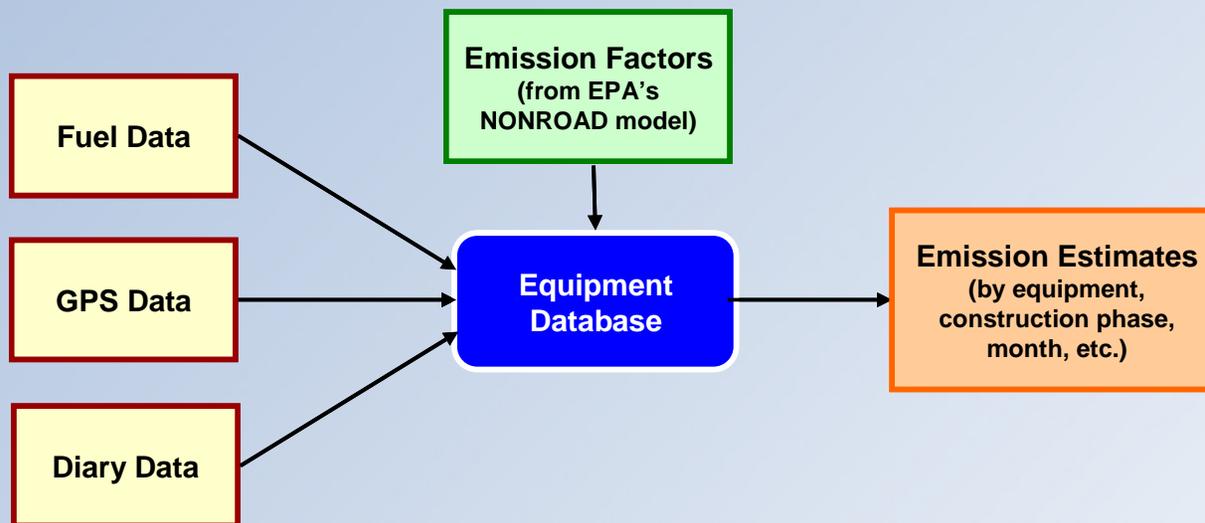
Signature: [Signature] Title: Inspector  
Project No: STP 082-A001B Tracks No: H45601C Date: 06/01/2009  
Checked By: [Signature] Date: 06/03/2009  
Logged By: [Signature] Date:

# Technical Approach (3 of 6)

## Activity data collection

- Traffic counts by vehicle type at north and south ends of project

## Emissions estimation (fuel-based)

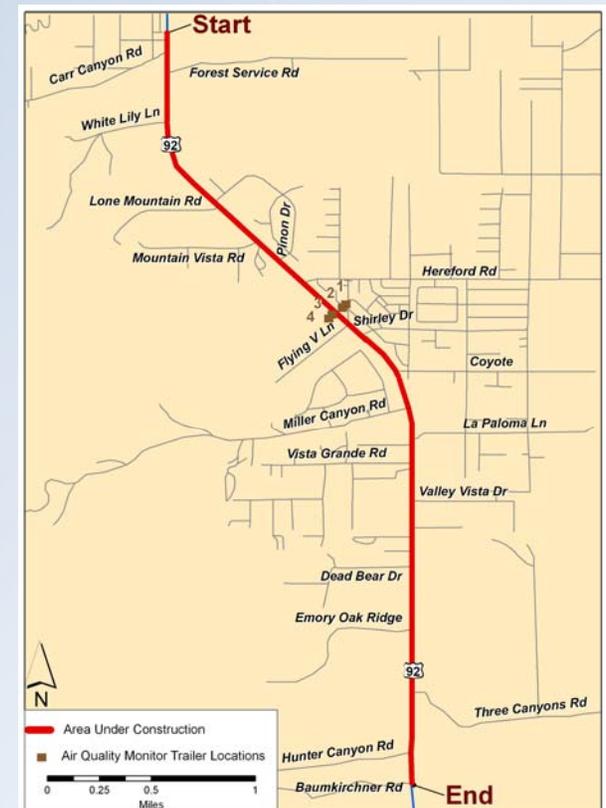


*Also estimated emissions from on-road vehicles and fugitive dust based on traffic counts and daily log information*

# Technical Approach (4 of 6)

## Ambient and meteorological data collection

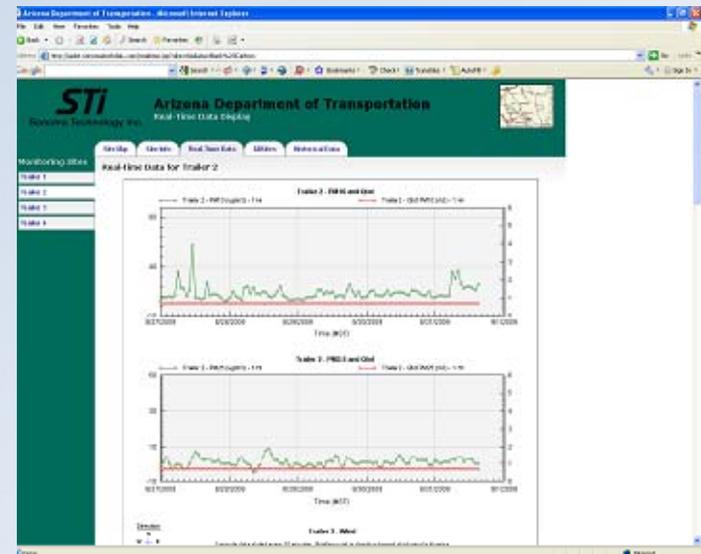
- Four monitoring sites – two on each side of SR 92
- Perpendicular to roadway – two sites 100 feet and two sites 200 feet from road centerline



# Technical Approach (5 of 6)

## Ambient and meteorological data collection

- Parameters measured
  - PM<sub>2.5</sub>
  - PM<sub>10</sub>
  - Black carbon
  - NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>
  - CO
  - CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Wind speed
  - Wind direction
  - Relative humidity
  - Temperature
  - Solar radiation
- Web-based data retrieval system
- Auto-screening QA procedures



# Technical Approach (6 of 6)

---

## Correlation of ambient and activity data

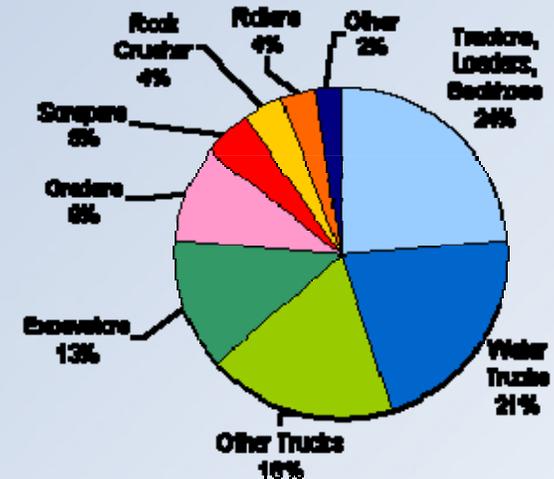
- Activity data summarized by proximity to monitoring sites
- Ambient data analyzed to determine background concentrations and identify episode dates with elevated pollutant concentrations
- Multiple “case study” periods identified and investigated to evaluate impacts from construction activities

# Results (1 of 9)

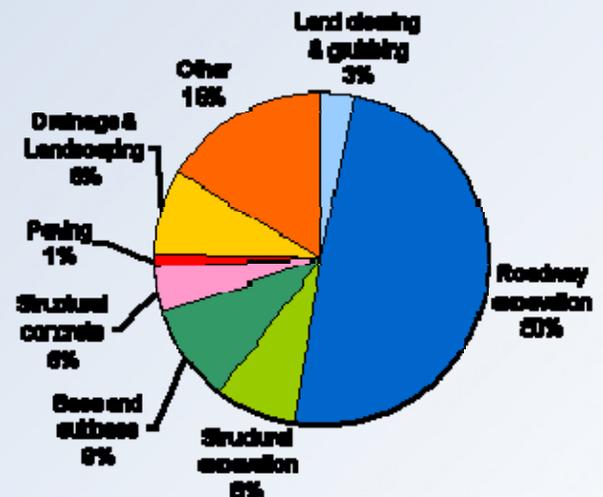
## Construction activity summary

- 238 working days in 2009; dust suppression on 192 days (81%)
- Work primarily performed Mon-Thu, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 25-30 pieces of equipment on-site
- 76,000 gallons of diesel consumed
- Average day
  - 10 pieces of equipment active
  - 6 hours of operation per vehicle
  - 319 gallons of diesel consumed

Fuel consumption by equipment



Fuel consumption by phase

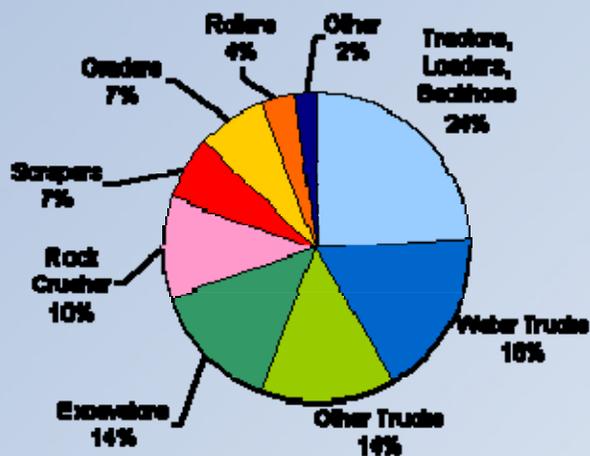


# Results (2 of 9)

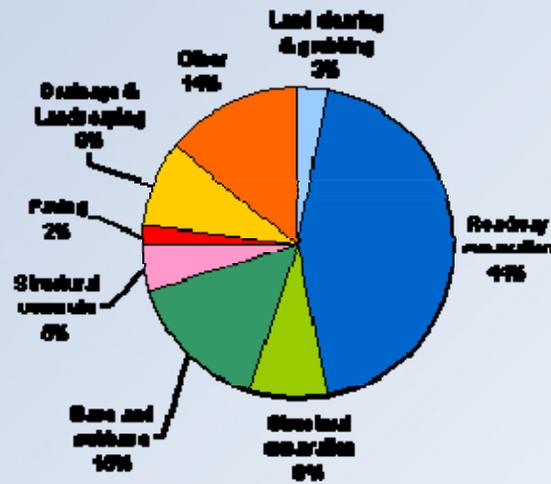
## Exhaust emissions summary

- Over half of PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions were attributable to tractors/loaders/backhoes and trucks
- Emissions highest during the roadway excavation phase

PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions by equipment



PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions by phase



Total Emissions

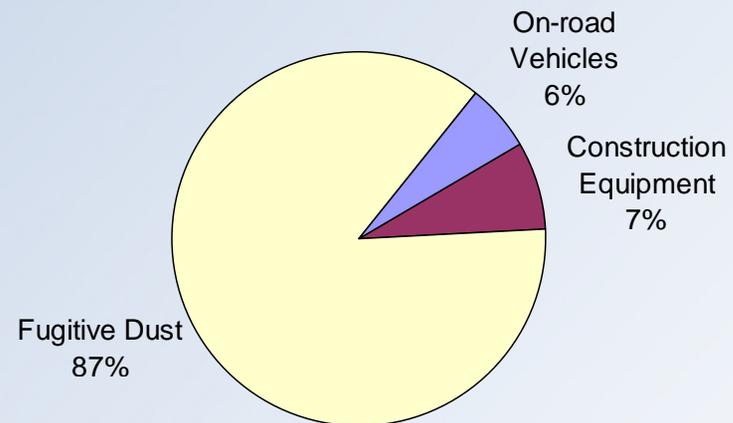
Pollutant	Emissions (kg)
PM <sub>10</sub>	553
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	537
NO <sub>x</sub>	7,102

# Results (3 of 9)

## Fugitive dust emissions summary

- For PM<sub>10</sub>, construction-related fugitive dust overwhelmed other source categories
- 80% of fugitive dust emissions were associated with the roadway excavation phase
- Emissions estimates for re-entrained road dust did not correlate with real-world air quality data

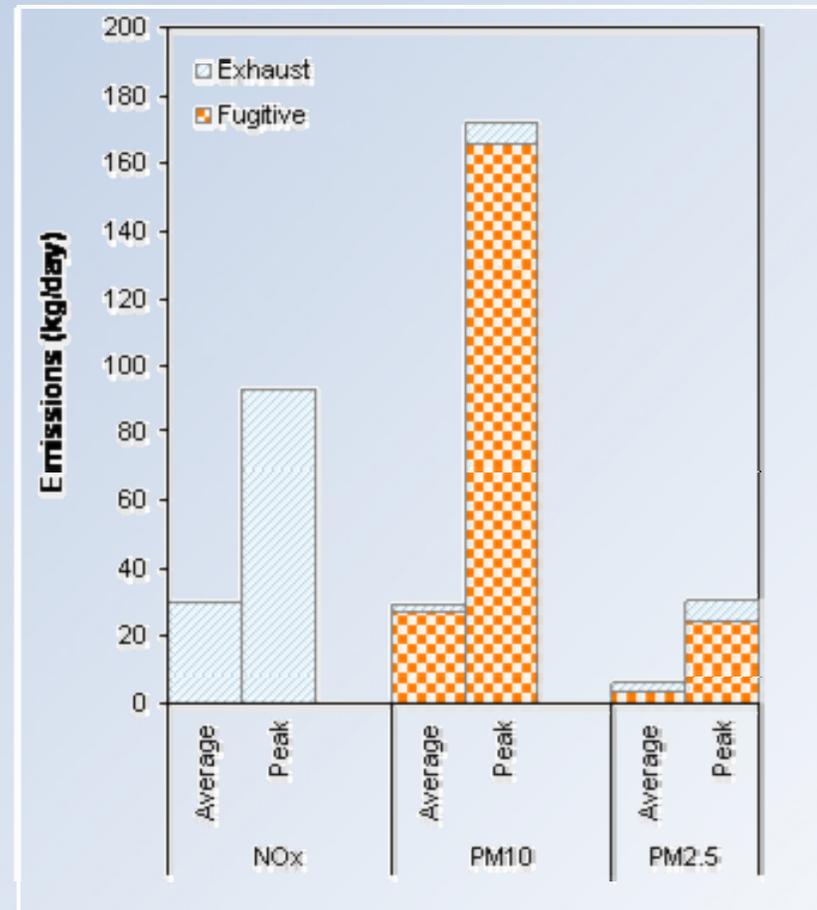
2009 PM<sub>10</sub> Emissions  
7,488 kg (8.3 tons)



# Results (4 of 9)

Peak-activity days resulted in substantially higher-than-average daily emissions

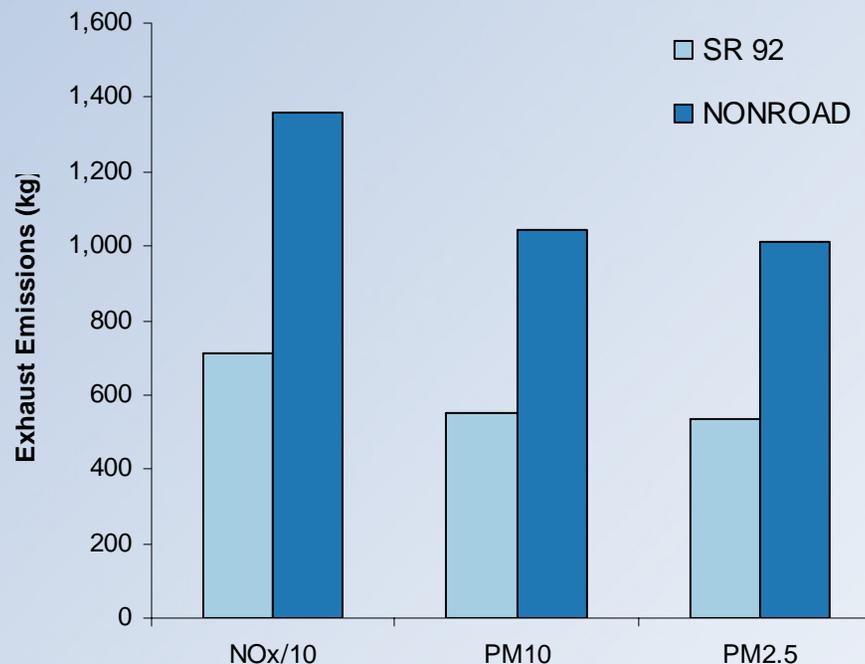
Construction-related daily average and peak (12/9/2009) emissions



# Results (5 of 9)

## Emissions comparison

- Ran 2009 NONROAD model for SR 92 equipment using default inputs
- In general, equipment usage rates for 2009 at SR 92 were significantly lower than default annual usage rates in NONROAD, resulting in lower emission estimates



# Results (6 of 9)

---

## Air quality data

- Summary statistics for 2009
- Case studies to evaluate conditions contributing to construction impacts
  - Rock crusher use (February 2009)
  - Maximum PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations (April 2009)
  - Mix of days with and without construction activity (May 2009)
  - Detailed examination of one of the May case-study days
  - Period with no construction activity to illustrate background concentrations (November 2009)

# Results (7 of 9)

---

## Air quality data

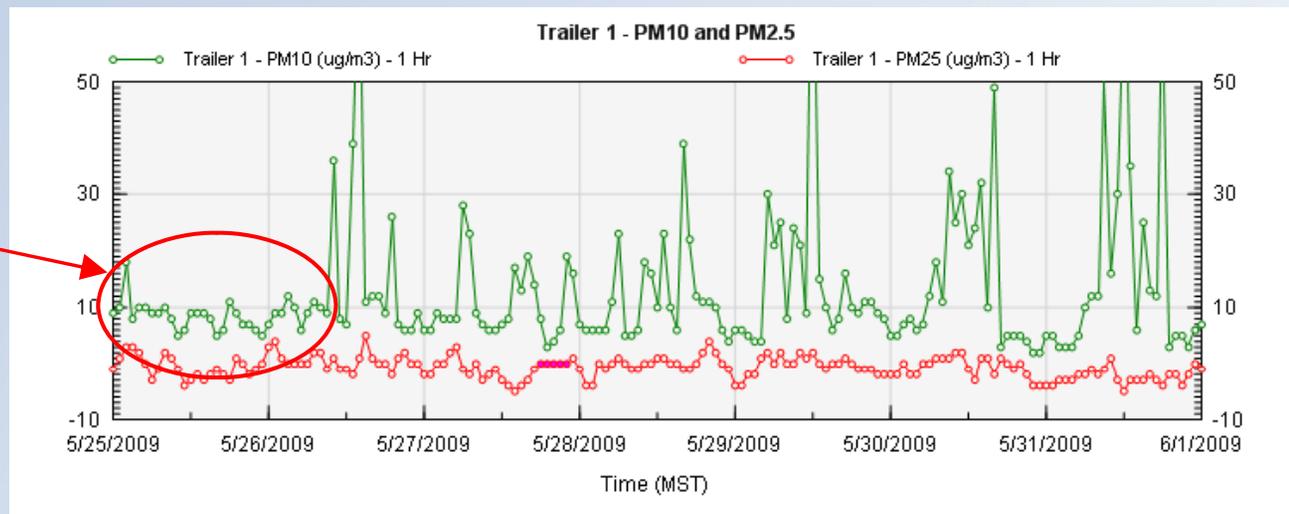
- PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations did not exceed 24-hr or annual NAAQS
- PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations did not exceed 24-hr NAAQS
- NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations did not exceed the 1-hr NAAQS
- BC concentrations were typically a few tenths of a  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (1.1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  max)

# Results (8 of 9)

## May 25-31 case study

- Construction resulted in higher 24-hr  $PM_{10}$  concentrations ( $29 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  max during case study); construction impacts on  $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations were far less pronounced
- $NO_x$ -related concentrations increased during daylight hours, but max  $NO_2$  concentrations  $< 10$  ppb

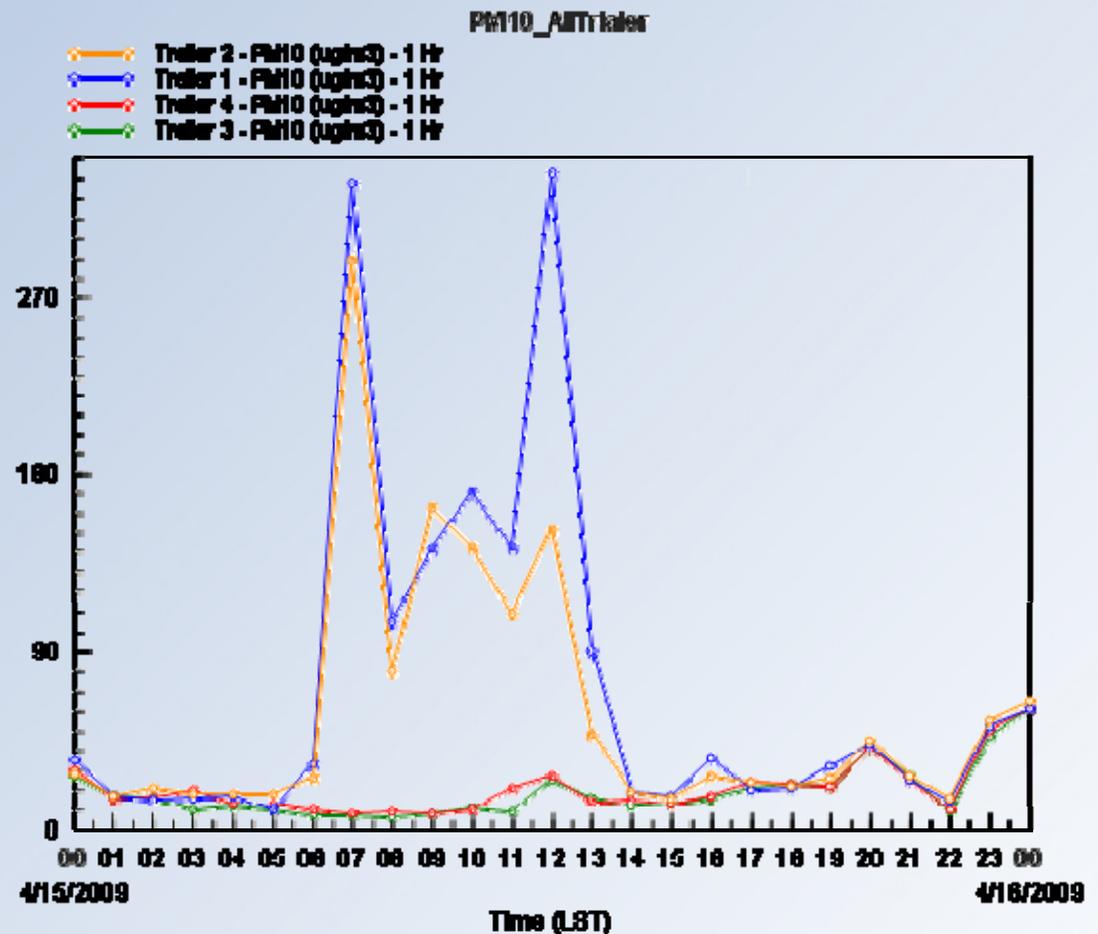
**No  $PM_{10}$  impacts on Labor Day, when construction was halted (but on-road traffic only 23% lower than an average weekday).**



# Results (9 of 9)

## April 15, 2009, case study

- Highest recorded 24-hr  $PM_{10}$  concentration ( $72 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
- Incremental differences between upwind trailers (3 and 4) and downwind trailers (1 and 2) of 54 to  $300 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  of  $PM_{10}$  (1-hr averages)
- $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations remained relatively consistent with values observed at other times



# Key Findings (1 of 2)

---

- Equipment activity and emissions were highest during roadway excavation
- Water trucks, “other” trucks, and tractors/loaders/backhoes represented ~70% of case study activity, emissions
- Real-world equipment use was lower than the defaults in EPA’s NONROAD model
- Real-world PM<sub>10</sub> data did not correspond with on-road dust emissions calculations

## Key Findings (2 of 2)

---

- Findings indicate limited potential for  $PM_{2.5}$  hot-spot contributions
- $PM_{10}$  hot-spot impacts depend on project characteristics and background  $PM_{10}$
- Further  $PM_{10}$  mitigation efforts could focus on fugitive dust controls

# Thank you!

---

## Questions?