

# Drought making California's air quality worse

By Joseph Serna, Los Angeles Times

Despite increasingly aggressive clean air and fuel standards, years of drought are taking a toll on California's air quality, the American Lung Association says in a new report.

The portion of California's Central Valley from Fresno to Madera was the most polluted region in the nation on any given day in 2013 with microscopic particulates, or soot, thanks in large part to the changing climate and drought, according to an annual report on air quality released Wednesday by the American Lung Association.

"Continuing drought and heat may have increased dust, grass fires and wildfires" that have hurt the Central Valley's air quality in short-term particle pollution, the report stated. "The impact of climate change is particularly apparent in the West, where the heat and drought create situations ripe for episodes of high-particle days."

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