Impacts of Traffic Reductions Associated With COVID-19 on Southern California Air Quality


Scientific Achievement
- Compared air quality during the COVID-19 Stay-At-Home order of 2020 (19 March to 30 June), a period marked by decreased vehicular traffic, with historic observations.

Significance and Impact
- Pollutant concentrations and patterns emphasize the influence of weather on air quality and suggest mitigation beyond vehicle emission reductions will be needed to meet future goals.

Technical Details
- COVID-19 restrictions coincided with precipitation at least 3 times the historical average.
- Data suggest that a broader focus on reducing VOC emissions (in combination with the current focus on NOx reductions) will be needed to attain air quality standards basin-wide.