

## Environmental Science & Technology

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The following graphic will be used for the TOC:



## 1 The Ozone–Climate Penalty: Past, Present, and Future

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5 **S** Supporting Information

6 **ABSTRACT:** Climate change is expected to increase global  
7 mean temperatures leading to higher tropospheric ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)  
8 concentrations in already polluted regions, potentially eroding  
9 the benefits of expensive emission controls. The magnitude of  
10 the “O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty” has generally decreased over the past  
11 three decades, which makes future predictions for climate  
12 impacts on air quality uncertain. Researchers attribute historical  
13 reductions in the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty to reductions in NO<sub>x</sub>  
14 emissions but have so far not extended this theory into a  
15 quantitative prediction for future effects. Here, we show that a  
16 three-dimensional air quality model can be used to map the  
17 behavior of the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty under varying NO<sub>x</sub> and  
18 VOC emissions in both NO<sub>x</sub>-limited and NO<sub>x</sub>-saturated  
19 conditions in Central and Southern California, respectively. Simulations suggest that the planned emissions control program  
20 for O<sub>3</sub> precursors will not diminish the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty to zero as some observational studies might imply. The results further  
21 demonstrate that in a NO<sub>x</sub>-limited air basin, NO<sub>x</sub> control strategies alone are sufficient to both decrease the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty  
22 and mitigate O<sub>3</sub> pollution, while in a NO<sub>x</sub>-saturated air basin, a modified emissions control plan that carefully chooses reductions  
23 in both NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC emissions may be necessary to eliminate the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty while simultaneously reducing base case  
24 O<sub>3</sub> concentrations to desired levels. Additional modeling is needed to determine the behavior of the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty as NO<sub>x</sub>  
25 and VOC emissions evolve in other regions.

### America's Most Ozone Polluted Cities

1. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside, CA
2. Visalia-Porterville, CA
3. Bakersfield-Delano, CA
4. Fresno-Modesto, CA
5. Hanford-Corcoran, CA
6. Sacramento-Yuba City, CA
7. Houston, TX
8. Dallas-Fort Worth, TX
9. Washington-Baltimore, DC, MD
10. El Centro, CA

Source: State of the Air Report, American Lung Association (2013)

## 26 ■ INTRODUCTION

27 Surface ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) is a secondary pollutant produced by the  
28 photochemical oxidation of CO and/or volatile organic  
29 compounds (VOCs) by the hydroxyl radical (•HO) in the  
30 presence of oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub> ≡ NO<sub>2</sub> + NO). Model  
31 perturbation studies have identified temperature as the most  
32 important weather variable affecting surface O<sub>3</sub> concentrations in  
33 polluted regions.<sup>1–5</sup> These findings have been validated against  
34 observations on multiple time scales that have shown strong  
35 correlations between temperature and O<sub>3</sub> concentrations in  
36 excess of about 60 ppb.<sup>6–8</sup> California is home to seven of the top  
37 ten most heavily O<sub>3</sub> polluted metropolitan areas in the United  
38 States,<sup>9</sup> despite the dramatic reductions of NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC  
39 precursor emissions over the past three decades.<sup>3–6,10–12</sup> A  
40 warming climate is expected to exacerbate surface O<sub>3</sub> in  
41 California's two major air basins: South Coast Air Basin  
42 (SoCAB) and San Joaquin Valley (SJV). Median surface  
43 temperatures during the O<sub>3</sub> season over western North America,  
44 including the SoCAB and SJV, are projected to warm between +1  
45 to +5 K by the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.<sup>13</sup> These temperature  
46 increases may counter the benefits from pollution control  
47 strategies used in an effort to meet established air quality  
48 standards, resulting in a “climate penalty”.<sup>14,15</sup>

49 In this study, the sensitivity of O<sub>3</sub> to temperature and NO<sub>x</sub> and  
50 VOC emissions is calculated in both NO<sub>x</sub>-saturated and NO<sub>x</sub>-  
51 limited conditions with a reactive chemical transport model

during two historical severe weekday pollution episodes in  
California: the SoCAB during September 7–9, 1993 (NO<sub>x</sub>-  
saturated)<sup>16,17</sup> and the SJV during July 25–27, 2005 (NO<sub>x</sub>-  
limited). Historical episodes are used for the base case analysis to  
enable the study of O<sub>3</sub>-temperature relationships over a period  
spanning the past two decades to future conditions over which  
NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC emissions have evolved. The results in this study  
are presented as an O<sub>3</sub> isopleth diagram that simultaneously  
describes the maximum concentration (ppb) and sensitivity to  
temperature (ppb K<sup>-1</sup>) of surface O<sub>3</sub> under specified NO<sub>x</sub> and  
VOC emissions.<sup>18</sup> This map of O<sub>3</sub>-temperature relationships is  
compared to historical trends for validation and then projected  
forward to predict climate impacts on future O<sub>3</sub> pollution.

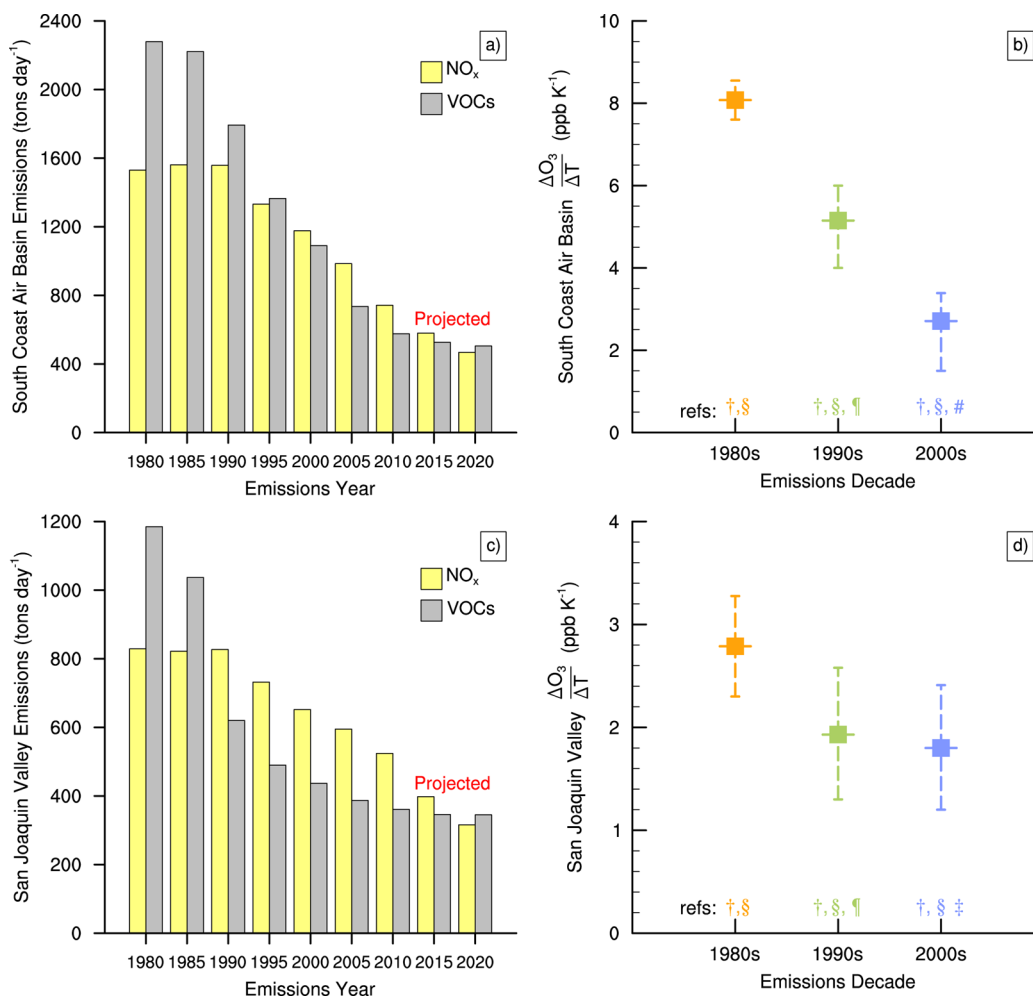
## 52 ■ THE O<sub>3</sub>–CLIMATE PENALTY

53 Varying definitions of the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty have been  
54 presented in the literature. Wu et al. consider the climate penalty  
55 to represent either the additional decreases in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions to  
56 counter any climate driven increase in O<sub>3</sub> (assuming NO<sub>x</sub> is the  
57 limiting precursor) or the reduced benefits of emissions controls  
58 to 70

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**Figure 1.** (a) Historical and projected average daily anthropogenic NO<sub>x</sub> (yellow) and VOC (gray) emissions (tons day<sup>-1</sup>) vs emissions year for the South Coast Air Basin and (b) the observed decadal trend in the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty for the Southern California Air Basin attributed to emissions changes during the 1980s (orange), the 1990s (green), and the 2000s (blue). Dashed lines give the range of both observed and modeled O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty values in the South Coast Air Basin from the literature; solid squares are the mean O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty calculated from values given in the literature. Symbols beneath each range correspond to literature references: † is Mahmud et al.<sup>6</sup> (statistical down-scaling based on measured trends), § is Steiner et al.<sup>8</sup> (observations), ¶ is Kleeman<sup>3</sup> (model perturbation), # is Millstein and Harley<sup>4</sup> (model perturbation), and ‡ is Steiner et al.<sup>5</sup> (model perturbation); (c) as for (a) but for the San Joaquin Valley; (d) as for (b) but for the San Joaquin Valley.

71 due to the increase in O<sub>3</sub> due to a warmer climate.<sup>15</sup> Bloomer et  
 72 al. calculate the “ozone–climate penalty factor” as the slope of  
 73 the best fit line between long-term observational measurements  
 74 of O<sub>3</sub> and temperature.<sup>19</sup> Other studies utilizing air quality  
 75 models quantified the change in O<sub>3</sub> due to a prescribed  
 76 temperature perturbation but did not refer to this sensitivity as  
 77 a “climate penalty”.<sup>3,4,6</sup> Here, we employ the temperature  
 78 perturbation approach and refer to the direct increase in O<sub>3</sub>  
 79 concentrations due to increasing temperatures (ppb K<sup>-1</sup>) as the  
 80 “O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty” or “climate penalty”. Previous work has  
 81 shown the past and present climate penalty to be highly varied in  
 82 space and time due to differing chemical and meteorological  
 83 environments that influence O<sub>3</sub> formation.<sup>3,4,6,8,19</sup> The aggregate  
 84 effects that make up this relationship (the total derivative, d[O<sub>3</sub>]/  
 85 dT) are thought to include at least three components

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d[\text{O}_3]}{dT} &= \frac{\partial[\text{O}_3]}{\partial[\text{stagnation}]} \times \frac{d[\text{stagnation}]}{dT} \\ &+ \frac{\partial[\text{O}_3]}{\partial[\text{reaction}]} \times \frac{d[\text{reaction}]}{dT} \\ &+ \frac{\partial[\text{O}_3]}{\partial[\text{BVOC}]} \times \frac{d[\text{BVOC}]}{dT} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

The first term accounts for the association of warm 86  
 temperatures with stagnant air masses that facilitate the 87  
 accumulation of O<sub>3</sub> precursor species.<sup>20</sup> The second term 88  
 accounts for the increase in chemical reaction rates for different 89  
 species, including the thermal decomposition of alkyl nitrates 90  
 (AN) and subspecies peroxyacetylnitrate (PAN), reservoirs for 91  
 both NO<sub>x</sub> and HO<sub>x</sub> at low temperatures.<sup>7</sup> The third term 92  
 accounts for temperature dependent variations in biogenic 93  
 emissions of VOCs (BVOCs), which act as a significant source of 94  
 precursors for O<sub>3</sub> formation under high-NO<sub>x</sub> conditions and 95  
 tend to increase with temperature for many species.<sup>21,22</sup> The 96  
 ellipsis indicates several additional contributing temperature- 97  
 dependent processes of varying sign that may not be dominant 98

99 under the assumptions of the current study, including wildfires in  
100 the western United States<sup>23</sup> and humidity in the Mid-Atlantic<sup>24</sup>  
101 (see Table 1 in ref 25 for a comprehensive list). Model  
102 perturbation studies resolve the climate penalty partial  
103 derivatives, while observations ascertain the total derivative.  
104 Extrapolation of present day O<sub>3</sub>–temperature relationships to  
105 future climate to estimate changes in O<sub>3</sub> air quality assumes  
106 invariable emission rates and ignores complex chemistry–  
107 climate interactions.<sup>14,25,26</sup>

## 108 ■ HISTORICAL TREND IN O<sub>3</sub>–CLIMATE PENALTY IN 109 CALIFORNIA

110 Figure 1 shows the trend in average daily NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC  
111 emissions in the SoCAB and the SJV, along with the  
112 corresponding decadal trend in the climate penalty from previous  
113 model perturbation and observational studies. The climate  
114 penalty is strongly correlated with NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC emissions in  
115 both the SoCAB and the SJV. From 1980 to 2010, average daily  
116 emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs in the SoCAB decreased roughly 2-  
117 and 4-fold, respectively; in the SJV, NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC emissions  
118 decreased by a factor of 1.5- and 3-fold, respectively.<sup>27</sup> The  
119 dramatic decrease in these emissions reflects the success of  
120 California's statewide emission control programs. Over this same  
121 period, the mean value of climate penalty in the SoCAB  
122 decreased from +8.0 ppb K<sup>-1</sup> in the 1980s to a present day value  
123 of +2.7 ppb K<sup>-1</sup>, while the climate penalty in the SJV decreased  
124 from a value of +2.8 ppb K<sup>-1</sup> in the 1980s to a current value of  
125 +1.8 ppb K<sup>-1</sup>.<sup>3,4,6,8,19</sup> Similar NO<sub>x</sub>–climate penalty trends have  
126 been observed elsewhere. In the eastern United States, a 43%  
127 reduction in power plant NO<sub>x</sub> emissions between 1995 and 2002  
128 was shown to correspond to a 1.0 ppb K<sup>-1</sup> decrease in the O<sub>3</sub>–  
129 climate penalty.<sup>19,28</sup> Over the next decade, emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and  
130 VOCs are expected to continue to decrease in both the SoCAB  
131 and the SJV raising the following question: Will the O<sub>3</sub>–climate  
132 penalty effectively diminish to zero, or does a particular emissions  
133 strategy exist that minimizes the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty?

## 134 ■ METHODS

135 **Model Description.** The UC-Davis-California Institute of  
136 Technology (UCD-CIT) air quality model is a 3D Eulerian  
137 photochemical model that simulates reactive chemical transport  
138 in the atmosphere and predicts the concentration of both  
139 primary and secondary pollutants in the gas and particle phase.  
140 Relevant chemical reactions are modeled with the SAPRC11  
141 mechanism.<sup>29</sup> A coupled online UV radiative extinction  
142 calculation accounts for the scattering and absorption of light  
143 due to high airborne particulate matter concentrations to give a  
144 more accurate representation of actinic flux. A more thorough  
145 description of the UCD-CIT airshed model and its evolution has  
146 been presented previously.<sup>17,30–33</sup>

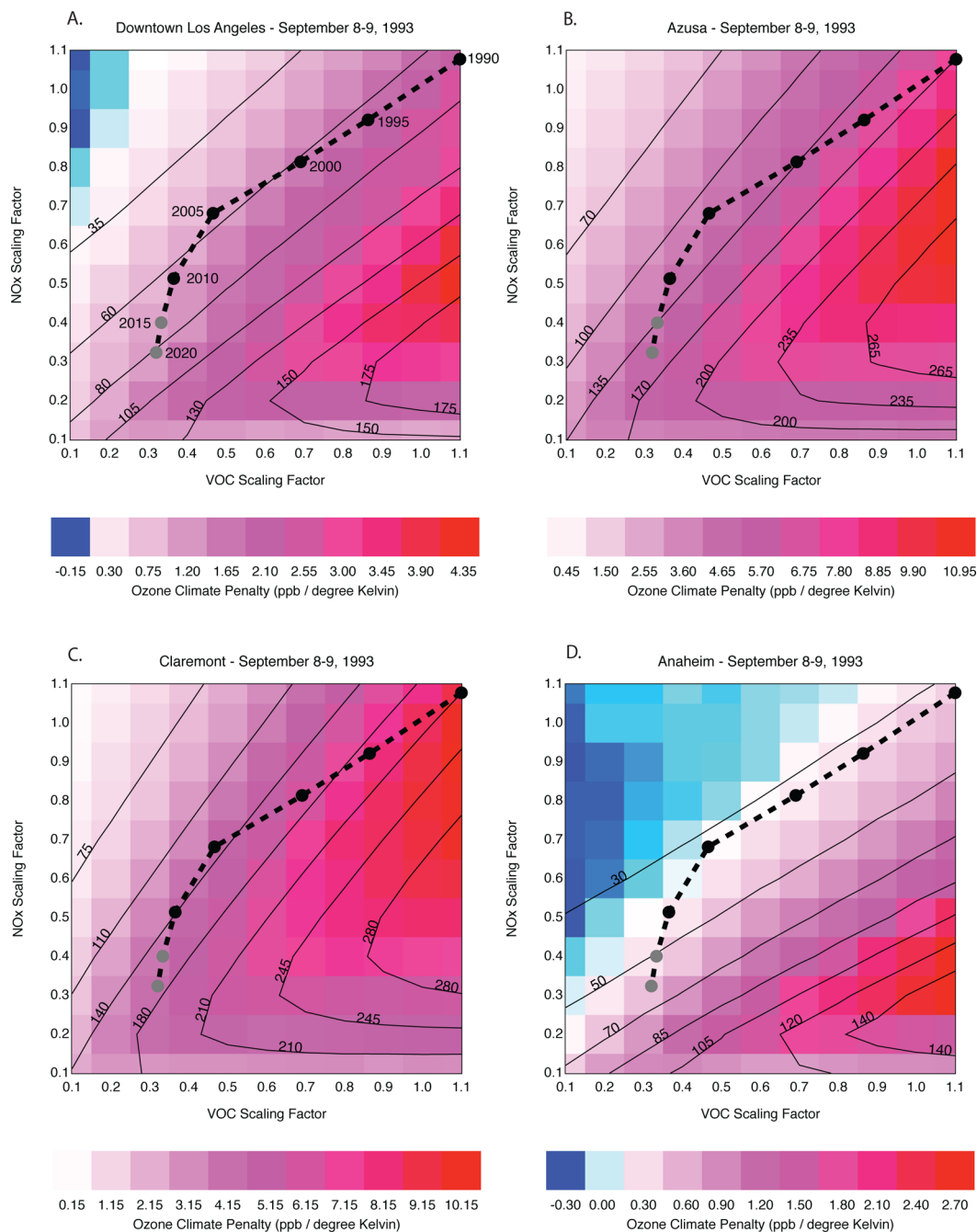
147 Because of variations in the physical characteristics of each air  
148 basin, different model configurations were used to simulate each  
149 pollution episode. The horizontal resolution used in the SoCAB  
150 simulations was 5 km × 5 km. The vertical domain was divided  
151 into 5 levels (thicknesses of 38.5, 115.5, 154, 363, and 429 m),  
152 extending from the surface to 1.1 km above ground. This  
153 relatively shallow model depth is only appropriate in well-defined  
154 air basins, such as the SoCAB, where pollutants have a residence  
155 time of only a few days. The horizontal resolution in the SJV  
156 simulations was 8 km × 8 km, and the vertical distance from the  
157 surface to 5 km above ground was divided into 16 levels (the  
158 surface to 1.1 km above ground for the SJV simulations is

comprised of 11 levels). In the SoCAB, hourly 2D and 3D  
159 meteorological fields (temperature, absolute humidity, wind  
160 speed and direction, and solar intensity) were interpolated from  
161 observations using the method described by refs 34 and 35, while  
162 the SJV simulations used hourly meteorological fields generated  
163 over California at 4 km × 4 km horizontal resolution with the  
164 Weather Research and Forecasting model (WRF) v3.4,<sup>36</sup> driven  
165 by the North American Regional Reanalysis (NARR).<sup>37</sup> Four-  
166 dimensional data assimilation (FDDA) is further used to nudge  
167 WRF model estimates closer to observed conditions. The WRF  
168 meteorological fields were averaged to 8 km × 8 km to reduce  
169 model simulation times. Previous studies have shown these  
170 configurations to well reproduce measured pollutant concentra-  
171 tions.<sup>17,38</sup>

The base case emission inventories for the SoCAB and SJV  
173 episodes were obtained from the South Coast Air Quality  
174 Management District (SCAQMD) and the California Air  
175 Resources Board (ARB) and are summarized in refs 39 and 40,  
176 respectively. Boundary conditions at the western edge of each  
177 modeling domain were based on measured background  
178 concentrations of pollutants that are transported to Califor-  
179 nia<sup>41,42</sup> and remained constant while emission perturbations  
180 were applied. Biogenic emissions were generated at 8 km × 8 km  
181 spatial resolution using the Biogenic Emission Inventory  
182 Geographic Information System (BEIGIS) model.<sup>43</sup> A year  
183 2000 land-use pattern generated by the moderate-resolution  
184 imaging spectroradiometer (MODIS) satellite is used to  
185 determine vegetation types and leaf area indices. Hourly  
186 averaged surface air temperature and shortwave radiation from  
187 the meteorology are used to calculate emissions of isoprene,  
188 monoterpenes, and 2-methyl-3-buten-2-ol (MBO).<sup>21,22</sup> In the  
189 SJV, livestock feed VOC emissions were estimated using the  
190 method described by ref 44 and are mapped to the spatial  
191 distribution of livestock ammonia emissions. Predicted O<sub>3</sub>  
192 concentrations for both pollution episodes in this study had  
193 performance statistics that met U.S. Environmental Protection  
194 Agency (EPA) guidance for air quality models.<sup>45</sup>

**Calculating the O<sub>3</sub>–Climate Penalty.** To generate an O<sub>3</sub>  
196 isopleth diagram, the episode base case emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and  
197 anthropogenic VOCs were uniformly scaled up (more  
198 emissions) or down (less emissions) to represent a hypothetical  
199 range of pollution control strategies in each air basin. Here, the  
200 air quality model explicitly simulates 121 and 64 NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC  
201 emissions scenarios in the SoCAB and SJV, respectively. These  
202 simulations are then repeated after applying a temperature  
203 perturbation for a total of 370 model runs. In this study, a  
204 spatially uniform temperature perturbation was applied to every  
205 hour during both multi-day pollution events to calculate a value  
206 of the climate penalty at each NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC emissions point.  
207 This technique explores the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty under base case  
208 conditions to better understand important relationships between  
209 emissions and climate. Further work would be required to  
210 account for detailed future emissions trends and projected  
211 climate patterns if the effects of these secondary factors on future  
212 O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalties are of interest.

The O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty was calculated as the difference  
214 between the O<sub>3</sub> concentrations predicted with the base case  
215 temperature profile and the base case temperature profile plus a  
216 –5 K perturbation divided by the magnitude of the temperature  
217 perturbation (ppb K<sup>-1</sup>). The magnitude of the perturbation is  
218 arbitrary and is not intended to reflect a projection of future  
219 temperature change. Previous work has shown the O<sub>3</sub>–climate  
220 penalty is not strongly sensitive to the absolute magnitude of the  
221

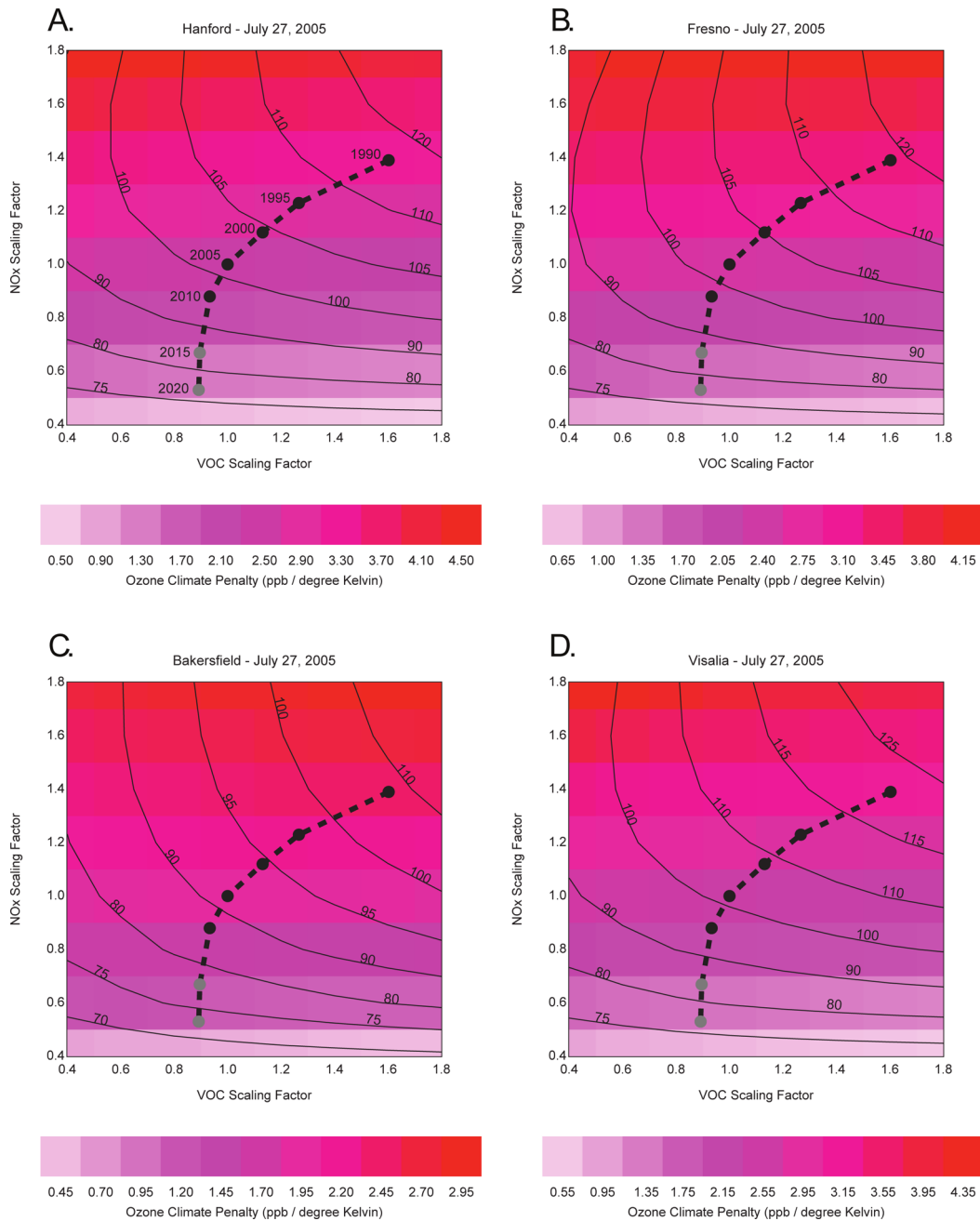


**Figure 2.** Isopleths of 8 h average  $O_3$  (ppb)(solid black lines) and  $O_3$ -climate penalty (ppb  $K^{-1}$ ) (colors) generated from a  $-5 K$  temperature perturbation for (a) Downtown Los Angeles, (b) Azusa, (c) Claremont, and (d) Anaheim. All calculations are for the conditions on September 8–9, 1993. Estimated anthropogenic emissions trend relative to the 1993 base year is shown as a dashed black line. A different color scale is used for each panel.

222 temperature perturbation used.<sup>3</sup> A negative (rather than  
 223 positive) temperature perturbation was chosen in the present  
 224 study because maximum daily temperatures from the base case  
 225 episodes were greater than  $40\text{ }^{\circ}C$  and the contributions to  
 226  $d[O_3]/dT$  from PAN decomposition and isoprene emissions  
 227 have been shown to diminish at temperatures  $>39\text{ }^{\circ}C$ .<sup>8</sup> Not fully  
 228 accounting for these contributions could lead to an under  
 229 prediction of the base case  $O_3$  sensitivity to temperature. The  
 230 negative perturbation produces temperatures that are more in  
 231 line with historical temperature ranges and therefore yields  
 232 values of  $\partial[O_3]/\partial T$  that are more directly comparable to  $d[O_3]/$

$dT$  calculated from long-term measurements of  $O_3$  and  
 233 temperature.<sup>6,8,19,46</sup> 234

In this study, the temperature perturbation affects chemical  
 235 kinetic reaction rates and biogenic emissions of isoprene,  
 236 monoterpenes, and MBO.<sup>21,22</sup> The temperature perturbation  
 237 does not alter the evaporation of anthropogenic VOCs<sup>47</sup> or the  
 238 emission rate of soil  $NO_x$  and is uncoupled from temperature  
 239 dependent meteorological variables such as mixed layer depth,  
 240 solar insolation, wind speed and wind direction; model  
 241 perturbation studies have shown that mixed layer depth has  
 242 weak positive and negative effects on  $O_3$  concentrations in  
 243 polluted regions.<sup>1,3</sup> Temperature driven changes to atmospheric  
 244



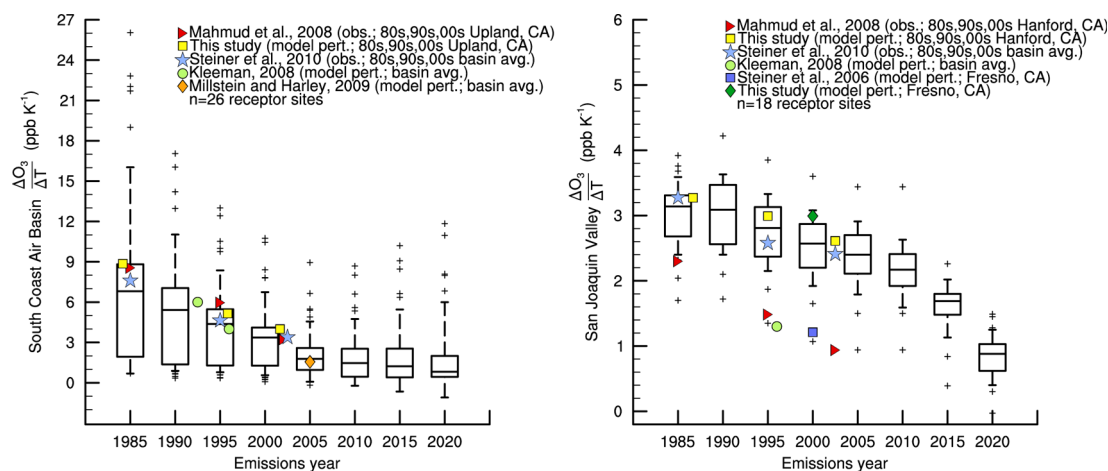
**Figure 3.** Isopleths of 8 h average  $O_3$  (ppb)(solid black lines) and  $O_3$ –climate penalty (ppb  $K^{-1}$ ) (colors) generated from a  $-5$  K temperature perturbation for (a) Hanford, (b) Fresno, (c) Bakersfield, and (d) Visalia. All calculations are for the conditions on July 27, 2005. Estimated anthropogenic emissions trend relative to the 2005 base year is shown as a dashed black line. A different color scale is used for each panel.

245 circulation are not considered and could be important in defining  
 246 the exact meteorological characteristics of peak  $O_3$  episodes.  
 247 Vegetation and land use data remain constant.  
 248 The Clausius–Clapeyron relation predicts exponential  
 249 increases in the atmosphere’s capacity to hold water vapor with  
 250 increasing temperature. Increases in water vapor can lead to  
 251 greater  $HO_x$  production that may affect  $O_3$  formation differently  
 252 depending on the region and the atmospheric conditions.<sup>1,2,4,48</sup>  
 253 The temperature perturbations applied in the current study were  
 254 coupled with different assumptions about humidity for each air  
 255 basin depending on their geographical features. The majority of  
 256 the SoCAB is close to the Pacific Ocean where an unlimited  
 257 water reservoir maintains an approximately constant relative  
 258 humidity (RH) with increasing temperature. The RH was

259 therefore held constant in the SoCAB when temperature was 259  
 260 perturbed. In the SJV, the supply of moisture is limited, and it was 260  
 261 therefore assumed that absolute humidity would remain constant 261  
 262 with increasing temperature, leading to a decrease in RH. 262  
 263 Additional SJV modeling simulations that assumed constant RH 263  
 264 resulted in  $O_3$ –climate penalty values nearly identical to those 264  
 265 that fixed absolute humidity. 265

■ **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION** 266

**Decreases in  $NO_x$  and VOC Emissions and the  $O_3$ –** 267  
**Climate Penalty Response.** Isopleths of 8 h average  $O_3$  268  
 (10:00–18:00 LDT) (ppb) and  $O_3$ –climate penalty (ppb  $K^{-1}$ ) 269  
 for  $NO_x$  and VOC emissions rates relative to conditions on 270  
 September 8–9, 1993 are shown in Figure 2 at Downtown Los 271



**Figure 4.** Historical (colored markers) and modeled  $O_3$ -climate penalty ( $\text{ppb K}^{-1}$ ) for emissions years from 1985 to 2020 for the South Coast Air Basin (SoCAB) (left) and the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJV) (right). The box-and-whisker plots (mean minus the standard deviation, 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, and mean plus the standard deviation) give statistics of the modeled  $O_3$ -climate penalty at 26 urban receptors in the South Coast Air Basin and at 18 urban receptors in the San Joaquin Valley (Figure S1, Supporting Information). Values greater or less than the mean  $\pm$  the standard deviation are shown as crosses. All modeled calculations are for the conditions on September 8–9, 1993 (SoCAB) and July 27, 2005 (SJV).

272 Angeles, Azusa, Claremont, and Anaheim in the SoCAB. Ozone  
 273 isopleth diagrams generated for Visalia, Fresno, Hanford, and  
 274 Bakersfield in the SJV for conditions on July 27, 2005 are shown  
 275 in Figure 3. The SoCAB is an urban environment that is  $NO_x$ -  
 276 saturated during weekdays,<sup>49</sup> while both the SJV and the eastern  
 277 United States are predominantly  $NO_x$ -limited at all times.<sup>50</sup> Each  
 278 isopleth shows the modeled base case  $O_3$  concentration under a  
 279 particular set of  $NO_x$  and VOC emissions rates with the same  
 280 meteorology. In these simulations,  $NO_x$  is emitted from both soil  
 281 and anthropogenic sources and VOC is emitted from  
 282 anthropogenic and natural sources. For both air basins,  $NO_x$   
 283 and only anthropogenic VOC emissions are scaled. The scaling  
 284 factors are the fraction of  $NO_x$  and VOC emissions relative to the  
 285 base years. The base year for the SJV episode is 2005, and the  
 286 base year for the SoCAB episode is 1993. Base years have a  
 287 scaling factor of 1. The range of scaling factors was chosen to  
 288 capture the range of both historical and projected emissions.

289 The colors overlaid on each  $O_3$  isopleth diagram in Figures 2  
 290 and 3 show the magnitude of  $O_3$ -climate penalty ( $\text{ppb K}^{-1}$ ). The  
 291 maximum in the  $O_3$ -climate penalty occurs at a  $NO_x$  emission  
 292 level slightly greater than that which produces the maximum  $O_3$   
 293 under the base case temperature simulation and at the highest  
 294 VOC emission rates. This is coincident with the “ $O_3$  isopleth  
 295 ridge”, or the line of maximum  $O_3$  formation. The minimum in  
 296  $O_3$ -climate penalty occurs in conditions that are appreciably  
 297  $NO_x$ -saturated. The simulations here suggest that when  $NO_x$   
 298 emissions are much greater than VOC emissions, the  $O_3$ -  
 299 climate penalty may become strongly negative (i.e., a climate  
 300 “benefit”) at Downtown LA and Anaheim ( $-0.1$  to  $-0.4$   $\text{ppb}$   
 301  $K^{-1}$ ) ( $O_3$  decreases with increasing temperature), suggestive of  
 302  $O_3$  titration by NO from further  $NO_x$ -saturation that results from  
 303 the thermal decomposition of PAN at hotter temperatures.<sup>7</sup>

304 The historical and projected trend (1990–2020) in average  
 305 daily anthropogenic  $NO_x$  and VOC emissions rates, relative to  
 306 the respective base case inventory, is drawn on each isopleth  
 307 diagram as black (historical) and gray (projected) dots  
 308 connected by a dashed black line, taken together to constitute  
 309 an emissions “trajectory”. Receptors in each air basin are assumed  
 310 to experience an equivalent rate of  $NO_x$  and VOC emissions  
 311 reductions. The  $O_3$  values along the  $NO_x$ -VOC emissions  
 312 trajectory are an estimate of the maximum amount of  $O_3$

313 pollution that could be formed during a severe pollution event  
 314 with similar meteorology. Substantially  $NO_x$ -saturated con-  
 315 ditions are not predicted by the emissions trajectory at any of the  
 316 SoCAB or SJV receptors over the next decade (Figures 2 and 3).

317 In both air basins, the  $O_3$  isopleth diagrams suggest that  $NO_x$   
 318 and VOC emission reductions between 1990 and 2010 have been  
 319 effective at abating  $O_3$  during weekday severe pollution events,  
 320 especially in eastern LA and the SJV, confirming previous  
 321 findings.<sup>11,27</sup> Reductions in  $O_3$  in the SoCAB were accomplished  
 322 through reductions in emissions of both  $NO_x$  and VOCs. Figure  
 323 2 shows that reductions in  $NO_x$  emissions alone over this 20-year  
 324 period would have increased  $O_3$  concentrations in the SoCAB.  
 325 Little change in  $O_3$  is seen at both Anaheim and Downtown LA  
 326 (Figure 2a,d) because reductions in  $NO_x$  and VOC emissions  
 327 produce a trajectory that stays within a zone of approximately  
 328 constant  $O_3$ . In the SJV, reductions in  $O_3$  have primarily occurred  
 329 through reductions in  $NO_x$  emissions.

330 Over the next decade, the ARB projects that  $NO_x$  and VOC  
 331 emissions will continue to decrease in both air basins, with  $NO_x$   
 332 emissions declining more rapidly. Projections for the SoCAB  
 333 indicate that this emissions trajectory may not be optimal, with  
 334 slight increases in  $O_3$  concentrations (+20 to +30  $\text{ppb}$  under the  
 335 meteorological conditions studied). This result is consistent with  
 336 findings from other investigators; Fujita et al. find that reductions  
 337 in  $NO_x$  emissions without concurrent VOC emission reductions  
 338 over the next decade will cause  $O_3$  to increase in central portions  
 339 of the SoCAB during weekdays.<sup>10</sup> No such effect is predicted for  
 340 the SJV in the present study; the  $O_3$  isopleths for the SJV predict  
 341 continued decreases in  $O_3$  over the next decade under  
 342 meteorological conditions conducive to  $O_3$  formation (Figure 3).

343 The historical and projected trend in the  $O_3$ -climate penalty  
 344 can be inferred from the  $NO_x$ -VOC emission trajectory on the  
 345 isopleths (Figures 2 and 3). Both  $NO_x$  and VOC emissions  
 346 appear to play a role in determining the  $O_3$ -climate penalty in  
 347 the SoCAB, contrary to previous findings that suggest  $NO_x$   
 348 emissions are the primary explanatory variable in the observed  
 349 decreasing trend in the  $O_3$ -climate penalty.<sup>19</sup> Reducing  $NO_x$   
 350 emissions, primarily emitted as nitric oxide (NO), in a  $NO_x$ -  
 351 saturated environment can exacerbate  $O_3$  pollution by both  
 352 decreasing  $O_3$  loss by NO titration and increasing the ratio of  
 353 VOCs to  $NO_x$ , favoring peroxy ( $HO_2$ ) and alkylperoxy ( $RO_2$ )

354 formation, both of which propagate the chain reaction  
355 mechanism that produces O<sub>3</sub> in the troposphere.<sup>51</sup> While NO<sub>x</sub>  
356 emission controls may be effective at decreasing the O<sub>3</sub>–climate  
357 penalty in the NO<sub>x</sub>-limited eastern United States and SJV,<sup>19,50</sup>  
358 the results of the current study suggest that further decreases in  
359 VOC emissions over the next decade in the SoCAB (NO<sub>x</sub>-  
360 saturated) may be beneficial to reducing base case O<sub>3</sub> pollution  
361 and may additionally be effective at minimizing the O<sub>3</sub>–climate  
362 penalty.

363 **Future Trend in the O<sub>3</sub>–Climate Penalty and Implica-**  
364 **tions.** The O<sub>3</sub> isopleth diagrams illustrate climate penalty–  
365 emissions relationships at individual receptor sites but do not  
366 readily facilitate an air basin-wide assessment of historical and  
367 projected trends in the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty along the emissions  
368 trajectory. To characterize an air basin-wide climate penalty, we  
369 use 18 urban receptor sites in the SJV and 26 urban receptor sites  
370 in the SoCAB. The location of these receptors are shown in  
371 Figure S1 of the Supporting Information and are analogous to the  
372 receptor sites that are used by ref 8. Figure 4 shows the modeled  
373 historical (1985–2010) and projected (2015–2020) trend in  
374 O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty (ppb K<sup>-1</sup>) at these receptor sites in the  
375 SoCAB (left) and the SJV (right). Modeled results are presented  
376 as box-and-whisker plots (25<sup>th</sup>, median, and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles)  
377 where the whiskers are the mean (not shown) ± the standard  
378 deviation. Values outside of the whiskers are plotted as crosses.  
379 Historical values of the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty from the literature  
380 (as both air basin averages and at individual receptors) are drawn  
381 as solid black symbols. Values given by ref 8 are decadal air basin  
382 averages constructed from long-term measurements and likely  
383 capture the full O<sub>3</sub>–temperature relationship.

384 The observed trend of the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty from all  
385 literature sources are generally well reproduced by the air quality  
386 model using the meteorology from severe pollution events that  
387 are characterized by very hot surface temperatures ( $r^2 = 0.98$  in  
388 the SoCAB;  $r^2 = 0.69$  in the SJV). The median model prediction  
389 is systematically lower than the measured climate penalty from  
390 ref 8 by at most 0.8 ppb K<sup>-1</sup> in the SoCAB over the past three  
391 decades but is reproduced to within ±0.3 ppb K<sup>-1</sup> in the SJV  
392 from the 1990s to the 2000s. In the SJV, site-by-site differences in  
393 the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty are more pronounced (±1 ppb K<sup>-1</sup>),  
394 including between the current and past model perturbation  
395 studies<sup>3,5</sup> and may reflect differing assumptions therein.  
396 Differences between modeled and observed values may reflect  
397 emissions sector changes (i.e., changes to VOC reactivity<sup>52</sup>)  
398 during the past three decades that are not captured using the  
399 uniform emissions scaling approach employed here or other  
400 contributions that are not captured with the simple temperature  
401 perturbation approach that only affects kinetic rate constants,  
402 biogenic emission rates, and water vapor concentrations in a  
403 representative episode. For example, calculation of the O<sub>3</sub>–  
404 climate penalty from long-term modeled O<sub>3</sub> and surface  
405 temperature may yield different sensitivities than those derived  
406 from a single severe pollution event as some contributing  
407 components of the full O<sub>3</sub>–temperature relationship may be  
408 driven by intraseasonal weather patterns and events. The choice  
409 of biogenic emissions models and chemical mechanisms may also  
410 influence the predicted climate penalty. The sensitivity of the  
411 results to these modeling options should be investigated in future  
412 work.

413 The range of climate penalties at receptors in the SoCAB in  
414 1985 varies by about a factor of 30, +0.7 ppb K<sup>-1</sup> to +26.2 ppb  
415 K<sup>-1</sup>, a substantially wider range of variability compared to the  
416 SJV, +0.6 ppb K<sup>-1</sup> to +3.9 ppb K<sup>-1</sup>. Receptors east of Los Angeles

that are adjacent to the San Gabriel Mountains (a large source of 417  
biogenic VOCs) have the largest climate penalties through out 418  
the simulation period (1985–2020) (Figure S2a, Supporting 419  
Information). These sites are likely sensitive to increased 420  
biogenic VOC emissions through rises in temperature. The 421  
central and coastal receptors in the SoCAB consistently have the 422  
lowest climate penalty as they may be saturated with fresh NO 423  
emissions that titrate O<sub>3</sub>. While the future median O<sub>3</sub>–climate 424  
penalty is projected to decrease steadily in both air basins, some 425  
receptors in the SoCAB near the San Gabriel Mountains (e.g., 426  
Azusa and Claremont, Figure 2b,c) are expected to experience a 427  
rise in the climate penalty due to the strengthening sensitivity of 428  
O<sub>3</sub> to strong biogenic emissions in a region where NO<sub>x</sub> decreases 429  
much more rapidly than VOC emissions. The 2020 median O<sub>3</sub>– 430  
climate penalty is projected to be +0.8 ppb K<sup>-1</sup> in the SoCAB 431  
(basin-wide range of –0.8 ppb K<sup>-1</sup> to +11.8 ppb K<sup>-1</sup>) and +0.9 432  
ppb K<sup>-1</sup> in the SJV (basin-wide range of 0.0 ppb K<sup>-1</sup> to +1.5 ppb 433  
K<sup>-1</sup>), suggesting under the projected emissions pathway that 434  
increases in temperature due to climate change may continue to 435  
have deleterious effects on O<sub>3</sub> control programs. Although 436  
average daily NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC emissions are projected to decrease 437  
37% and 12%, respectively, over the next decade in the SoCAB,<sup>27</sup> 438  
potential concomitant anthropogenic VOC emissions reductions 439  
may be beneficial to reduce both base case O<sub>3</sub> and to further 440  
diminish the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty. 441

In NO<sub>x</sub>-limited regions such as the SJV and the eastern United 442  
States, continued decreases in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are anticipated and 443  
may continue to lower the O<sub>3</sub>–climate penalty. The exact O<sub>3</sub>– 444  
temperature relationship at other locations should be evaluated 445  
for a representative episode of interest (peak or average) using an 446  
appropriate reference year (historical or present day). Future 447  
studies should also account for climate-driven changes to 448  
atmospheric circulation, changes in land use, choice of boundary 449  
conditions that reflect changes to long-range transport of 450  
pollutants, and scaling individual emissions sectors to accurately 451  
reflect emission control targets. 452

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT 453

### 📄 Supporting Information 454

Figures showing the location of the ozone receptors used in this 455  
study and model results for each air basin showing the spatial 456  
distribution of the ozone–climate penalty. This material is 457  
available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>. 458

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### Notes 466

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