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Comment

Interactive comment on “Wintertime particulate pollution episodes in an urban valley of the Western US: a case study” by L.-W. A. Chen et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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The manuscript describes wintertime measurements of particulate matter including chemical composition in the vicinity of Reno, Nevada. The primary objective of the study was to investigate conditions that lead to exceedances or potential exceedances of air quality standards and the composition and sources of PM during these times. The methods are adequately described and appropriate for the study and the manuscript is organized and extremely well written. In its present form, however, it is quite specific to the study region and would benefit from a minor revision in the form of additional background information and discussion of other regions where the processes investigated here may be important. There is brief mention of the results being useful for developing control strategies in other urban valleys, but this section could be expanded to include examples of other studies in similar regions and a brief comparison of the major findings from this study to those presented for other regions.

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Several figures would also benefit from minor modifications. Figures 3 and 6 need more information regarding the sizing of the data points. Are they scaled by area or diameter (should be area)? The scale also needs an example of the concentration represented by the smaller points as well as the largest one that is given in the caption. The data point labels in Figure 7 are difficult to read.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss., 12, 15801, 2012.

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