



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

www.aqmd.gov

@SouthCoastAQMD    

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 18, 2019

## **South Coast AQMD Extends Smoke Advisory Due to a Debris Fire in City of Thermal**

*Valid: Friday, October 18, through Saturday, October 19, 2019*

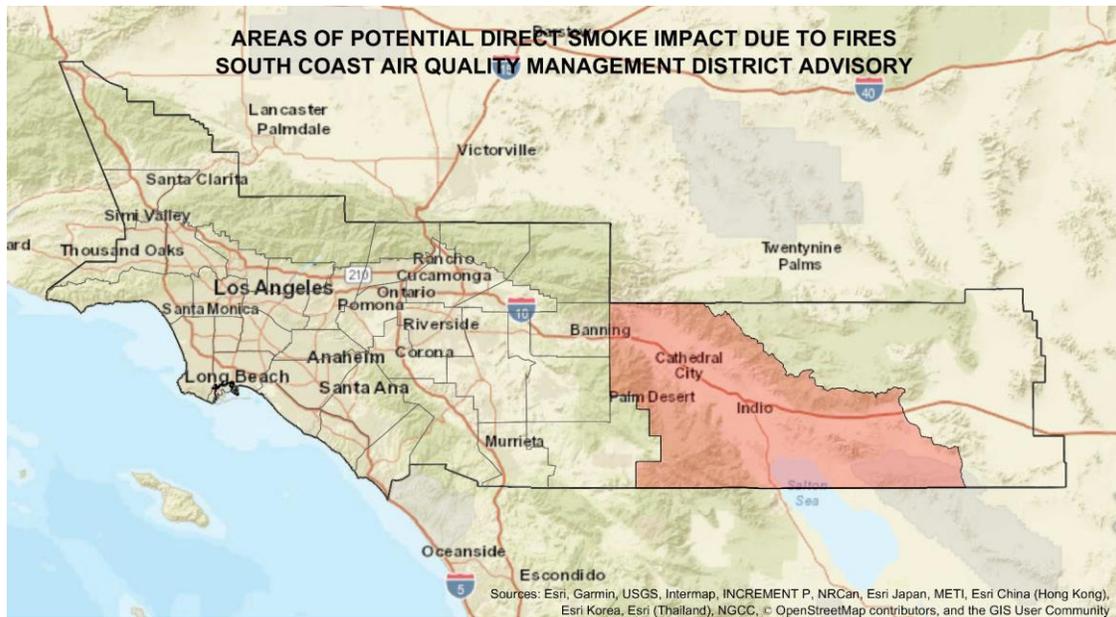
*This advisory is in effect through Saturday Afternoon. South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.*

A large debris fire is burning near the intersection of Avenue 66 and Martinez Road in the city of Thermal in the Coachella Valley. The burn area is approximately 35 acres with no containment and is expected to burn for at least the next several days. Currently the fire is producing heavy smoke and has been impacting Thermal, La Quinta, and Mecca, as well as communities near the Salton Sea. South Coast AQMD's monitor in Thermal and low-cost sensors in the communities of Thermal and Mecca have been showing PM2.5 concentrations in the Moderate AQI level on Thursday evening and Friday morning. This has been in part due to winds pushing smoke towards the Salton Sea and away from the monitor. To view current readings from the South Coast AQMD's monitor in Thermal visit <https://tinyurl.com/y5bjzzak>.

Wind speeds are predicted to be low and wind directions predominantly from the northwest but variable throughout Friday afternoon and evening. This will result in smoke impacts at surrounding areas in La Quinta, Thermal, Oasis, Mecca and the Salton Sea throughout Friday afternoon and Friday night. Winds are predicted to be from the northwest during Saturday morning, which will push smoke to the southeast toward Oasis and the Salton Sea. Winds will shift to be from the southeast on Saturday afternoon, pushing smoke toward Thermal and La Quinta. Low mixing heights in the atmosphere overnight could lead to lower smoke plume rise and elevated ground level concentrations of PM2.5 in the early morning hours on Saturday. If the fire continues to generate smoke, impacts are expected to continue throughout the Coachella Valley.

Overall, meteorological conditions may bring smoke and ash into portions of the Coachella Valley. Air quality may reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or higher in areas directly impacted by smoke.

- **Riverside County:** Coachella Valley (Area 30)



***In any area impacted by smoke:*** If you smell smoke or see ash due to a wildfire, limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed or seeking alternate shelter, and avoiding vigorous physical activity. For more tips on protecting yourself during a wildfire, see South Coast AQMD's Wildfire Smoke & Ash Health & Safety Tips page: <http://www.aqmd.gov/wildfire-health-info-smoke-tips>.

- South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: [www.aqmd.gov/advisory](http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory)
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to [www.AirAlerts.org](http://www.AirAlerts.org)
- To view current air quality conditions by region in an interactive map, see [www.aqmd.gov/aqimap](http://www.aqmd.gov/aqimap)
- For real-time air quality information, maps, notifications and health alerts in your area, download our award-winning South Coast AQMD app at: [www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp](http://www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp)
- Air quality forecasts are available at <http://www.aqmd.gov/forecast>
- For a map of South Coast AQMD Forecast Areas, see <http://www.aqmd.gov/ForecastAreas>

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov), download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

###