



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 19, 2020

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Bradley Whitaker, (909) 396-3456, Cell: (909) 323-9516

Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431

[press@aqmd.gov](mailto:press@aqmd.gov)

## South Coast AQMD Continues Smoke Advisory for Lake and Holser Fires

**Valid: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 through Thursday August 20, 2020**

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

A wildfire named the Lake Fire is burning northeast of Castaic in Los Angeles County, within the Angeles National Forest. As of 11:00 AM on Wednesday, the burn area was 25,948 acres with 38% containment. Current information on the Lake Fire can be found on the Incident Information System (InciWeb) at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6953/>. A second wildfire named the Holser Fire is burning west of Santa Clarita near Lake Piru in Ventura County. As of 11:00 AM on Wednesday, the burn area was 3,000 acres with 45% containment. Current information on the Holser Fire can be found on the Ventura County Fire Department's website at <https://vcfd.org/>.

### Past and Current Smoke Impacts

The Lake Fire is producing heavy smoke on Wednesday afternoon while the Holser Fire is producing localized smoke based on satellite imagery, webcam imagery and social media posts. Fire activity from the Lake Fire is currently generating smoke plumes, which are mainly concentrated to higher altitudes and moving to the north and east on Wednesday afternoon. PM2.5 levels at South Coast AQMD's monitors in Santa Clarita, Reseda, and North Hollywood have been within the **Moderate to Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** Air Quality Index (AQI) levels since Tuesday afternoon. PM2.5 concentrations at low-cost sensors in Santa Clarita, the San Fernando Valley, and the west San Gabriel Valley have been within the **Good to Unhealthy** AQI levels since Tuesday evening. Visit <https://www.aqmd.gov/aqdata> to view current air quality conditions.

### Forecasted Smoke Impacts

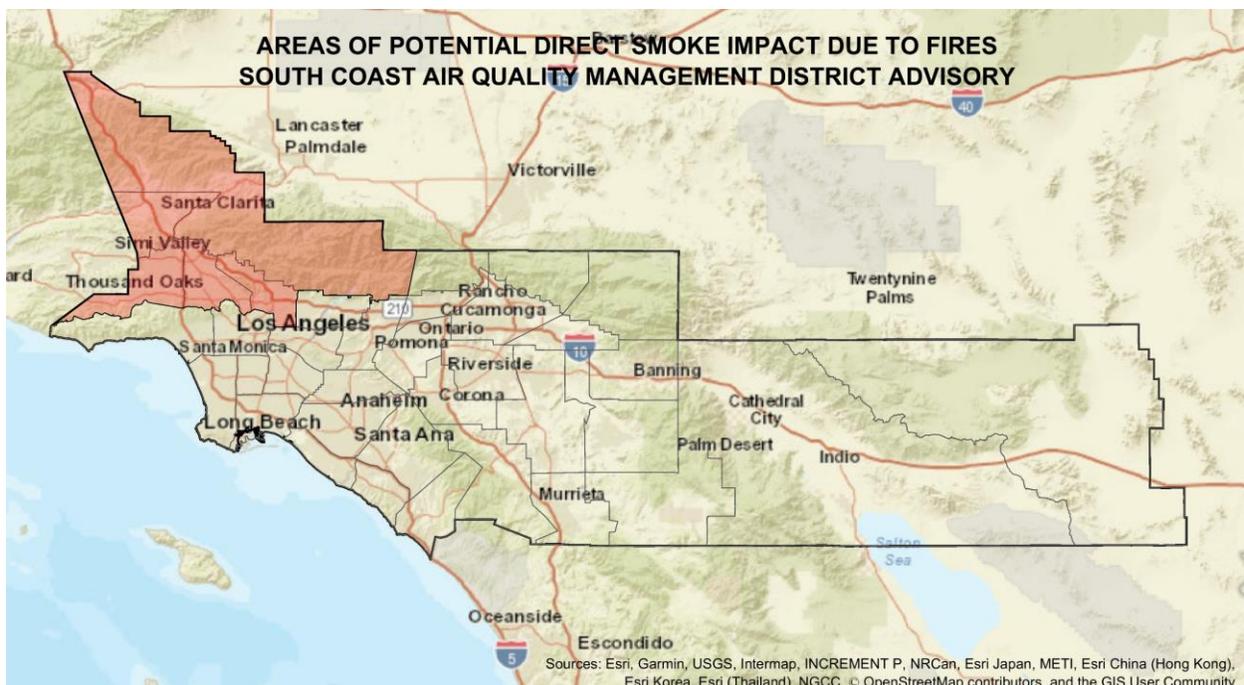
- On Wednesday afternoon, winds are predicted to be from the southwest and will push smoke to the northeast and out of the South Coast Air Basin.

- On Wednesday evening through Thursday morning, winds will shift to come from the north and northwest. During this time, it is possible that some smoke from the fires may be transported down from the higher elevations to areas south and southeast of the fire such as Santa Clarita, the San Fernando Valley, and the Angeles National Forest. Elevated ground level concentrations of PM2.5 are expected overnight as the smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground.
- On Thursday afternoon, winds near the fire will shift to come from the west and southwest and blow any smoke to the east and northeast and out of the South Coast Air Basin.

Overall, meteorological conditions may bring smoke and ash into portions of the San Gabriel Mountains, Santa Clarita Valley, and San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles County. **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or higher AQI levels due to PM2.5 concentrations are possible in areas of direct smoke impacts. Ozone levels not directly associated with the fire are expected to reach **Unhealthy to Very Unhealthy** AQI levels in some areas of the South Coast Basin on Thursday afternoon and evening.

Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include portions of:

- **Los Angeles County:** West San Fernando Valley (Area 6), East San Fernando Valley (Area 7), West San Gabriel Valley (Area 8), Santa Clarita Valley (Area 13), San Gabriel Mountains (Area 15)



**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 <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 South Coast AQMD Daily Rule 403.1 High Wind Forecasts for the Coachella Valley call (909) 396-2399 or 1-800-CUT-SMOG
- 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](#).

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