



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

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

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

press@aqmd.gov

Summer Smog Season Has Begun, Stay Informed of Air Quality Levels

DIAMOND BAR – May marks the start of summer ozone season in the Greater Los Angeles region. Hot, stagnant weather during this time of year can increase the formation of ground-level ozone—commonly known to most as smog—and lead to unhealthy air quality throughout the region.

Although Los Angeles saw one of its greatest stretches of clean air in early spring due to rainfall and reduced economic activity that came as a result of the COVID-19 stay-at-home measures, these changes were only temporary. As hotter temperatures return the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) wants to remind residents that some areas of the South Coast Air Basin and the Coachella Valley can see unhealthy levels of smog.

“The modest reduction in traffic we are seeing does not mean an end to the air quality effects of smog season,” said Wayne Nastri, Executive Officer of South Coast AQMD. “May is an important time for raising air quality awareness as we move into the hot summer months and see a rise in ozone levels.”

Poor air quality can cause or worsen breathing problems, asthma attacks, lung inflammation and bronchitis. Young children, older adults and those with respiratory issues are at higher risk of having health problems from air pollution.

South Coast AQMD reminds residents to stay informed of air quality levels in their area and adjust their outdoor activities accordingly.

There are several ways to access air quality information:

- Download South Coast AQMD’s award-winning [smartphone app](#) available for Apple and Android devices;
- Visit www.aqmd.gov/aqdata to view real-time air quality and www.aqmd.gov/forecast for hourly air quality forecasts;

- Sign up to receive daily air quality forecasts and air quality alerts by e-mail at: www.airalerts.org.

Smog season officially ends on September 30, although high ozone levels may continue into October and other air pollutants can lead to unhealthy air quality during the rest of the year.

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, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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