FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 30, 2021
MEDIA CONTACT:
Bradley Whitaker, (909) 396-3456, Cell: (909) 323-9516
Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431
press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD Unveils New Interactive Tools for Understanding Toxic Air Pollution
The MATES V Data Visualization Tool and Air Monitoring Dashboard will help communities better understand their exposure to air toxics

DIAMOND BAR – As part of the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (South Coast AQMD) fifth iteration of the multi-year Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study (MATES V), the agency has unveiled two online tools for residents to explore air toxics data and health impacts in the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley.
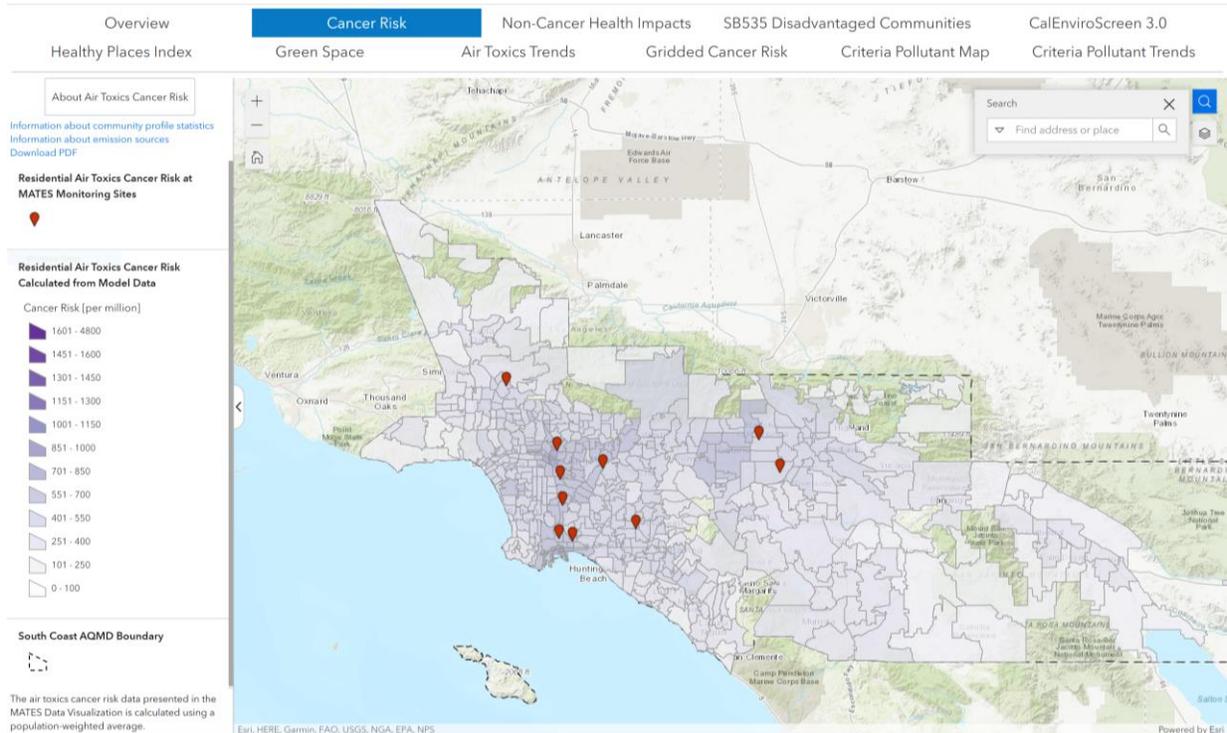
"The MATES study helps us evaluate overall progress in reducing air toxics and impacts in our region," said Wayne Nastri, South Coast AQMD's executive officer. "These tools will help residents access data on long-term trends in air quality and health risks in their communities."

South Coast AQMD has conducted MATES studies since 1986 to understand the impacts of toxic air pollution in the region. Air toxics are pollutants that can cause serious health problems. Many air toxics are carcinogens, which can cause cancer over many years of exposure. MATES V provides data on the long-term impacts of regional air toxics levels in South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction using an emissions inventory, air monitoring and health risk modeling, with a focus on impacts in environmental justice communities. Over 60 air quality scientists, engineers and technicians were involved in the development of MATES V. Results show toxic air pollution has decreased by more than 54% since 2012, but continues to contribute to health risks, including cancers and other chronic diseases. Diesel particulate matter is the main contributor to cancer risk from air toxics.
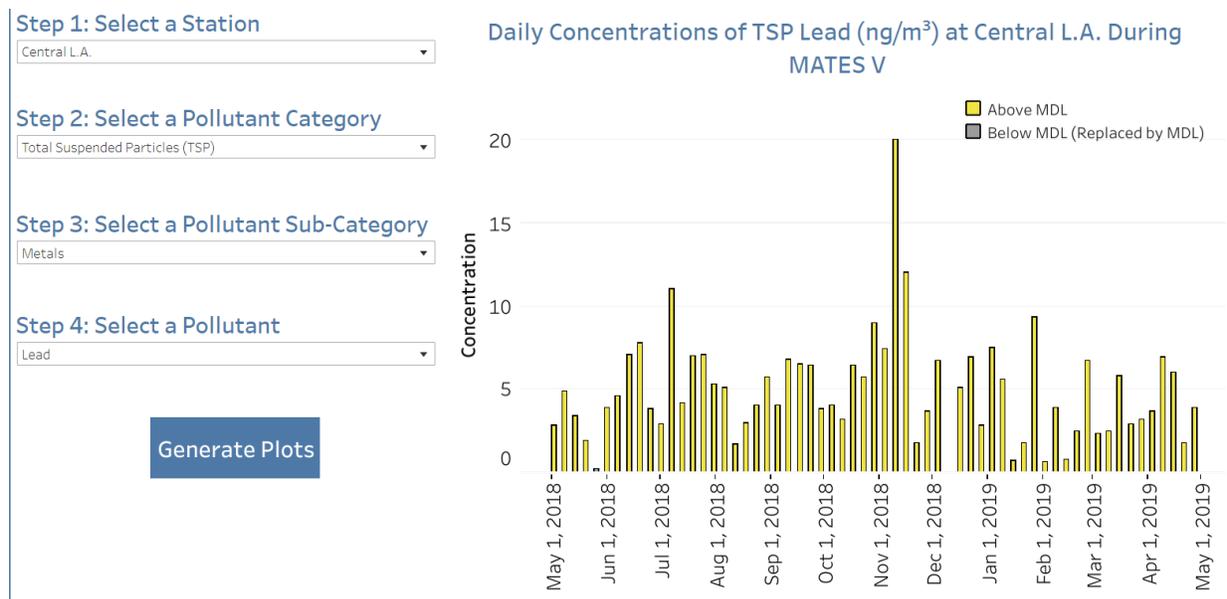
The Data Visualization Tool provides maps and interactive data showing air toxics health risks estimated in MATES V and in previous MATES studies. Users can explore the cancer risks, non-cancer health impacts, air pollution trends and additional environmental justice data tools. Users can zoom in to specific locations for more localized details for their zip code.

The Air Monitoring Data Dashboard enables users to access air monitoring data collected during MATES V. With multiple drop-down filters, users can select a specific pollutant and generate charts to see the levels and trends at a specific air monitoring site. The dashboard also displays air toxics trends from MATES studies since 1998.

The Data Visualization Tool and Air Monitoring Data Dashboard can be accessed on South Coast AQMD's MATES V webpage at: www.aqmd.gov/matesv.

Data Visualization Tool

Air Monitoring Data Dashboard

MATES V includes a fixed site monitoring program with ten stations, an updated emissions inventory of toxic air contaminants and a modeling effort to characterize risk across the Basin. The study focuses on the carcinogenic risk from exposure to air toxics. This is also the first MATES study to explore the chronic non-cancer health impacts of air toxics.

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for major portions of Los Angeles, Orange, 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.

# # #