



South Coast  
AQMD

# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** July 25, 2021

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## **South Coast AQMD Issues Odor Advisory for Eastern Coachella Valley**

**Valid Sunday July 25, 2021 through Tuesday July 27, 2021**

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

The South Coast Air Quality Management District has issued an odor advisory for the Eastern Coachella Valley due to elevated levels of a gas that smells like rotten eggs. That gas, hydrogen sulfide, is associated with natural processes occurring in the Salton Sea. South Coast AQMD monitors hydrogen sulfide at three locations in the Eastern Coachella Valley, one very close to the Salton Sea, one in the community of Mecca, and one in Indio.

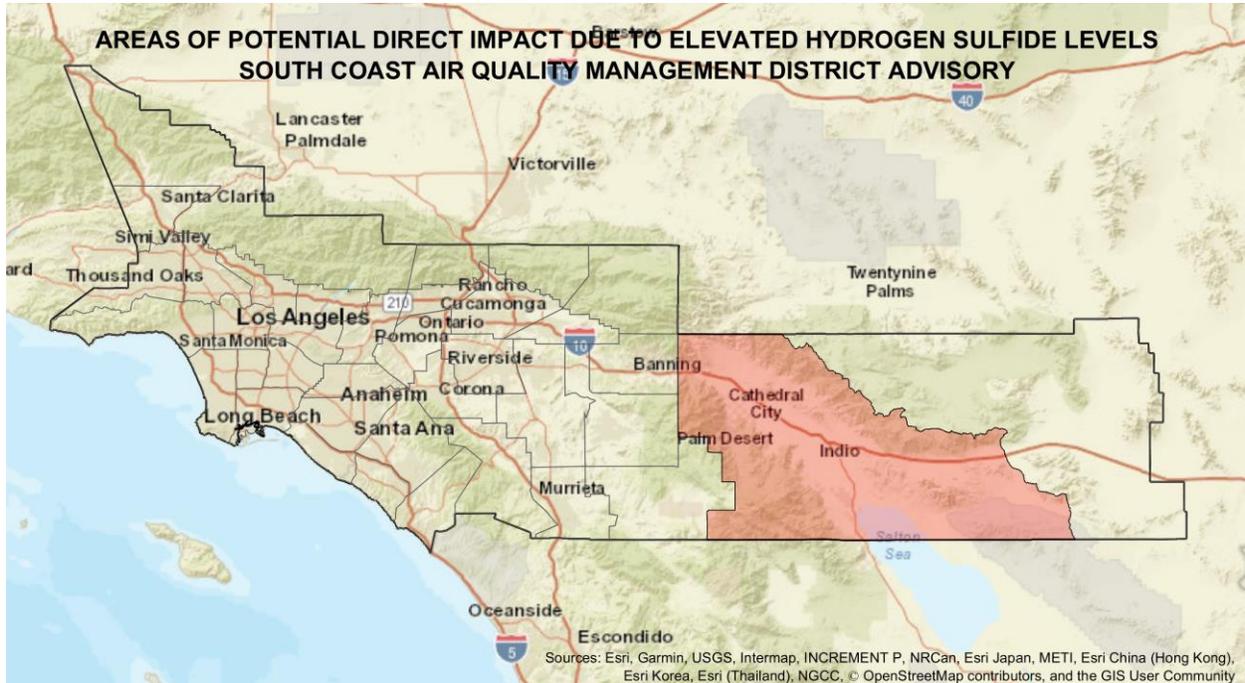
On Sunday morning, winds out of the southeast brought elevated hydrogen sulfide concentrations into the Eastern Coachella Valley. Hydrogen sulfide concentrations reached 48 parts per billion (ppb) at a monitor close to the shore, 52 ppb at a monitor in Mecca, and 31 ppb at a monitor in Indio. Over the past several days, the highest concentrations at both monitors have occurred when winds were blowing out of the southeast, especially during the overnight and morning hours when the atmosphere is more stable.

Winds from the southeast are expected from approximately 11 AM to 5 PM on Monday and during daylight hours on Tuesday, possibly leading to elevated concentrations at the Near-Shore, Mecca and Indio community sites. However, forecasted showers and thunderstorms on Sunday evening and on Monday may help reduce hydrogen sulfide levels due improved atmospheric mixing and the cleansing effect of rainfall.

The state standard for outdoor levels of hydrogen sulfide is 30 ppb averaged over one hour. At that level, most individuals can smell the odor and some may experience symptoms such as headaches and nausea. However, the symptoms associated with this level of exposure are temporary and do not cause any long-term health effects. Humans can detect hydrogen sulfide odors at extremely low concentrations, down to a few parts per billion.

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

- Riverside County: Coachella Valley (Area 30)



- More health information on hydrogen sulfide can be found at the following link: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxguides/toxguide-114.pdf>
- Visit <http://saltonseaodor.org> for current hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) monitored values in the Salton Sea area or to sign up for H<sub>2</sub>S alerts.
- 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 a map of South Coast AQMD Forecast Areas, see <http://www.aqmd.gov/ForecastAreas>.

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](http://www.aqmd.gov), download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).