

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 13, 2024

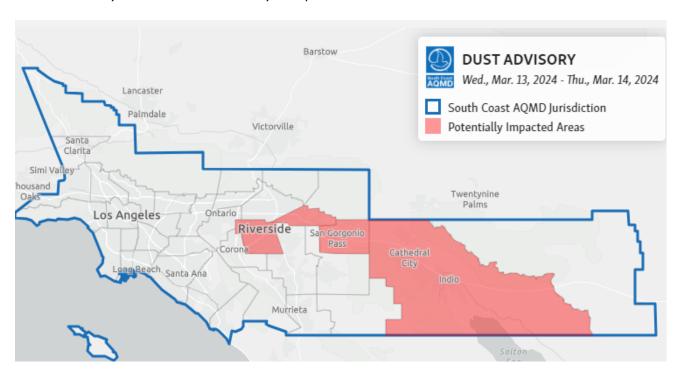
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## South Coast AQMD Expands Windblown Dust Advisory to Include East San Bernardino Valley and Metropolitan Riverside County

Valid Wednesday 11:00 a.m. until Thursday 6:00 p.m.



Wind gusts up to 38 mph have been recorded in the Coachella Valley since Tuesday morning, and air quality reached **Unhealthy** levels at times.

To view current air quality in your neighborhood, download the <u>South Coast AQMD app</u> or visit <u>www.aqmd.gov/AQImap</u>.

## **Forecasted Air Quality Impacts**

- After a brief lull during the day on Wednesday, expect periods of elevated particle pollution (PM10) levels in the San Gorgonio Pass area, the Coachella Valley, East San Bernardino Valley and Metropolitan Riverside County between Wednesday night and Thursday evening
- Blowing dust may result in Air Quality Index (AQI) levels that are Unhealthy or worse at times
- High PM10 levels in the region are a result of gusty winds, which can lift dust and soil into the air
- Air quality can vary by hour and location depending on wind conditions
- As of Wednesday morning, the National Weather Service (NWS) has posted Wind Advisories and High Wind Watches across the area. Visit NWS San Diego website <a href="https://www.weather.gov/sgx/">https://www.weather.gov/sgx/</a> for more information.

## If you are in an area impacted by windblown dust or ash:

- Limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed or seeking alternate shelter.
- Avoid vigorous physical activity.
- Run your air conditioning and/or an air purifier. If possible, do not use swamp coolers or whole house fans that bring in outside air.
- Help minimize dust pollution by stabilizing loose soils and slowing down if driving on dirt roads.

For more information, see the **EPA Guide for Particle Pollution** (PDF).

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit us at <a href="https://www.aqmd.gov">www.aqmd.gov</a>, download our award-winning app, or follow us on <a href="facebook">Facebook</a>, <a href="mailto:X">X</a> (formerly known as Twitter) and <a href="mailto:Instagram">Instagram</a>.