

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 9, 2022 MEDIA CONTACT: Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431 Kim White, (909) 396-3456, Cell: (909) 323-9479 press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory for Most of the South Coast AQMD's Jurisdiction

Valid: Thursday, March 10, 2022 through Friday, March 11, 2022

This advisory is in effect until 6:00 a.m. Friday. South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.

A PM10 Dust Advisory is in effect from 10:00 a.m. Thursday through 6:00 a.m. Friday due to high winds and dry conditions in most of South Coast AQMD's jurisdiction, except for coastal Los Angeles and Orange Counties, the Santa Clarita Valley, the San Gabriel and San Bernadino Mountains. As of Wednesday afternoon, the National Weather Service (NWS) has posted Wind Advisories and Blowing Dust Advisories throughout the region due to strong Santa Ana winds. For information regarding the NWS warnings, please visit the NWS San Diego (<u>https://www.weather.gov/sgx/</u>) and NWS Phoenix (<u>https://www.weather.gov/psr/</u>) websites.

These conditions can lift dust and soil and lead to poor air quality. Air Quality Index (AQI) categories will vary from **Moderate** to **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or higher, mostly on Thursday. The most significant impacts are expected in the valleys of the Inland Empire and the Coachella Valley. Air quality can vary hour by hour and by location depending on wind conditions.

In areas directly impacted by high levels of windblown dust, limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed and avoiding vigorous physical activity. Run your air conditioner or an air purifier. If temperatures allow, avoid using whole house fans or swamp coolers that bring in outside air.

Exposure to high particle pollution levels can cause serious health problems, including asthma attacks, heart and lung disease symptoms, and increased risk of respiratory infections. People with heart or lung diseases should follow their doctor's advice for dealing with episodes of unhealthy air quality. Children, older adults, and people with respiratory or heart disease should avoid prolonged exposure and strenuous activities when particle pollution levels are high.

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

• Los Angeles County: Central Los Angeles (Area 1), Southeast LA County (Area 5), East San Fernando Valley (Area 7), West San Gabriel Valley (Area 8), East San Gabriel Valley (Area 9), Pomona-Walnut Valley (Area 10), South San Gabriel Valley (Area 11), South Central Los Angeles County (Area 12)

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- **Orange County**: Northern Orange County (Area 16), Central Orange County (Area 17), Saddleback Valley (Area 19)
- Riverside County: Corona-Norco (Area 22), Metropolitan Riverside County (Area 23), Perris Valley (Area 24), Lake Elsinore (Area 25), Temecula Valley (Area 26), Anza Valley (Area 27), Hemet-San Jacinto Valley (Area 28), San Gorgonio Pass (Area 29), Coachella Valley (Area 30), East Riverside County (Area 31)
- San Bernardino County: Northwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 32), Southwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 33), Central San Bernardino Valley (Area 34), East San Bernardino Valley (Area 35)



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- South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: <u>http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory</u>
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories, and forecasts by email, go to <u>http://AirAlerts.org</u>
- 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 awardwinning South Coast AQMD app at: <u>http://www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp</u>
- 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 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 <u>www.aqmd.gov</u>, download our award-winning app, or follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram.</u>

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