



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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South Coast AQMD Approves \$220K to Extend Coachella Valley Street Sweeping Program

Investment supports efforts to reduce dust emissions

Diamond Bar, CA – Today, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) approved \$220,000 in funding to the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) to extend regional street sweeping for another year. The additional funding will help reduce dust from “blowsand” and roadway activity—an ongoing challenge in Coachella Valley.

“Extending the street-sweeping program is a continued strategy to control dust and protect public health while we advance broader, medium and long-term dust-mitigation strategies,” said V. Manuel Perez, Riverside County Supervisor and South Coast AQMD Governing Board member.

The funding adds to the \$1.15 million awarded in 2019 for CVAG’s sweeping program that helps control particulate matter (PM10) pollution. Coachella Valley faces a unique challenge where strong winds routinely push fine sand onto paved surfaces, where traffic breaks it into particles that become airborne. Without regular sweeping, these particles can travel into populated areas, cause poor air quality and pose respiratory problems such as worsening asthma.

The program provides weekly street sweeping across about 43,000 curb miles each year, reducing an estimated 0.4 tons of PM10 per day. Crews use low-emission natural gas sweepers, with pickup and dump trucks on designated routes. Additional sand-cleanup occurs after major wind events.

On November 6, South Coast AQMD and Supervisor Perez hosted a Dust Summit featuring community input, scientific presentations, and updates on current and future dust-mitigation efforts in Coachella Valley.

To support long-term dust-reduction planning, South Coast AQMD has installed a [camera in San Jacinto State Park](#) to track dust generation and movement on the valley floor, with another camera planned for the eastern valley. In October, South Coast AQMD adopted a three-part dust-

reduction plan focusing on identifying major dust sources, developing targeted mitigation strategies, and funding projects to reduce emissions in the most affected areas.

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 www.aqmd.gov, download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly known as Twitter) and [Instagram](#).

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