



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

www.aqmd.gov

@SouthCoastAQMD    

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 27, 2026

MEDIA CONTACT:

Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431

Rainbow Yeung, (909) 396-3373, Cell: (909) 967-2477

press@aqmd.gov

Friday, May 29: South Coast AQMD Deploys New Tools and Technology to Tackle Coachella Valley Dust Pollution

DIAMOND BAR – The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD), in partnership with Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, will host a visual media event on **Friday, May 29** showcasing new and innovative technologies, including expanded air monitoring and targeted field work that will lead to mitigation efforts to tackle windblown dust pollution in the Coachella Valley. These efforts will answer critical questions: where dust originates, how it travels, and how best to reduce it, coupled with improved forecasting—which will support more effective, targeted solutions for the region.

Windblown dust remains a persistent challenge in the Coachella Valley, contributing to elevated particulate matter levels that can impact public health and daily life. To better understand and reduce these impacts, South Coast AQMD is deploying tools designed specifically for the region's unique conditions.

At this event, media will get an up-close look at how scientists are tackling the issue in real time.

Media will see a live demonstration of the Portable In-Situ Wind Erosion Laboratory (PI-SWERL)—a specialized field instrument that was ordered specifically to sample Coachella Valley dust conditions by measuring how easily dust becomes airborne. This critical data helps inform future mitigation strategies and more protective public health recommendations.

The event will also feature live dust sampling and highlight South Coast AQMD's growing network of air quality sensors, which provide localized, real-time air quality information to better inform and protect the public.

WHO:

Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

Dr. Scott Epstein, South Coast AQMD

Dr. William C. Porter, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, UC Riverside

Dr. Amato Evan, Professor, Climate Sciences, UC San Diego

WHAT:

Media event featuring live demonstrations and updates on dust monitoring and research efforts in the Coachella Valley, including:

- PI-SWERL dust measurement demonstrations
- Real-time dust sampling and data collection
- Low-cost air monitoring network updates

WHEN:

Friday, May 29, 2026

10:30 a.m.

MEDIA SHOULD ARRIVE by 10:15 a.m.

WHERE:

UC Riverside Palm Desert

(Open area adjacent to the parking lot)

75080 Frank Sinatra Dr.

Palm Desert, CA 92211

[Map](#)

RSVP/MEDIA CONTACT: Connie Villanueva, cvillanueva@aqmd.gov, (909) 215-5601.

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](#).

###