



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **South Coast AQMD Deploys New Tools and Technology to Tackle Coachella Valley Dust Pollution**

**DIAMOND BAR** – Today, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD), in partnership with Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, showcased new tools and innovative technologies that will lead to mitigation efforts to reduce windblown dust pollution in the Coachella Valley. The efforts were highlighted during a live sampling event near UC Riverside, Palm Desert Campus.

Windblown dust remains a persistent challenge in the Coachella Valley, contributing to elevated particulate matter levels that can impact public health and daily life. South Coast AQMD's latest efforts will answer critical questions about where dust originates, how it travels, and how to best reduce it, coupled with improved forecasting. These science-based solutions will help Coachella Valley communities who need answers.

"These are tools and resources designed specifically to address the unique dust challenges facing our region," said Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez. "Dust pollution continues to impact communities across the Coachella Valley, and we are aligning resources and investments to reduce emissions and protect public health."

During the event, South Coast AQMD demonstrated expanded air monitoring, targeted fieldwork, and specialized field equipment that was ordered specifically to sample Coachella Valley dust conditions. Featured technology includes the Portable In-Situ Wind Erosion Laboratory (PI-SWERL), a field instrument that measures how easily dust becomes airborne from different surfaces. Data collected through PI-SWERL and related sampling efforts will help inform future dust mitigation strategies and strengthen public health protections.

This is all part of South Coast AQMD's 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.

Scientists also conducted dust sampling, highlighting South Coast AQMD's growing network of air quality sensors in the Coachella Valley. In addition to four regulatory air monitoring stations and four

[environmental cameras](#) used to track dust activity, four [air quality sensors](#) have already been deployed, with three additional sensors planned for deployment. This enhanced network provides more localized and real-time air quality data to help better understand changing conditions, assess potential pollution impacts, and support timely actions to protect public health.

B-roll and event photos are available for download here: [CV Dust Media Event – B-roll & Photos](#).

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

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