



South Coast  
AQMD

# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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@SouthCoastAQMD    

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 16, 2026

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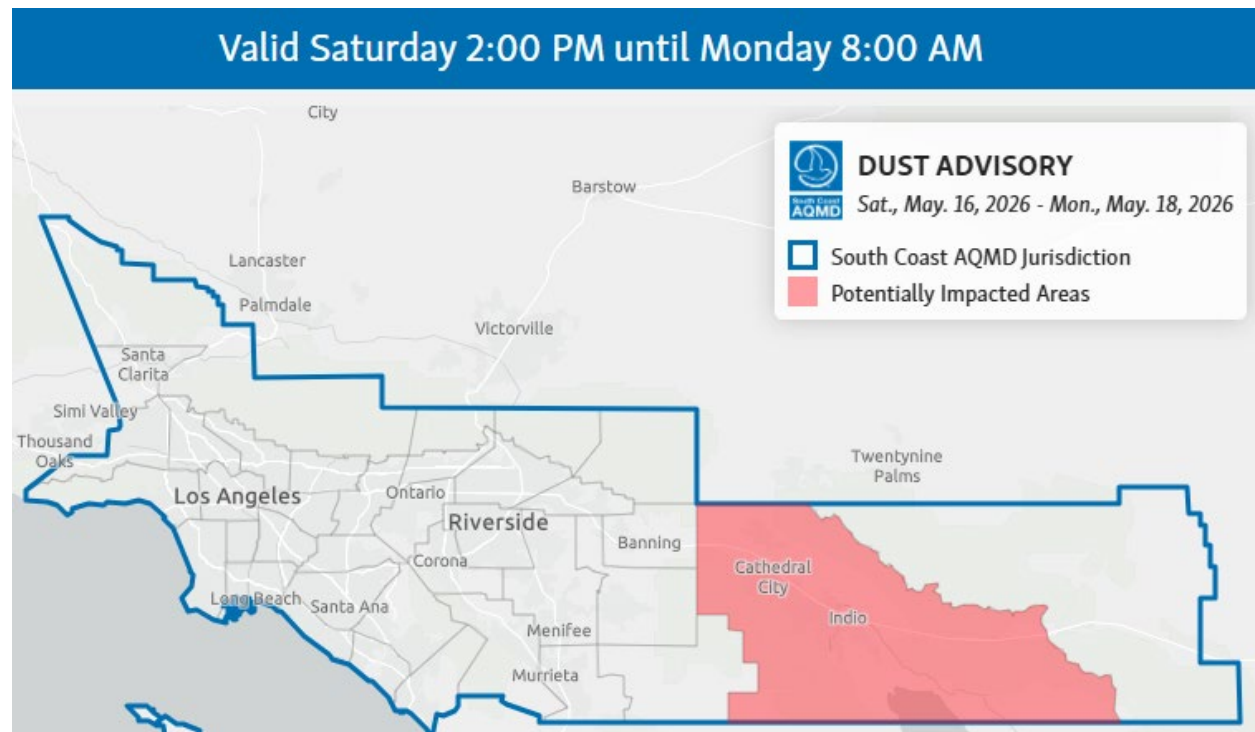
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## South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory for the Coachella Valley

*Valid Saturday 2 PM through Monday 8:00 AM*



### Current Conditions

- South Coast AQMD is issuing a windblown dust advisory through Monday morning
- The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Wind Advisory for Riverside County mountains until 11 PM Sunday. Visit the NWS San Diego [www.weather.gov/sgx](http://www.weather.gov/sgx) for more information.

- Measured PM10 levels from an air quality monitor in Northern Cathedral City reached the **Hazardous** Air Quality Index (AQI) on Friday and Saturday and PM10 levels in Mecca reached **Unhealthy** AQI on Friday Moderate
- PM10 levels were **Good** to **Moderate** in Indio

To view current air quality in your neighborhood, download the [South Coast AQMD app](#) or visit [www.aqmd.gov/AQImap](http://www.aqmd.gov/AQImap).

### Forecasted Air Quality Impacts

- Higher winds may cause blowing dust and high particle pollution (PM10) levels in the Very Unhealthy or higher Air Quality Index (AQI) category at times in parts of the Coachella Valley through 8 AM Monday
- The highest PM10 levels and AQI are expected in the Northern Coachella Valley
- Air Quality can vary by hour and location depending on wind conditions.

### Detailed Forecast

Saturday afternoon	AQI may reach <b>Very Unhealthy</b> or higher levels in Northern Cathedral City and nearby areas
6 PM Saturday through 8 AM Sunday	Winds are expected to increase starting 6 PM Saturday. AQI may reach <b>Very Unhealthy</b> or higher levels in the Northern Coachella Valley and <b>Unhealthy</b> or higher in other parts of Coachella Valley.
Sunday daytime	AQI may reach <b>Very Unhealthy</b> or higher levels in Northern Cathedral City and nearby areas
6 PM Sunday through 8 AM Monday	Winds are expected to increase starting 6 PM Saturday. AQI may reach <b>Very Unhealthy</b> or higher levels in the Northern Coachella Valley and <b>Unhealthy</b> or higher in other parts of Coachella Valley.

*South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.*

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

- 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 [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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