



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

www.aqmd.gov

@SouthCoastAQMD    

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 13, 2026

MEDIA CONTACT:

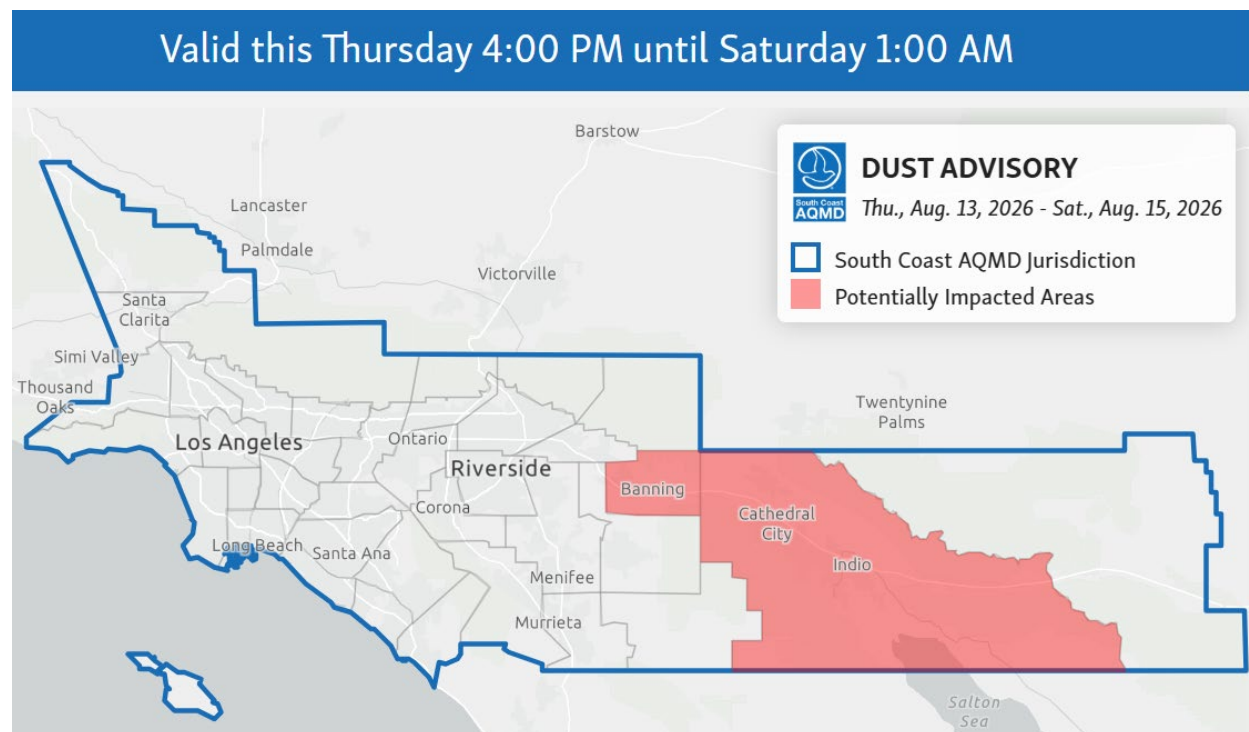
Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431

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

press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory for the Coachella Valley

Valid until Saturday 1:00 AM



Forecasted Air Quality Impacts

- Wind gusts near 50 mph are expected in the San Geronio Pass and Western Coachella Valley, and wind gusts of 20 to 40 mph are expected across much of the Coachella Valley on Thursday and Friday. Visit the NWS San Diego website www.weather.gov/sgx/ for more information.

- Loose dust deposited from storms earlier this week could easily get airborne again during strong winds.
- Windblown dust and high PM10 in the **Unhealthy** or higher Air Quality Index (AQI) categories are expected in the Western Coachella Valley for the evenings and overnight on Thursday and Friday.
- In other areas of the Coachella Valley, **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or higher AQI categories are expected at times for the evenings and overnight on Thursday and Friday.
- Isolated thunderstorms south of Salton Sea could increase dust in the afternoon Thursday and Friday in the Eastern Coachella Valley. Visit the NWS Phoenix website www.weather.gov/psr/ for more information about forecasted thunderstorms

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

Detailed Forecast

Thursday evening and overnight	Unhealthy or higher AQI categories are expected in the Western Coachella Valley near Northern Cathedral City. AQI may reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups in other areas of the Coachella Valley and the San Gorgonio Pass.
Friday daytime	The PM10 AQI may remain in the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups category throughout the day in the Western Coachella Valley. Good to Moderate AQI is more likely in other areas of the Coachella Valley and the San Gorgonio Pass.
Friday evening and overnight	Unhealthy or higher AQI categories are expected in the Western Coachella Valley near Northern Cathedral City. AQI may reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups in other areas of the Coachella Valley and the San Gorgonio Pass.

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

If you are in an area impacted by windblown dust or ash:

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

#