

Stopping air pollution before it starts

The way to fight air pollution is to stop it before it begins. AQMD controls air pollution from stationary sources—everything from big industries such as refineries, factories, and power plants, to smaller businesses such as dry cleaners. Businesses are issued permits and inspected regularly to make sure they have effective pollution controls and to limit their use of smog-forming chemicals.

While AQMD does not set tailpipe emissions standards for vehicles, it helps fight these major sources of air pollution in other ways. One way is through the elimination of dirty diesel by requiring fleets of school buses, trash trucks, and other large vehicles to be replaced by clean-fuel vehicles. AQMD also offers cash incentives to help buy these cleaner trucks and buses.

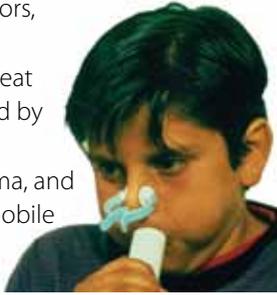


Helping businesses do their part

Helping clean the air can be a challenge. That's why AQMD works with business owners to help them understand and comply with its clean air regulations. AQMD offers more than just advice—in some cases AQMD also provides funds to help businesses switch to cleaner technologies.

Tackling health problems

While clean, healthy air is AQMD's goal for the future, AQMD helps people who are suffering health effects from today's dirty air. AQMD has formed partnerships with doctors, researchers, universities, and elected officials to study and treat serious health problems caused by poor air quality. It has funded major research studies of asthma, and sponsors the deployment of mobile clinics that treat children and families dealing with asthma.



Providing education and outreach

Through outreach, AQMD helps the public understand how air pollution can affect their health. AQMD provides information to businesses, civic leaders, and residents. It also participates in community events and holds town hall meetings, workshops, and hearings. Through these and other events, AQMD informs and involves the public in the effort to clean the air.

Keeping a constant watch on our air

AQMD monitors air quality at 34 permanent stations across the region that provide hourly and daily readings. This provides information on how well our region is meeting its clean-air goals. It also enables AQMD to notify the public whenever air quality is unhealthy.



How you can help

A lot of air pollution comes from the products and services we use every day. We can all help by making some simple changes in the way we live: carpool, use public transit, drive clean-fuel vehicles, use water-based paints, wet down sources of dust, avoid aerosol products, recycle, and conserve energy.

Join the Clean Air Congress and be involved and informed in the fight against air pollution

Do you care about clean air and want to have a part in the fight against air pollution? If so, then the AQMD's Clean Air Congress is for you. Membership is free and open to anyone who resides in the South Coast Air Basin. To learn more, or to sign up, call 1-800-4-CLN-AIR (1-800-425-6247) or visit the Clean Air Congress website at www.cleanaircongress.org.

South Coast Air Quality Management District Key phone numbers

Clean Air Congress	1-800-4-CLN-AIR
Air Quality Complaint Hotline Public Information Center Smog Alerts (all areas)	1-800-CUT-SMOG®
Environmental Justice	(909) 396-3185
Variance and Hearing Board.....	(909) 396-2500
Health Effects Officer	(909) 396-2582
Public Advisor	(909) 396-3185
Legislative and Public Affairs	(909) 396-3242
Small Business Assistance HOTLINE/Fee Review	(800) 388-2121
AQMD General Information	(909) 396-2000

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INTRODUCTION TO AQMD



South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Cleaning the air that we breathe...™



South Coast Air Quality Management District

Cleaning the air that we breathe...™

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) is the air pollution control agency for the South Coast Air Basin, which is comprised of all of Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. This area of 10,743 square miles is home to approximately 17 million people and is the second most populated area in the United States... and also the smoggiest.

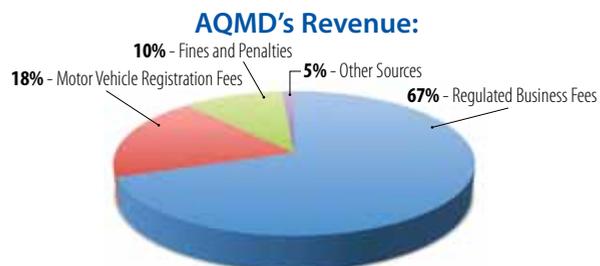
AQMD is responsible for controlling emissions primarily from stationary sources of air pollution. These sources can include anything from large power plants and refineries to the corner gas station. AQMD is also responsible for consumer products not regulated by the State Air Resources Board; these include house paint, furniture varnish, and thousands of products



containing solvents that evaporate into the air. About 20% of this region's ozone-forming air pollution comes from stationary sources and consumer products. The other 80% comes from mobile sources—not only cars, trucks and buses, but also construction equipment, ships, trains and airplanes. Emission standards for mobile sources are established by the State Air Resources Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The AQMD Governing Board is comprised of thirteen representatives consisting of three appointees (one each by the Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, and the State Senate Rules Committee) and ten elected officials from the counties and cities of the South Coast Air Basin.

Approximately 67% of AQMD's revenue comes from fees paid by regulated businesses, 18% from motor vehicle registration fees, and the balance from other sources. Fines and penalties constitute approximately 10% of AQMD's revenue.

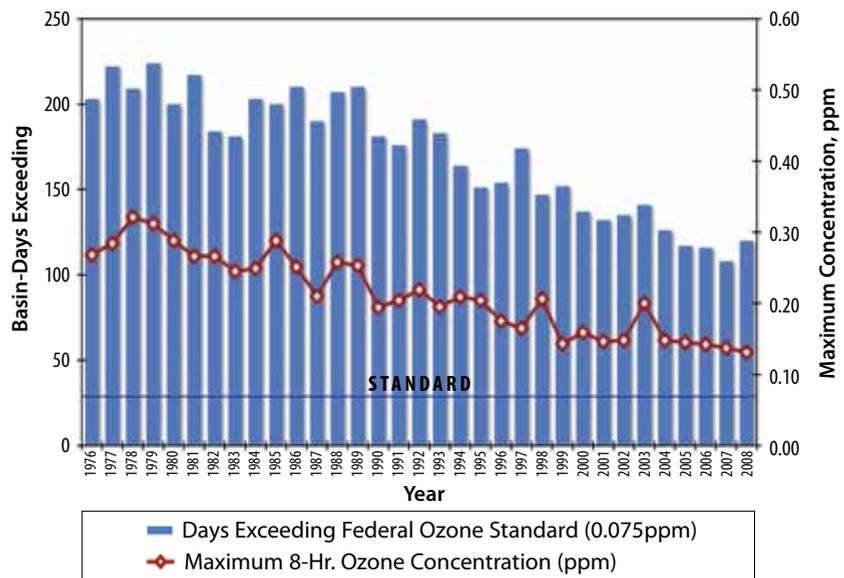


Our air is cleaner but it's still a serious health problem

Thanks to decades of hard work, the air in our region has improved dramatically. The extreme smog days of the 1950s and 1960s, with their frequent thick, choking, brown haze are pretty much over. However, we're not out of the woods yet. While our air quality is better than it has been in decades, it is still among the worst in the nation.

The air pollution in our region causes or contributes to asthma and other respiratory diseases, lung damage, cancer, birth defects, and premature death. Simply put, it is making us sick. We are far from meeting the national health standards for air quality and it will take us until at least 2014—and probably beyond that—to clean up our air.

Progress in Reducing Ozone Pollution 1976-2008



Air pollution is also one of the major factors causing global warming. Global warming is widely recognized by many scientists as a threat to the world's climate and ecosystems.



Rising to the challenge

Fighting air pollution is a long-term battle that takes careful planning, strategy, and frequent innovation to win. Every few years AQMD develops an updated Air Quality Management Plan to keep efforts current. This plan is a blueprint for how AQMD will work with others to meet clean-air standards and protect our health.



Creating new technologies to clean the air

Old technologies, like the internal combustion engine, are what created most of our air pollution in the first place. New, lower-polluting technologies are the key to cleaning it up. AQMD scientists work with other government agencies, private industry, universities, and research institutes to develop technologies that cut down on air pollution. These include everything from futuristic hydrogen-powered fuel cell cars to ordinary household paints and cleaners that contain less smog-forming chemicals.



AQMD Historical Timeline



1947

LA County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) established—the first of its kind in the nation.



1950

Orange County APCD established.



1957

San Bernardino and Riverside County APCDs formed.



1971

U.S. EPA adopts national air quality standards.



1977

South Coast AQMD formed through merger of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino APCDs.



1978

Gas stations required to install vapor recovery "boots" on gas nozzles.



1984

California's smog check program takes effect.



1987

AQMD establishes ridesharing requirements for region's employers.



1989

AQMD adopts first Air Quality Management Plan to show attainment of clean air standards.



1993

RECLAIM (Regional Clean Air Incentives Market) emissions trading program adopted.



1997

50th anniversary of Southern California's war on smog.



2003

AQMD Mow Down Air Pollution Exchange Program begins.



2008

AQMD adopts Climate Change Policy.



2014

Projected achievement of current air quality health standards.

