



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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New project provides local air quality monitoring in the City of Torrance, at refinery fenceline

Diamond Bar—A new air quality project, sponsored by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) was announced today that will provide near real-time information on air pollutants in and around the City of Torrance. The Torrance Air Quality Monitoring Project (Torrance Air) will monitor local air quality using four air quality monitoring stations located throughout the community and four fenceline air monitors at the Torrance Refinery. The data will be made available through a mobile-friendly website, www.torranceair.org.

“This project will complement the air monitoring activities that will be conducted as part of Rule 1180, one of the largest refinery related air monitoring projects the agency has ever implemented,” said Wayne Nastri, South Coast AQMD’s Executive Officer. “The data collected will not only improve our ability to detect emissions from the site, but it will also provide the community with more information on air quality in their city.”

The four air quality stations will be located throughout the City of Torrance to measure harmful air pollutants, including hydrofluoric acid (HF). Two of the stations are already up and running at:

- **North Torrance High School**
- **Elm Avenue**

An additional air quality monitoring station, located at West Torrance High School, is currently being installed and will begin collecting air quality data shortly.

The fourth air monitoring station will be installed downwind of the Torrance refinery by South Coast AQMD as part of its Rule 1180 (Refinery Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring) in early 2020. All four stations were selected to best represent geographic areas of the city.

The four fenceline monitors will soon be installed on the north side of the Torrance refinery and will utilize “Open-Path” instruments that can measure similar pollutants. The fenceline monitoring system provide information on air pollution resulting from refinery operations. The Torrance Refinery will add additional monitors around the complete refinery perimeter in early 2020.

The data gathered via the four community-based monitors is being collected and will be made available through mid-2021 on the website. After that time, South Coast AQMD will continue air monitoring at two community sites as part of Rule 1180 implementation.

Over the next several months, the project will focus on conducting outreach to the Torrance community to provide additional details on how the monitoring system works, how to access the data tools, what compounds are being monitored, and what the resulting data mean for the residents of Torrance.

The Torrance Air Project formed an Advisory Committee, including members of several Torrance homeowners associations, Families Lobbying Against Refinery Exposures (FLARE), Torrance Refinery Action Alliance (TRAA), as well as representatives from the City of Torrance, Torrance Fire Department, Torrance Police Department, Torrance Refinery, Torrance Unified School District, and Torrance Chamber of Commerce, all to help ensure the community is engaged and to provide input for this project.

This project was funded as the result of a settlement following the 2015 incident at the Torrance Refinery, which renewed concerns over local air quality issues as well as the health and safety of the surrounding Torrance community. South Coast AQMD is also working with the city of Torrance on upgrading their community alert system, which will include additional sirens around the city, so that all residents are notified in case of an emergency. The alert system will be tied into public safety agencies and data from the monitoring network so that sirens can be activated quickly.

For access to data or more information on the Torrance Air Project, please visit: www.torranceair.org

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside 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 @SouthCoastAQMD on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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