

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 2, 2020 MEDIA CONTACTS: Bradley Whitaker, (909) 396-3456, Cell: (909) 323-9516 Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431 press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD Issues Windblown Dust Advisory for Portions of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Valid: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 through Thursday, December 3, 2020

This advisory is in effect through Thursday evening. South Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes available.

A PM10 Dust Advisory is in effect from Wednesday, December 2, 2020 through the evening of Thursday, December 3, 2020. Strong Santa Ana winds from the northeast and east with gusts up to 55 – 70 mph are predicted by the National Weather Service (NWS) for Wednesday evening through Thursday. The strongest winds are expected from late afternoon on Wednesday through Thursday morning. Areas of blowing sand and blowing dust are predicted throughout this wind event, which may result in **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or higher AQI levels at times for portions of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and **Very Unhealthy** or higher AQI levels in the Coachella Valley.

The NWS has posted High Wind Warnings and Red Flag Warnings for portions of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. NWS High Wind Warnings will be in effect starting at 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday and expire at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday for Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties and 3:00 p.m. on Thursday for Los Angeles County. NWS Red Flag Warnings are in effect starting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday and expire at 10:00 p.m. on Saturday. For information regarding the NWS warnings, please visit the NWS San Diego (<u>https://www.weather.gov/sgx/</u>) and Los Angeles/Oxnard (<u>https://www.weather.gov/lox</u>) websites.

In areas directly impacted by windblown dust: Limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed and avoiding vigorous physical activity.

Overall, PM10 concentrations are expected to be elevated at times in portions of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties due to the Santa Ana wind event. Air quality may reach **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or higher levels in areas directly impacted by dust. Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include portions of:

- Orange County: Northern Orange County (Area 16), Central Orange County (Area 17)
- **Riverside County**: Corona-Norco (Area 22), Metropolitan Riverside County (Area 23), Perris Valley (Area 24), San Gorgonio Pass (Area 29), Coachella Valley (Area 30), East Riverside County (Area 31)
- San Bernardino County: Northwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 32), Southwest San Bernardino Valley (Area 33), Central San Bernardino Valley (Area 34), East San Bernardino Valley (Area 35)



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- South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: <u>www.aqmd.gov/advisory</u>
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to www.AirAlerts.org
- To view current air quality conditions by region in an interactive map, see http://www.aqmd.gov/aqimap
- For real-time air quality information, maps, notifications and health alerts in your area, download our award-winning South Coast AQMD app at: www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp
- Air quality forecasts are available at <u>http://www.aqmd.gov/forecast</u>
- For South Coast AQMD Daily Rule 403.1 High Wind Forecasts for the Coachella Valley call (909) 396-2399 or 1-800-CUT-SMOG
- For a map of South Coast AQMD Forecast Areas, see http://www.aqmd.gov/ForecastAreas.

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 <u>www.aqmd.gov</u>, download our award-winning app, or follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram.</u>