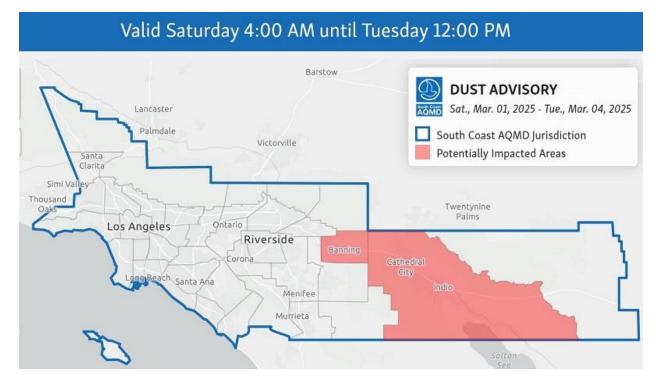


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 3, 2025 MEDIA CONTACT: Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-3773, Cell: (909) 837-2431 Rainbow Yeung: (909) 396-3373, Cell: (909) 967-2477 press@aqmd.gov

# South Coast AQMD Extends Windblown Dust Advisory Due to High Winds in the Banning Pass and Coachella Valley

Valid until Tuesday 12:00 PM



## **Current Conditions**

- South Coast AQMD has extended a windblown dust advisory through noon on Tuesday.
- Wind gusts up to 55 miles per hour were observed in the Banning Pass from Sunday through Monday morning.

- Gusty winds have caused blowing dust with particle pollution (PM10) levels in the Good to Very Unhealthy (AQI) categories at times on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning in parts of the Coachella Valley, with the highest levels observed in Cathedral City and Mecca.
- The National Weather Service has issued a wind advisory for the San Gorgonio Pass through 10 PM Monday. See the <u>National Weather Service Website</u>. for more information about the wind advisory.

To view current air quality in your neighborhood, download the <u>South Coast AQMD app</u> or visit <u>www.aqmd.gov/AQImap</u>.

## **Forecasted Air Quality Impacts**

- Blowing dust may result in PM10 levels in the **Unhealthy** or higher AQI category in the Banning Pass and Coachella Valley through 12 PM Tuesday
- High PM10 levels in the region are a result of gusty winds, which can lift dust and soil into the air
- Winds from the west and northwest with gusts up to 55 mph are predicted through noon on Tuesday
- Air quality can vary by hour and location depending on wind conditions

## **Detailed Forecast**

| Monday morning and<br>afternoon | Wind speeds and PM10 levels may decrease slightly on Monday<br>afternoon. PM10 levels are predicted to range from <b>Good</b> to<br><b>Unhealthy</b> or higher AQI categories, with the highest levels<br>expected in the Western Coachella Valley and near Cathedral<br>City.   |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Monday night                    | High winds will persist with gusts up to 45 mph expected. PM10 levels are predicted to range from <b>Good</b> to <b>Unhealthy</b> or higher AQI categories, with the highest levels expected in the Western Coachella Valley and near Cathedral City.  |
| Tuesday morning through<br>noon | Winds and PM10 levels are expected to gradually decrease<br>starting after 6 AM Tuesday. PM10 levels in the <b>Good</b> to<br><b>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</b> or higher AQI categories are<br>predicted before noon. The highest levels are again expected in<br>the Western Coachella Valley and near Cathedral City. |

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 <u>www.aqmd.gov</u>, download our award-winning app, or follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>X</u> (formerly known as Twitter) and <u>Instagram</u>.

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