



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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South Coast AQMD Continues Smoke Advisory due to Martinez Fire in Thermal

Valid Friday November 01, 2019 through Saturday November 02, 2019

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

A large debris fire called the Martinez Fire is burning near the intersection of Avenue 66 and Martinez Road in the city of Thermal in the Coachella Valley. The burn area is approximately 52 acres with 100% containment. The fire is 65% controlled as of Friday, meaning that 65% of the burning material has been extinguished. Information on the fire can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6651/>. Smoke from the fire has been impacting Thermal, La Quinta, and Mecca, as well as communities near the Salton Sea. The South Coast AQMD has deployed two temporary PM2.5 monitors west of the fire in Thermal and east of the fire in Mecca. Visit

<https://xappprod.aqmd.gov/SMSDataSite/Home/AdminIndex?MonitoringSiteId=13> to view current readings from the South Coast AQMD's monitor in Thermal and

<https://xappprod.aqmd.gov/SMSDataSite/Home/AdminIndex?MonitoringSiteId=14> to view current readings from the South Coast AQMD's monitor in Mecca.

Forecasted Smoke Impacts

- On Friday winds are predicted to be light with wind directions from the southeast. This will push any smoke generated by the fire to northwest towards Thermal and La Quinta.
- On Friday evening and Saturday morning, winds are expected to come from the north, pushing smoke to the south towards the Salton Sea.

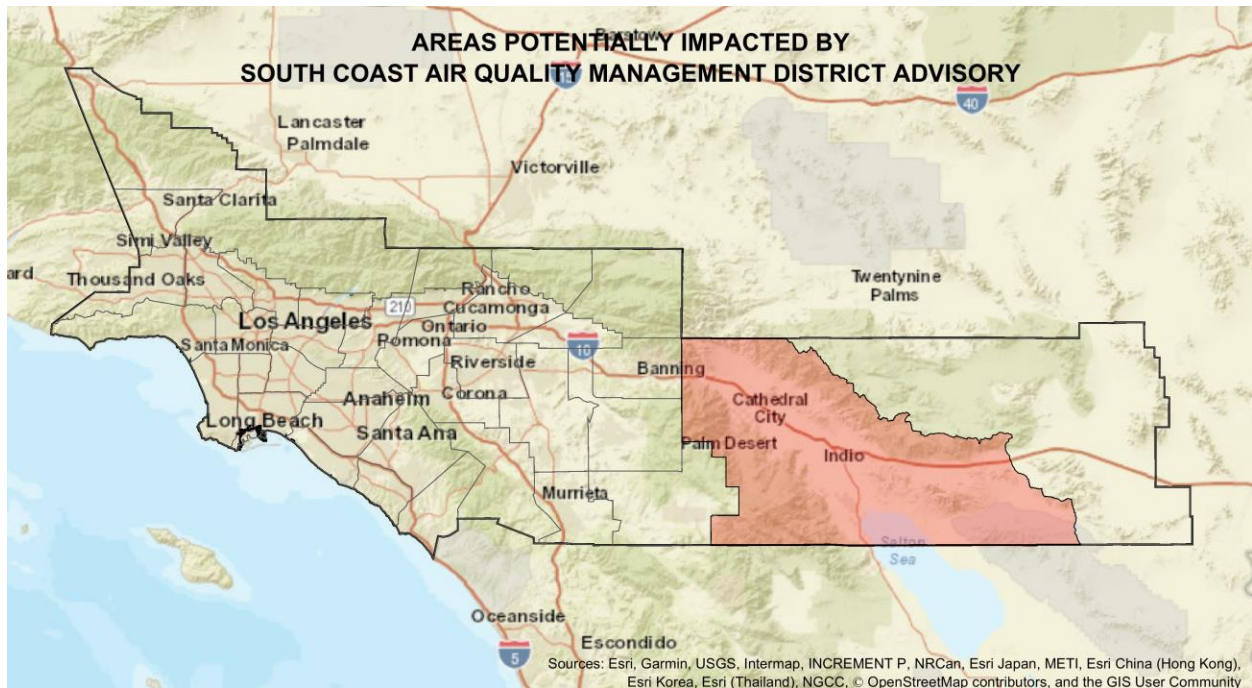
If the fire continues to generate smoke, impacts are expected to continue throughout the Coachella Valley.

Overall, meteorological conditions may bring smoke and ash into portions of the Coachella Valley. Air quality may reach **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** or higher in areas directly impacted by smoke.

In any area impacted by smoke: If you smell smoke or see ash due to a wildfire, limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed or seeking alternate shelter, and avoiding vigorous physical activity. For more tips on protecting yourself during a wildfire, see South Coast AQMD's Wildfire Smoke & Ash Health & Safety Tips page: <http://www.aqmd.gov/wildfire-health-info-smoke-tips>

Areas of direct impacts and poor air quality may include portions of:

- **Riverside County:** Coachella Valley (Area 30)



Previous Smoke Impacts

At the monitor in Thermal, since Thursday afternoon, 24-hour average PM_{2.5} concentrations have been between 5.3 and 7.2 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³). The highest hourly concentrations occurred on Thursday morning at 8:00 am, with a peak hourly concentration of 24 ug/m³. Peak air quality index values, calculated with the NOWCAST method, were in the **Moderate** category.

At the monitor in Mecca, since Thursday afternoon, 24-hour average PM_{2.5} concentrations have been between 12.2 and 15.2 ug/m³. The highest hourly concentrations occurred on Thursday morning at 7:00 am, with a peak hourly concentration of 68 ug/m³. Peak air quality index values, calculated with the NOWCAST method, were in the **Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups** category. However, since 9:00 am on Thursday morning, air quality index values have been in the **Good to Moderate** categories.

- South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link:
<http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory>
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to <http://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: <http://www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp>
- Air quality forecasts are available at <http://www.aqmd.gov/forecast>
- For a map of South Coast AQMD Forecast Areas, see <http://www.aqmd.gov/ForecastAreas>.

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