



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 18, 2019

South Coast AQMD Issues Salton Sea Odor Advisory

Valid Sunday August 18, 2019 through Tuesday August 20, 2019

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

The South Coast Air Quality Management District has issued an odor advisory today and tomorrow for the Coachella Valley due to elevated levels of a gas that smells like rotten eggs. That gas – hydrogen sulfide – is associated with natural processes occurring in the Salton Sea.

Hourly average concentrations of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) peaked this morning at 239 parts per billion immediately downwind of the Salton Sea – at a monitor close to the shore, in an area with little population. Over the past week, hydrogen sulfide concentrations have been elevated when winds are blowing out of the south, especially during the morning hours. Winds from the south are expected during daylight hours on Monday and Tuesday. If elevated hydrogen sulfide emissions from the Salton Sea continue, elevated concentrations are expected during the day, with peak concentrations occurring in the morning.

The state standard for outdoor levels of hydrogen sulfide is 30 parts per billion averaged over one hour. At that level, most individuals can smell the odor and some may experience symptoms such as headaches and nausea. However, the symptoms associated with this level of exposure are temporary and do not cause any long-term health effects. Humans can detect hydrogen sulfide odors at extremely low concentrations, down to a few parts per billion.

South Coast AQMD monitors hydrogen sulfide at two locations in the southeastern Coachella Valley- one very close to the Salton Sea and the other in the community of Mecca. There is increased potential for Salton Sea odors to occur as the winds shift, especially in the summer months in the early morning and late afternoon, or as thunderstorms occur over the southwestern U.S. deserts.

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

- Riverside County: Coachella Valley (Area 30)



- More health information on hydrogen sulfide can be found at the following link: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxguides/toxguide-114.pdf>
- Visit saltonseador.org for current hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) monitored values in the Salton Sea area or to sign up for H₂S alerts.
- 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>
- 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>

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 us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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