FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 10, 2020
MEDIA CONTACT:
Bradley Whitaker, (909) 396-3456, Cell: (909) 323-9516
Nahal Mogharabi, (909) 396-2598, Cell: (909) 323-9479
press@aqmd.gov

South Coast AQMD Releases Enhanced Mobile App with Greater Accuracy for Checking Local Air Quality
Update makes South Coast AQMD the most advanced air monitoring app in the region

DIAMOND BAR, CA – Today, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) released a major update to the South Coast AQMD app, marking a significant milestone for checking local air quality that is both robust and user friendly.
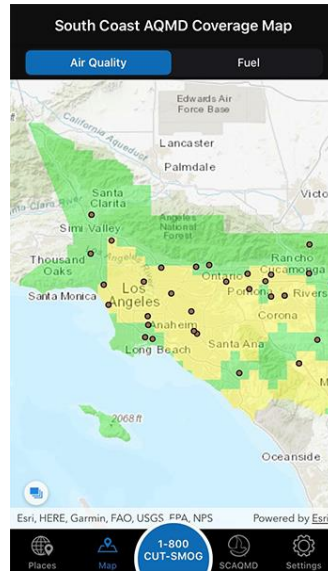
The update features more accurate and precise real-time air quality information from anywhere within South Coast AQMD's four-county jurisdiction. Blending data from regulatory monitoring stations, crowd-sourced low-cost sensor measurements and an air quality model run by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), South Coast AQMD scientists have developed a peer-reviewed methodology designed to provide residents with localized air quality index (AQI) values. AQI values are based on levels of five key pollutants, including particle pollution ($PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10}), ozone, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide.

"More accurate and higher resolution AQI data means the information we present is better tailored to where people live, work and play," said Wayne Nastri, South Coast AQMD's Executive Officer, "These cutting-edge improvements to our app better help residents minimize their exposure to poor air quality at the neighborhood level."

Major improvements to the app include:

- Improved air quality display that combines data from South Coast AQMD's regulatory-grade air quality monitors with model data from the NOAA, and low-cost fine particulate matter sensors from PurpleAir installed at hundreds of locations by residents and agencies throughout the jurisdiction.

- AQI maps displayed in grid cells of 5 x 5 kilometers with over 1,200 distinct locations. This contrasts with earlier versions of the app that displayed data for 37 distinct regions.

- Extensive testing indicates this new framework is more accurate than previous methods, especially during wildfire events.

- Increased personalization and labeling features when adding new locations. Grid areas can now be labeled as 'Home,' 'Work,' 'School' or include a custom label like 'Dodger Stadium' or a favorite restaurant.

View AQI levels from more than 1,200 distinct locations

The South Coast AQMD app continues to feature detailed, interactive maps of the South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley showing real-time and forecasted air quality and weather conditions. Users can also find alternative fueling locations, South Coast AQMD advisories, announcements, public events, meetings and workshops.

Additional features in the app allow users to customize alerts and push notifications when air quality levels reach a selected threshold. Pressing the app's 1-800-CUT-SMOG button places a call to South Coast AQMD's 24-hour complaint hotline where users and businesses can report smoking vehicles, equipment breakdowns and file other air quality complaints.

About the South Coast AQMD app

The South Coast AQMD app is the official air quality app for residents of the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Air quality experts provide real-time and forecasted air quality information using the highest quality data and scientifically validated methods. The award-winning app is free and available for Apple and Android devices on the App Store and Google Play.

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for major portions of Los Angeles, Orange, 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.

# # #