



South Coast  
AQMD

# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 24, 2020

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## **South Coast AQMD Issues Smoke Advisory due to a Mulch Fire in City of Thermal**

***Valid: Wednesday June 24, 2020 through Thursday June 25, 2020***

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

A mulch fire called the 58 Fire is burning in the city of Thermal in the Coachella Valley. As of 4:00 pm, the burn area was eight acres with 26% containment. Information on the 58 Fire can be found on the Riverside County Fire Department's website at <http://www.rvcfire.org/Layouts/Incident%20Information/IncidentInfoDetail.aspx?4547>. The 58 Fire is producing visible smoke on Tuesday afternoon based on webcam imagery and social media posts. PM2.5 concentrations at the South Coast AQMD's monitor in Indio were within Good to Moderate Air Quality Index (AQI) levels today, calculated with the NOWCAST method, but localized AQI levels closer to the smoke plume may be higher. Low-cost sensors in the Coachella Valley have shown elevated concentrations at times this afternoon. Visit <https://www.aqmd.gov/aqdata> to view current air quality conditions.

### **Forecasted Smoke Impacts**

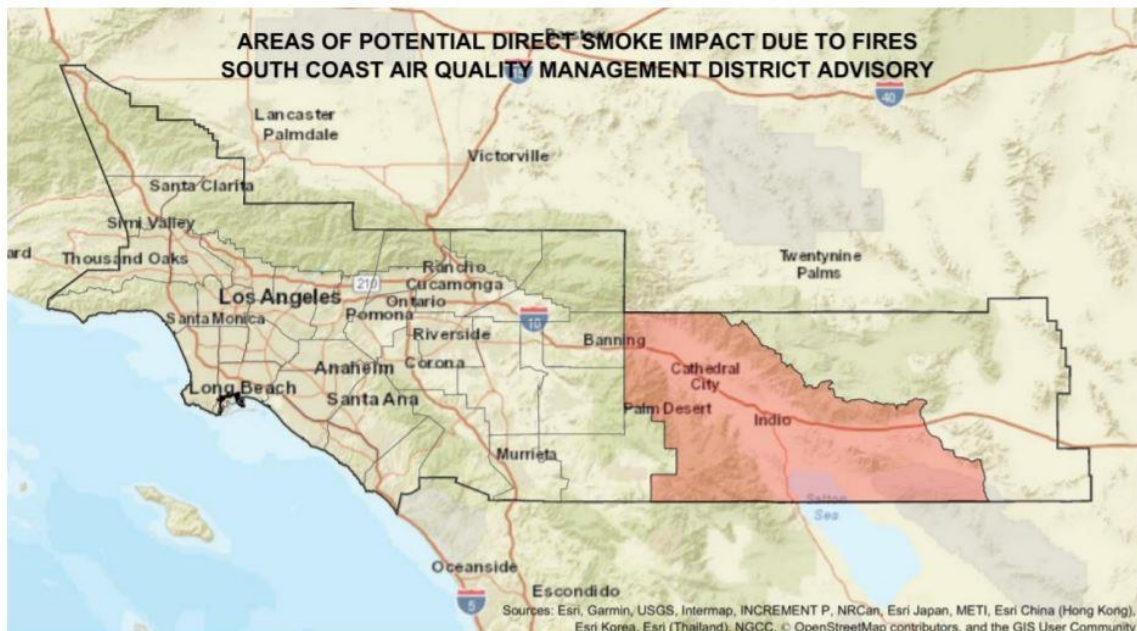
- Winds are predicted to be from the southeast on Wednesday afternoon until sunset, which will push smoke to the northwest, towards Thermal, La Quinta, Indio, and Palm Desert.
- From sunset on Wednesday evening until sunrise on Thursday morning, winds are expected to come from the north and northwest with gusts up to 20 mph. This could push smoke to the south and southeast towards Thermal and Mecca. Elevated ground level concentrations of PM2.5 are possible in the early morning hours on Thursday as smoke is likely to remain closer to the ground.
- After sunrise on Thursday morning, winds are expected to come from the southeast once again, which could push smoke to the northwest, towards Thermal, La Quinta, Indio, and Palm Desert.

Moreover, if the fire continues to generate smoke through Thursday afternoon, impacts are expected in Thermal, La Quinta, Indio, Palm Desert, and Mecca. 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)



- South Coast AQMD Advisory updates can be found at the following link: [www.aqmd.gov/advisory](http://www.aqmd.gov/advisory)
- To subscribe to air quality alerts, advisories and forecasts by email, go to [www.AirAlerts.org](http://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](http://www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp)
- Air quality forecasts are available at <http://www.aqmd.gov/forecast>
- 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 [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov), download our award-winning app, or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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