



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
PRESS RELEASE

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**South Coast AQMD Responds to American Lung Association State of the Air Report
with Air Quality Achievements**

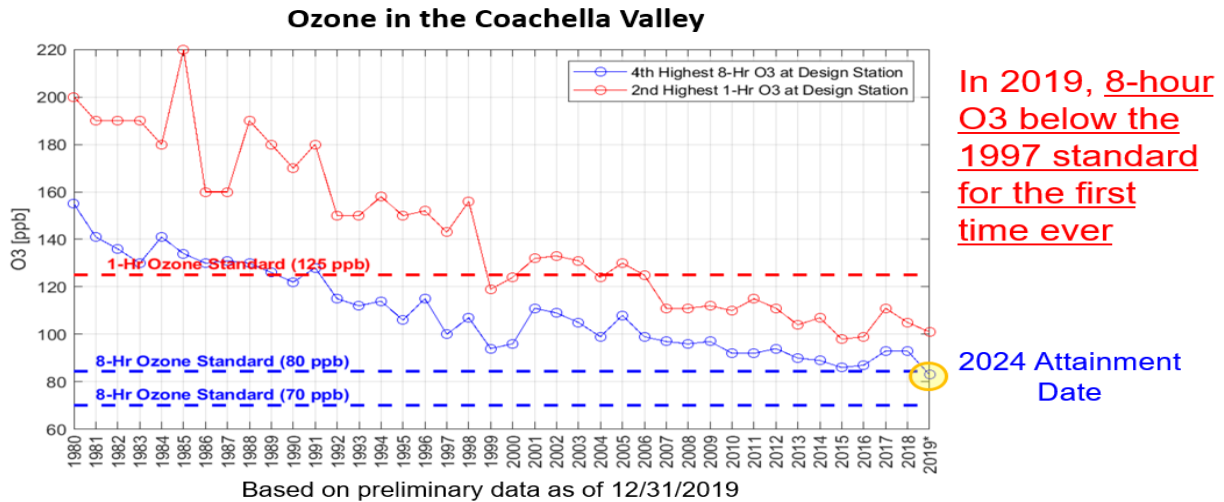
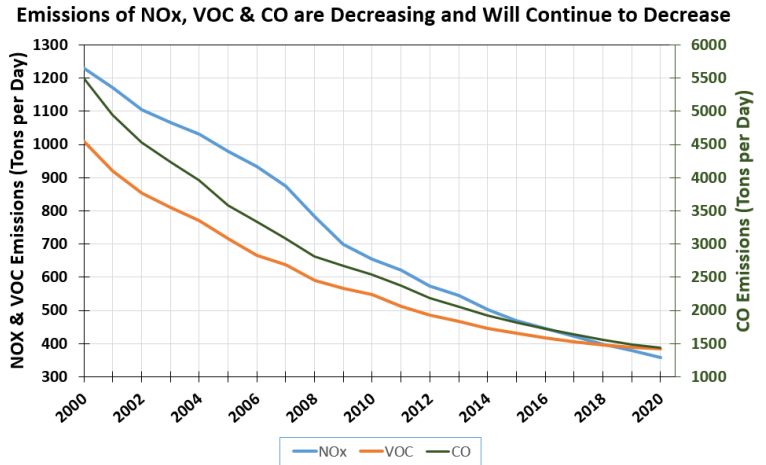
DIAMOND BAR – Today the American Lung Association released its annual State of the Air report which grades counties across the United States based on air pollution levels. The four counties within the South Coast Air Quality Management District’s (South Coast AQMD) jurisdiction, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, all rank near the bottom of the list for ozone (smog) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5).

Greater Los Angeles continues to be one of the most polluted regions in the country. This is largely due to the combination of our large population, unique topography, and warm and sunny weather patterns, all of which create the perfect conditions to form air pollution. While much work still needs to be done to address air pollution levels, South Coast AQMD has made tremendous strides in cleaning the air for nearly half a century despite these challenges.

Air Quality Achievements in the South Coast Air Basin

Over the past several decades, we have dramatically cut concentrations of ozone, fine particulate matter, and the pollutants that form them in the atmosphere:

- Ozone levels are nearly 80% lower than those in the 1950s
- PM2.5 levels are more than 50% lower than levels in 2000
- Over that same time frame, Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emissions have dropped approximately 70% and Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions have dropped by approximately 60%
- 2019 was the cleanest year on record for the PM2.5 annual average
- The 2019 8-hour ozone value was the lowest recorded ever for Coachella Valley monitoring stations



Much of the success in reducing emissions can be attributed to South Coast AQMD’s stringent regulation of stationary sources which include factories, refineries and other pollutant-emitting sources that stay in one place. Currently, emissions from mobile sources such as trucks, trains, and ships, account for more than 80% of total emissions in the region. While South Coast AQMD has limited ability to regulate mobile sources, the agency continues to invest in developing cleaner mobile source technologies and replacing dirtier engines.

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](#).