



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 29, 2019

## **South Coast AQMD Continues Smoke Advisory Due to Martinez Fire in City of Thermal**

*Valid: Tues., October 29, through Weds., October 30, 2019*

*This advisory is in effect through Wednesday 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 55% containment. 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**

- Winds are predicted to be from the southeast on Tuesday morning, pushing smoke to the northwest towards Thermal and La Quinta.
- On Tuesday evening into Wednesday morning, winds are expected to come from the northwest, pushing smoke to the southeast towards Mecca and the Salton Sea. Elevated ground level concentrations of PM2.5 are expected in the early morning hours.

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>.

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



### Previous Smoke Impacts

At the monitor in Thermal, since Monday afternoon, 24-hour average PM2.5 concentrations have been between 5.6 and 10.9 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). The highest hourly concentrations are occurring on Tuesday morning, with a peak hourly concentration of 42  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . Peak air quality index values, calculated with the NOWCAST method, were in the Moderate category.

At the monitor in Mecca, since Monday afternoon, 24-hour average PM2.5 concentrations have been between 10.6 and 19.8  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The highest hourly concentrations are occurring on Tuesday morning, with a peak hourly concentration of 67  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . Peak air quality index values, calculated with the NOWCAST method, were in the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups category.

Note that in the afternoon hours on Monday, the AQI due to ozone concentrations, which is not related to the fire, reached the Moderate category in the Coachella Valley.

- 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 [www.aqmd.gov/aqimap](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 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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