



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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Emergency Order for Crematoriums Expanded to Riverside County

DIAMOND BAR—Today the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) is expanding its Emergency Order (Order) to temporarily suspend limits on cremations in Riverside County. This also extends the Orders already in effect for Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

South Coast AQMD permits for crematoriums contain limits on the number of human remains that may be cremated each month, based on potential air quality impacts. The COVID-19 pandemic has substantially increased the number of deaths in Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside Counties compared to pre-pandemic years. The Riverside County Public Health and Riverside County Sheriff-Coroner made the request to South Coast AQMD to better respond to the current emergency.

All other terms and conditions of the permit and rule requirements remain in effect. Cremations result in the emission of various air contaminants that are required to be vented to air pollution control equipment. South Coast AQMD requires that crematories use a high-temperature process that destroys most of the pollutants created during the cremation process. When these technologies are implemented, emissions are minimized.

Facilities are required to submit written notice to the South Coast AQMD Emergency Relief Mailbox (EmergencyRelief@aqmd.gov) indicating the intent to exceed permit limits. Additional requirements can be found [here](#).

Under South Coast AQMD Rule 118, the Executive Officer is authorized to suspend certain rules during a state or federally declared State of Emergency. The Order is in effect until Saturday, February 13, 2021 and can be extended if warranted.

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](#).

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