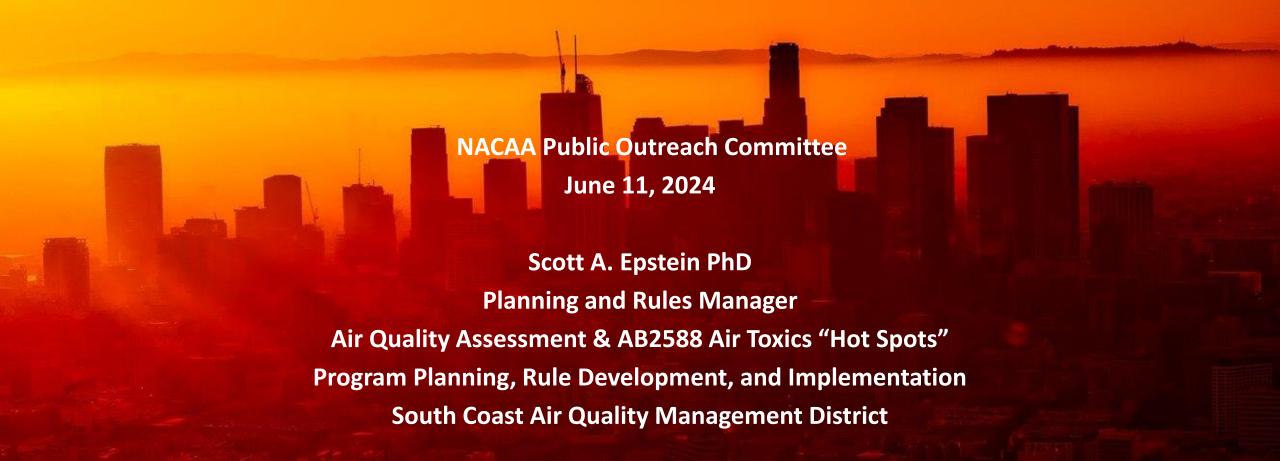
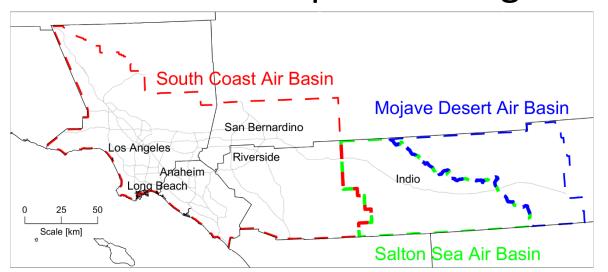


Communication Before, During, and After Exceptional Events



The South Coast Air Quality Management District

- 17 million residents
- Three air basins
- South Coast AB is most polluted region in U.S.



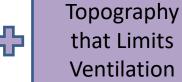




Large
Population
People/Goods
Movement
Dependent on
Fossil Fuels

Abundant
Sunshine &
Warm
Temperatures

4



Significant Air
Quality
Problems

Air Quality Advisories, Alerts, and Notifications

Advisories

- Issued by South Coast AQMD forecasters
 BEFORE and DURING events
- Disseminated at aqmd.gov and linked through Enviroflash
- Press release issued by Media team based on advisory

Alerts

- Issued by South Coast AQMD forecasters
 BEFORE and DURING events simultaneously with advisory
- Relayed by National Weather Service
- Disseminated through official NWS channels and displayed on commercial apps

Notifications

- Automatically pushed to users of the South Coast AQMD App DURING events based on real-time AQI
- Users set threshold for notification based on AQI level and locations of interest



mages from NASA Worldview MODIS/Terra Satellite and Wikimedia commons

General Guidelines when Advisories are Issued

- Goal is to issue advisories proactively rather than reactively
- Forecaster discretion applied based on recent advisories and pollutant levels along with any near-source sensitive impacted areas such as schools

PM10 Dust/Ash



Res. No Burn



High Ozone



Wildfire Smoke



Fireworks



Salton Sea Odors



Extended
period of
elevated
PM10
expected that
will reach at
least USG AQI

24-Hour
PM2.5 > 29
μg/m³
forecasted in
the South
Coast Air
Basin (NovFeb)

Widespread areas of unhealthy AQI or higher expected over several days

Fire greater than 200-400 acres that is expected to persist for several hours or more

July 4th and 5th in areas with historically high PM2.5 levels from fireworks

Extended episode of persistently high H2S in the Coachella Valley





Current Condition

- Two large wildfires are actively burning and producing smoke in Riverside County as of Saturday at 9:40 AM

 The Rabbit Fire is currently 4.500 acres
- The Reche Fire is currently 437 acres
- Visit the Cal FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department Twitter page for more details
- Winds are currently transporting smoke towards the east and southeast into the Moreno Valley, He Beaumont, Banning, and the Coachella Valley
- ir quality index values reached **Hazardous** levels immediately adjacent to the fire in the overnight hours

onditions may change quickly due to fire activity and weather. Download the <u>South Coast AQMD</u> app or visi www.aqmd.gov/AQImap to view current air quality in your neighborhood.

Show recent air quality trends (up to Saturday, 11:00 AM

Forecasted Smoke and Air Quality Impacts

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- Winds from the west will continue to push smoke towards the east and may result in Air Quality Index level
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- Light and variable winds during the overnight hours may result in the highest AQI levels in areas immediate
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- Note that AQI levels may reach the Unhealthy category in the afternoon hours from high levels of ozone (smog) due to the current heat wave and are largely unrelated to the fires. See South Coast AQMD Qzons Advisorv.

Detailed Forecast Winds from the west will continue to push snoke towards the east, affecting neighborhoods in the Hemet area, Mylfwild, San Gorgonio Pass and Coachella Valley, Ozone (smog) levels will also be elevated due to the heat wave affecting the region. Saturday Evening/Sunday Morning Light and variable winds may lead to increased smoke concentrations in areas immediate adjacent to the fires If the fires are still producing smoke, winds from the west will continue to push smoke to the east. Ozone (smog) levels will also be elevated in the afternoon hours.

outh Coast AQMD will issue an update if additional information becomes availab

✓! If you are in an area impacted by smoke

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 Avaid viscours physical activity.
- Run your air conditioning and/or an air purifier. If possible, do not use swamp coolers or whole house fans
 that bring in outside air.
- Avoid burning wood in your prepace or prepit and minimize sources of indoor air poliution such a incense, pan-frying, and grilling.
- If you must be outside, a properly fit N95 or P100 respirator may provide some protection or more information, visit www.agmd.gov/smokesafety.

Interactive Air Quality Advisories

- html-based interactive advisories deployed in Summer of 2023
- Replaced PDF advisories
- Mobile friendly with graphics that are responsive to screen width
- Integrated Google Translate tool with 120 languages
- Built advisory generation tool to easily create advisories in MATLAB App Designer



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Conditions may change quickly due to fire activity and weather. Download the South Coast AQMD app or vi-

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Detailed Forecast



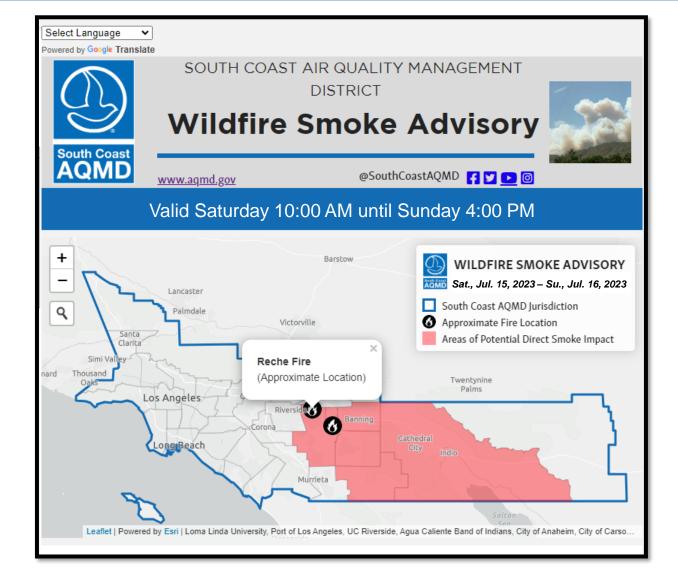
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Interactive Air Quality Advisories



Google Translate integration

Interactive web map with location search





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Detailed Forecast



If you are in an area impacted by smoke:

 If you must be outside, a properly fit N95 or P100 respirator may provide some protection or more information, visit www.agmd.gov/smokesafety

Interactive Air Quality Advisories

Current Conditions

rapidly.

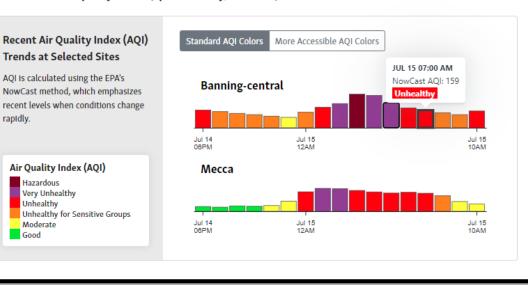
Hazardous

Moderate Good

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Conditions may change quickly due to fire activity and weather. Download the South Coast AOMD app or visit www.aqmd.gov/AQImap to view current air quality in your neighborhood.

▼ Show recent air quality trends (up to Saturday, 11:00 AM)



Current conditions with expandible and interactive recent air quality trends chart

Forecaster chooses locations to display on bar charts





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Interactive Air Quality Advisories

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Impact summary and detailed forecast information





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For more information, visit www.aumd.gov/smokesafety

Interactive Air Quality Advisories

Highlighted health recommendations

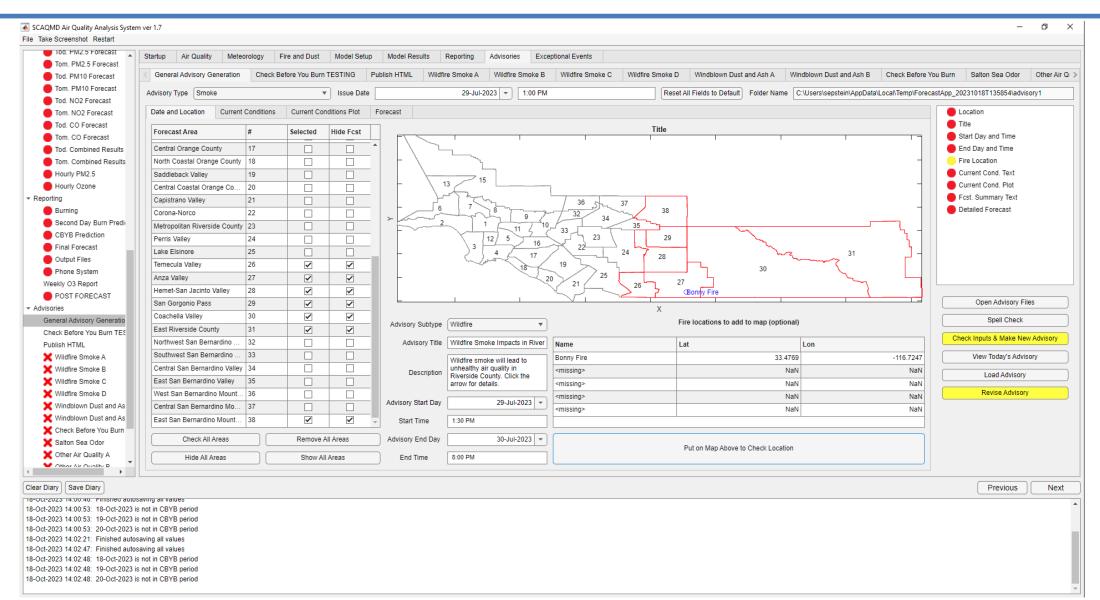


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- Avoid vigorous physical activity.
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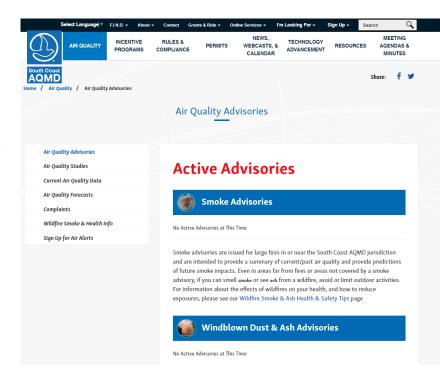
Advisory Generation Tool





Dissemination of Air Quality Advisories

- Hosted at <u>www.aqmd.gov/advisory</u>
- Linked from the aqmd.gov homepage and on the South Coast AQMD mobile app
- Sent to 33,000 Enviroflash subscribers
- Extensive Media outreach
 - Press release issued from advisory
 - Impacted areas automatically sent to media in kml file



Los Angeles Times

Smoke forecast to clear in L.A. area

Low-pressure cold front to improve air quality and reduce heat this weekend.

By Hayley Smith

Residents in Los Angeles County can breathe a little easier this weekend, as air







Air Quality Alerts Relayed by the National Weather Service

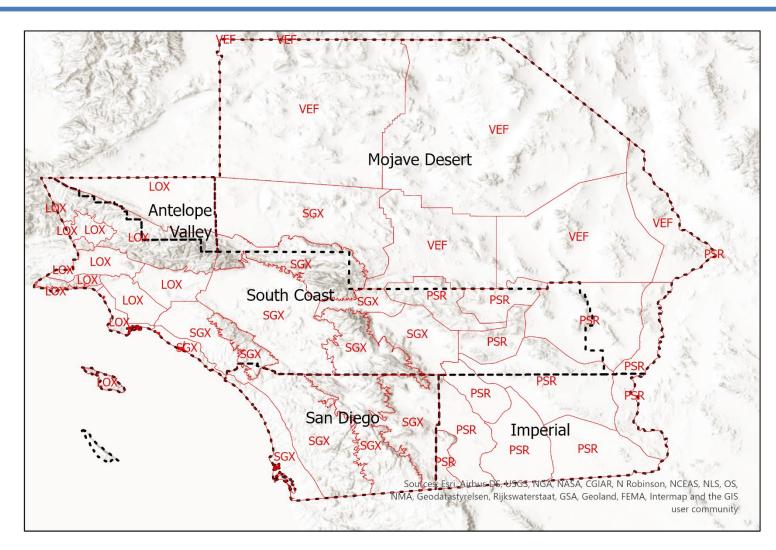
Collaboration with Southern
 California Air Districts and NWS
 offices to deploy air quality alerts
 through official NWS channels

Air Districts

- South Coast AQMD
- Imperial County APCD
- San Diego APCD
- Mojave Desert AQMD
- Antelope Valley AQMD

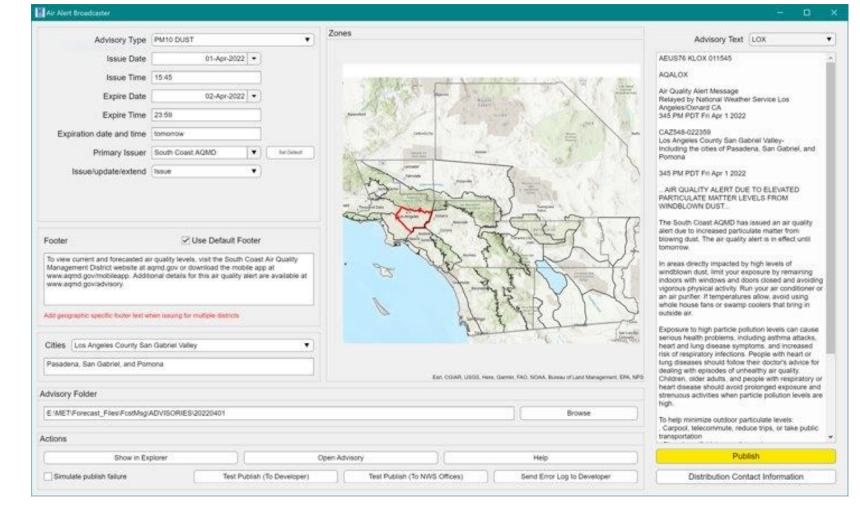
NWS Offices

- NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard (LOX)
- NWS San Diego (SGX)
- NWS Phoenix (PSR)



Software for Deployment of Air Alerts

- Developed software in-house using MATLAB App Designer
- Alerts are generated easily with dropdown menus
- Maintains consistency among agencies and avoids errors



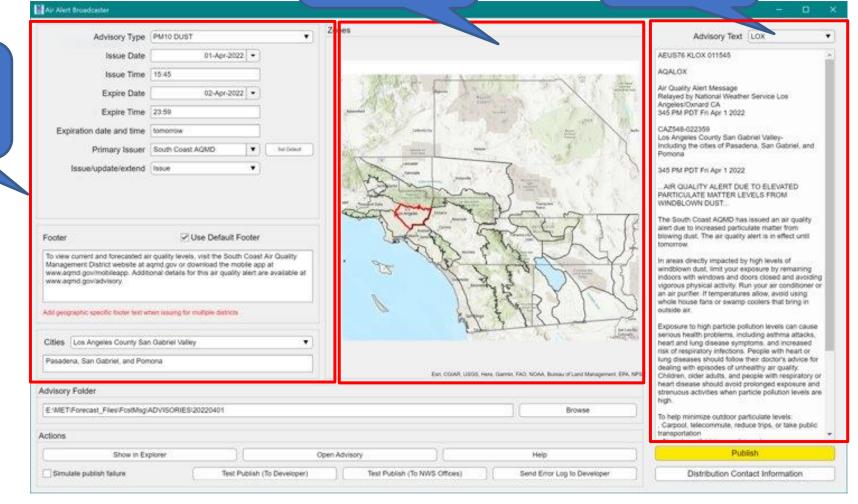
Software for Deploym Interactive ir Alerts

Interactive Ir Alerts

NWS Zone Alert

Selection Preview

- Developed software Tools to In-house usin MATLAB App Designer
- Alerts are generated easily with dropdown menus
- Maintains consistency among agencies and avoids errors



Dissemination of Air Alerts

- Relayed through official NWS channels
- Appears on various commercial weather apps and Amazon Alexa
- Additional visibility for the media

Air Quality Alert Message Relayed by National Weather Service San Diego CA 945 AM PDT Wed Oct 11 2023

CAZ061-065-121300-Coachella Valley-

Including the cities of Indio, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Palm Desert, Palm Desert Country, La Quinta, and Coachella San Gorgonio Pass Near Banning-

Including the cities of Banning and Desert Hot Springs

945 AM PDT Wed Oct 11 2023

...AIR QUALITY ALERT DUE TO ELEVATED PARTICULATE MATTER LEVELS FROM WINDBLOWN DUST...

The South Coast AQMD has issued an air quality alert due to increased particulate matter from blowing dust. The air quality alert is in effect until 6AM on Thursday.

In areas directly impacted by high levels of windblown dust, limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed and avoiding vigorous physical activity. Run your air conditioner or an air purifier. If temperatures allow, avoid using whole house fans or swamp coolers that bring in outside air.

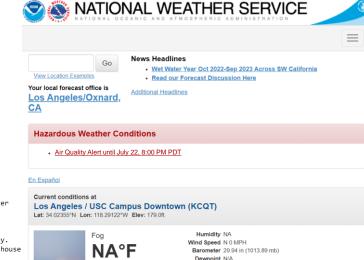
Exposure to high particle pollution levels can cause serious health problems, including asthma attacks, heart and lung disease symptoms, and increased risk of respiratory infections. People with heart or lung diseases should follow their doctor's advice for dealing with episodes of unhealthy air quality. Children, older adults, and people with respiratory or heart disease should avoid prolonged exposure and strenuous activities when particle pollution levels are high.

To help minimize outdoor particulate levels:

- Carpool, telecommute, reduce trips, or take public transportation
- Slow down if driving on dirt roads
- Stabilize loose soils

Levels of particulate matter can vary hour by hour and by location depending on wind conditions.

To view current and forecasted air quality levels, visit the South Coast Air Quality Management District website at aqmd.gov or download the mobile app at www.aqmd.gov/mobileapp. Additional details for this air quality alert may be available at www.aqmd.gov/advisory.



Click a location below for detailed forecast.

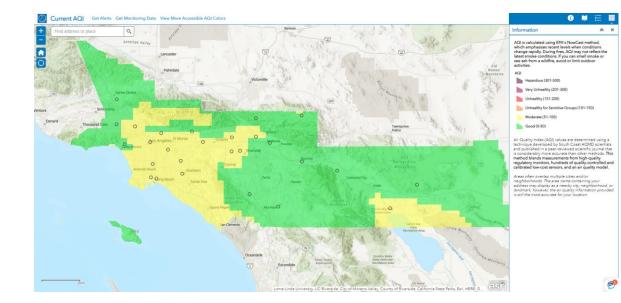


Visibility 0.25 mi

Last Map Update: Wed, Dec. 21, 2022 at 7:57:12 pm PST

Air Quality Notifications

- Developed real-time air quality map for website and mobile app (deployed Nov. 2020)
- Map combines regulatory monitors, lowcost sensor data, and AQ model outputs (NAQFC) weighted by their relative uncertainties
- AQI map has high level of accuracy when compared to other methods and avoids common public misunderstandings of AQ data



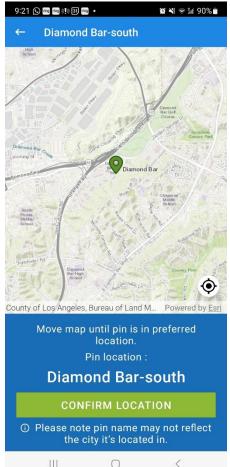


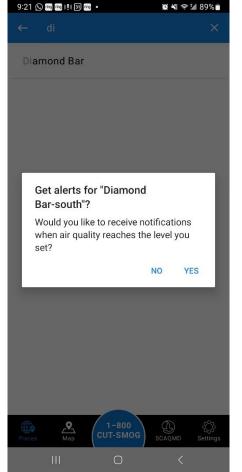


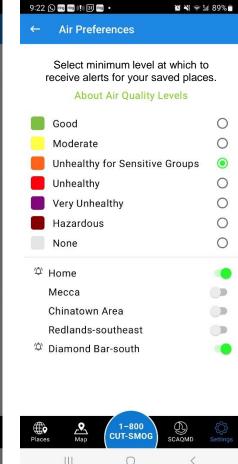
Air Quality Notifications

- App users can set favorite places
- Notifications can be turned on for each place
- If AQI reaches selected category, a notification is pushed to the user's device.
- A second notification is sent if AQI goes back below threshold.









Reducing Barriers for Sharing AQI Data with the Media



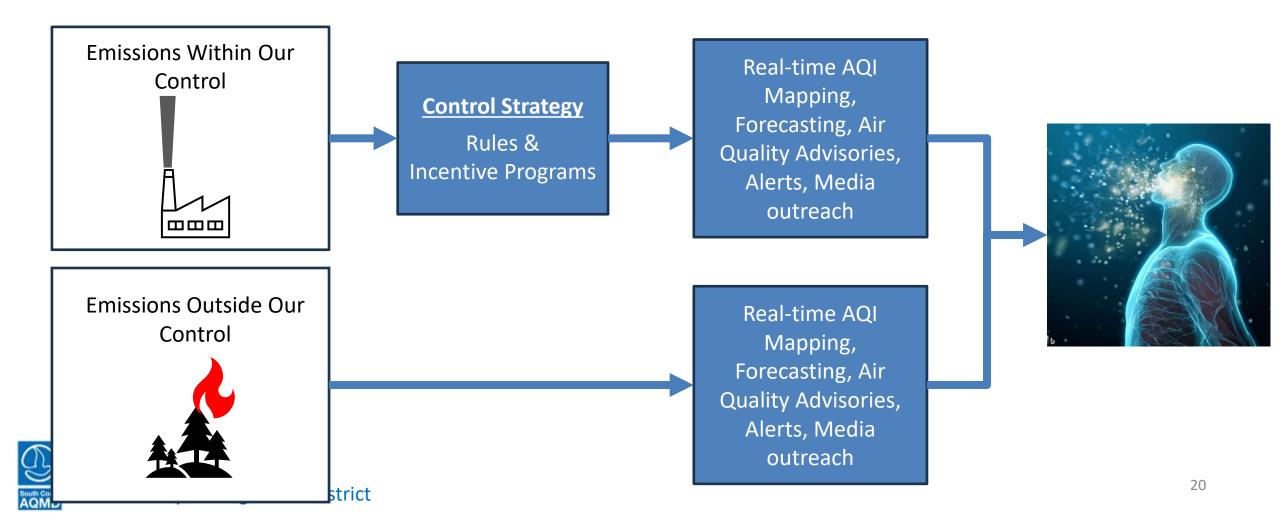
http://www.aqmd.gov/assets/kml/CurrentAQI.kml

- Conducted outreach with local media to determine what air quality products they were interested in
- Built scripts to generate hourly AQI data in kml format that news agencies can pull directly
- Provide documentation
 - Data access and citation/logos
 - Explain data (AQI, how it is determined, jurisdiction coverage, invalid data)
- Email notifications during data outages
- In the process of deploying forecast map data in kml format

Communication After Exceptional Events

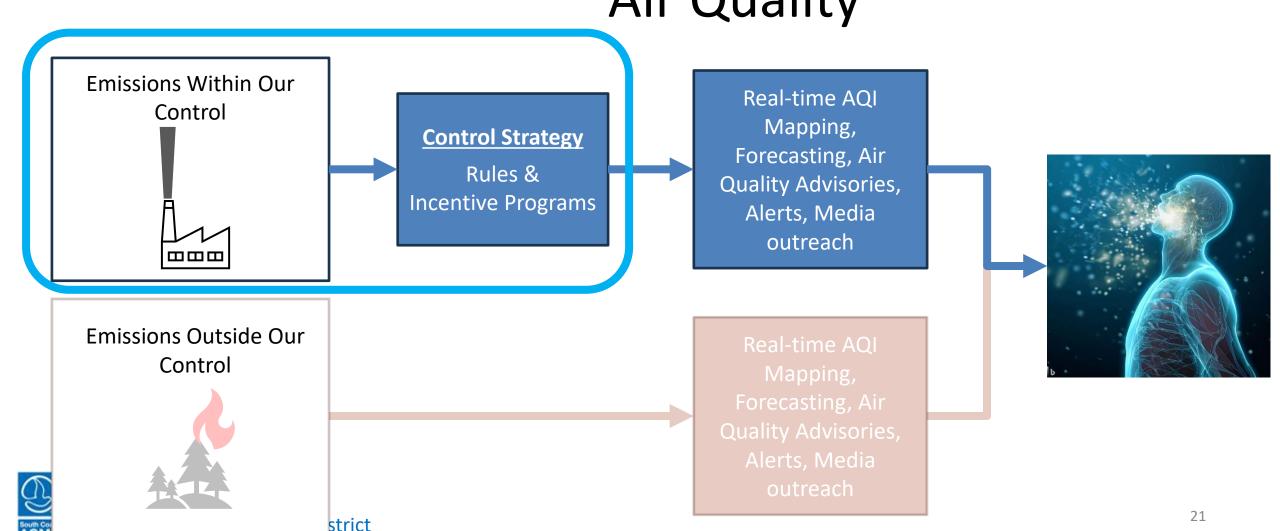
Tools for Reducing Public Exposure to Poor

Air Quality



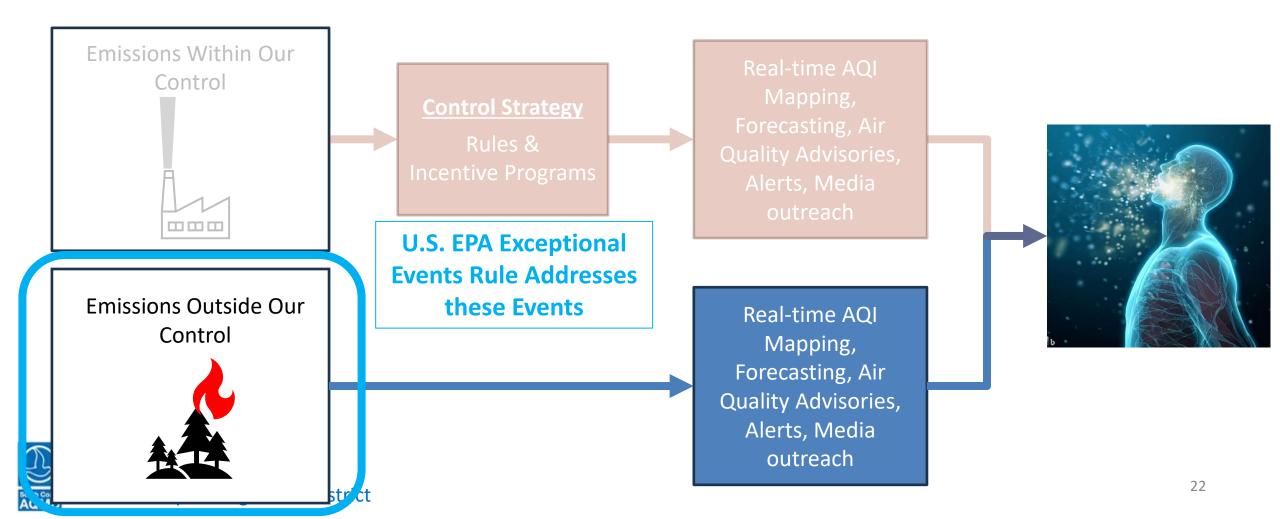
Air Quality Standards
Designed to Inform Control
Strategy and Reduce
Exposure from this Route

ducing Public Exposure to Poor Air Quality

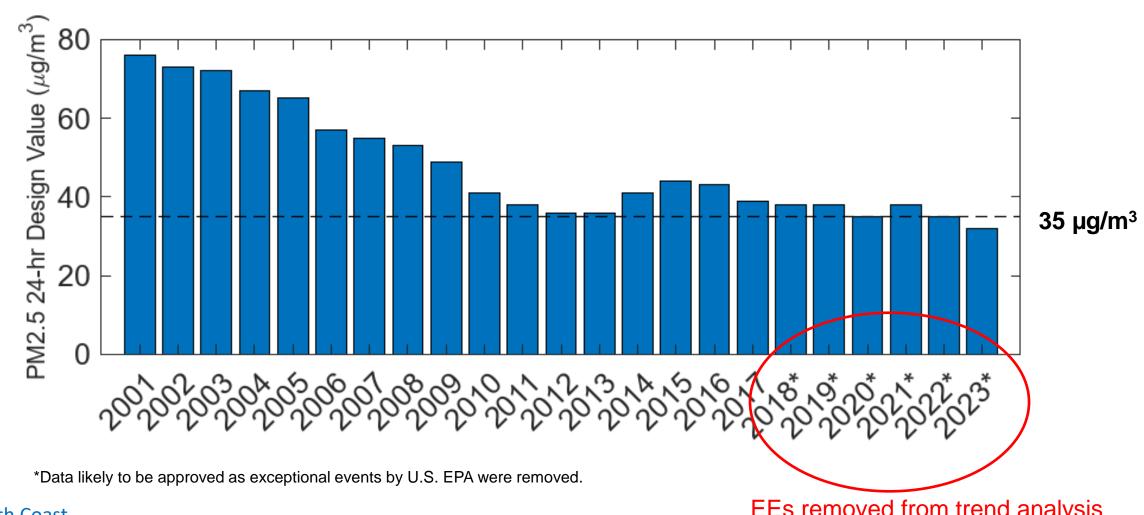


Tools for Reducing Public Exposure to Poor

Air Quality



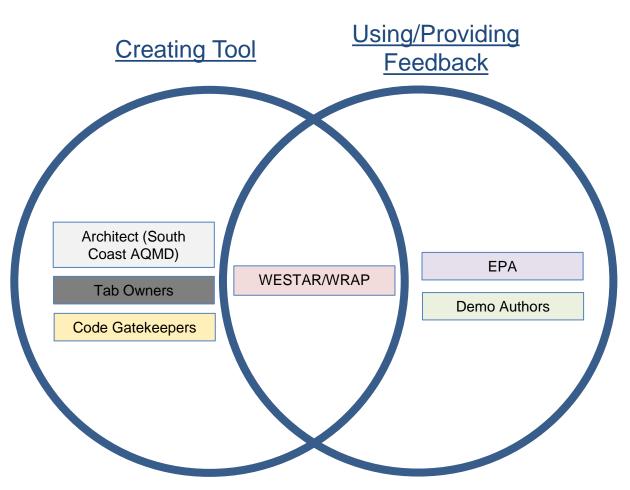
South Coast Air Basin 24- hour PM2.5 Trend





EEs removed from trend analysis

Exceptional Event Demonstration Tool



- South Coast AQMD spearheaded a collaboration with WESTAR/WRAP and 21 other institutions starting in July 2022
- Interactive web-based software using Rshiny platform
 - Development can be completely conducted by scientists
- Currently in development, but enough complete to be useful
- Tool will automate much of the EE demonstration process for several types of events
- AQ data retrieval and visualization tools can be used in non-EE demo analyses

General Layout

Tabs to walk through creating EE Demo



Exceptional Events Demonstration Development Tool

General Information

Event Description

Time Sensitive Initial Notification

Non-Daily Sections

Clear Causal

Compile Documents For

For Contributors

Purpose of Tool:

The purpose of this app is to quasi-automate some of the tasks involved in preparing an Exceptional Events (EE) Demonstration for submission to the EPA. **Use of this app in no way guarantees EPA concurrence for any EE demo submitted to the EPA. EE demos created using this app are subject to the same review process as EE demos that do not use this app. This interactive app lays the ground work for automating much of the technical data collection required in Exceptional Event Demonstrations. This online tool is a collaborative project among air quality regulatory agencies. It is, and will continue to be, a work in progress. If you are interested in contributing to this project, please contact Rhonda Payne at WESTAR or Jay Baker at WESTAR. Please also see the 'For Contributors' tabs. Both R coders and non-coders are welcome to contribute.**

General Instructions:

To start an EE demo, fill out the information on the 'Event Description' tab. Save the resulting Event Description Values.csv) to a folder on your local computer that is dedicated to this EE Demo. This local folder will be referred to as the project folder. Which tabs appear or disappear depends on the Event Type and Report Type selected on the Event Description tab. Note that all tabs controlled by Event Type are visible if 'Multi Type' is selected, but data cannot be downloaded or plotted on the Event Description page with this selection.

Once the Event Description page is done, most of the other tabs can be used in any order. Be sure to download files created on each tab and save them to the project folder. No data is stored within the app from one session to another, so the files must be saved to the local project folder for future use. In general, most tabs will create 1) a small csv file referred to as the 'Meta file' used for tracking file names for the main report, 2) a zip file containing one Word document for each day of the Event or just one Word document for non-daily tabs, 3) another Meta file for the appendix, and 4) another zip file containing Word document(s) for the appendix. The Word documents will generally end in _Draft.

IMPORTANT: Before you make edits to the _Draft Word files, it is important to change _Draft in the file name to _Edited. This way, your edits won't be over-written if you happen to re-run the tab that created the Word file. If both _Draft and _Edited versions of the same Word file are uploaded on the Compile Documents tab, the _Edited version will be used for compiling and the _Draft version will be ignored.





Example: Output from Satellite Tab

Satellite Report for 2020-09-12

Figure [X] shows a NASA Worldview satellite image of the South Coast Air Basin taken on 2020-09-12 contrasted with a similar view from 2020-09-04 ([BEFORE/AFTER] the Bobcat and El Dorado Fires). The Worldview image from 2020-09-12 shows [WRITE DESCRIPTION OF SMOKE IN IMAGE, E.G., WIDESPREAD SMOKE]. The image also shows [WRITE DESCRIPTION, E.G., A FEW, MANY] thermal anomalies (orange dots) in the areas of the Bobcat and El Dorado Fires, indicating that the Bobcat and El Dorado Fires were [WAS/WERE] [WRITE DESCRIPTION, E.G., ACTIVE ON 2020-09-12?].

1st page of output satellite file for 2020-09-12

Word file is filled in with information provided



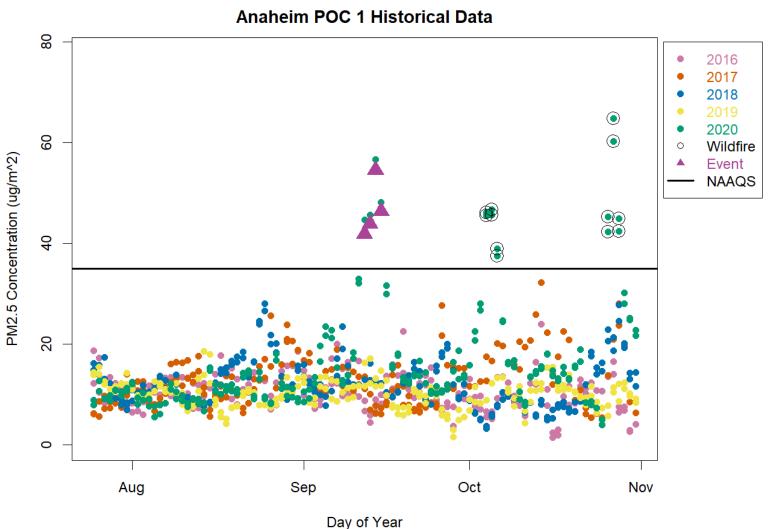
2nd page of output satellite file for 2020-09-12



Figure [X] Worldview Satellite Image of the South Coast Air Basin for 2020-09-04 (top) and 2020-09-12 (bottom). The orange dots are thermal anomalies. Images can be viewed online:

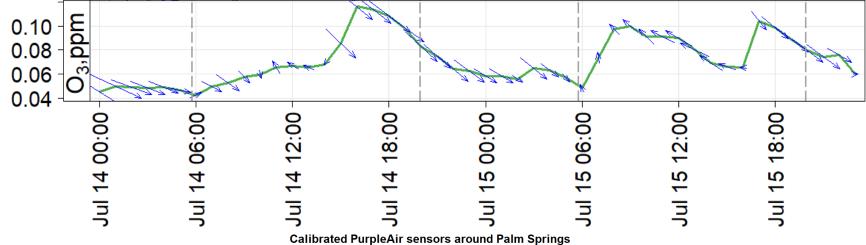
https://wvs.earthdata.nasa.gov/api/v1/snapshot?REQUEST=GetSnapshot&TIME=2020-

Example Historical Analysis Output

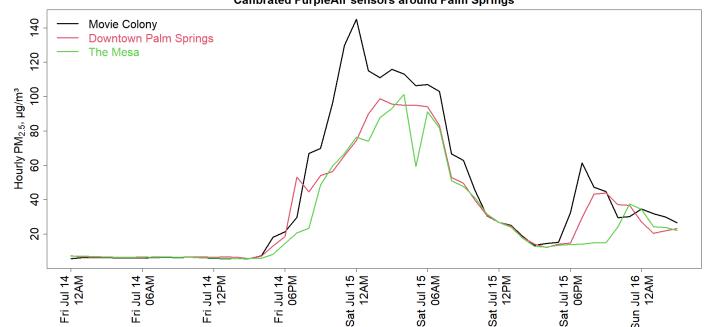


Example: pollutant timeseries

O3 & wind vectors



Historical PurpleAir data with EPA calibration applied (need to supply your own API key)



Example: O3 Key Factor #2 Tiering calcs.

date ‡	value ‡	units_of_measure ‡	Five_yr_99th_pctile ‡	Fourth_high_in_latest_yr ‡	Tiering_threshold ‡	O3 Tier II key factor 2, Y/N
2023- 07-14	0.093	Parts per million	0.085	0.085	0.085	Yes
2023- 07-15	0.086	Parts per million	0.085	0.085	0.085	Yes
2023- 07-16	0.075	Parts per million	0.085	0.085	0.085	No
2023- 07-17	0.074	Parts per million	0.085	0.085	0.085	No



Why and How to Get Involved

App is useful even before it is complete



Tabs can be sub-divided if people want to contribute to part of a topic area



 Contributing to the tool development may be the fastest route to completing EE Demos for your agency especially if multiple EE Demos are needed



The people who are involved in developing, testing, or using the app are the people who will have a say in what the app can do



Coders and Non-Coders Welcome WESTAR/WRAP Coordination Hub:

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Conclusions

- Important to convey to the public that even though data collected during exceptional events may be removed from design value calculations, we have an extensive program to reduce exposure to poor air quality during these events
 - Combination of proactive (Advisories & Alerts) and reactive (Notifications) in addition to daily air quality forecast help the public reduce their exposure to poor air quality



South Coast AQMD Air Quality Assessment Group



Planning and Rules Manager, Scott Epstein, PhD



Senior Meteorologist Ranil Dhammapala, PhD



Air Quality Specialist Nico Schulte , PhD



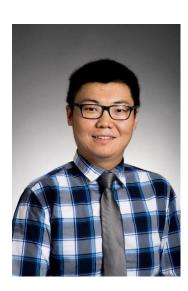
Air Quality Specialist Melissa Maestas, PhD



Air Quality Specialist Qijing (Emily) Bian, PhD



Air Quality Specialist Masoud Fallah Shorshani, PhD



Air Quality Specialist Xiang Li , PhD (now QA Supervisor at South Coast AQMD)

Thank You!

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