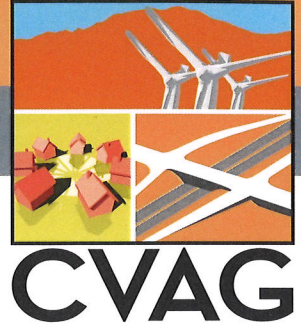


# COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

73-710 Fred Waring Dr., Suite 200, Palm Desert, CA 92260 · (760) 346-1127 · [www.cvag.org](http://www.cvag.org)



June 28, 2024

Wayne Nastri  
Executive Officer  
South Coast Air Quality Management District  
21865 Copley Dr.  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

## Re: Addressing Air Quality Concerns in the Coachella Valley

Dear Mr. Nastri,

We, the undersigned elected officials and community leaders of the Coachella Valley, urgently request the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) take immediate steps to address the air quality conditions that are increasingly causing concern among residents, visitors and stakeholders. There is broad consensus among leadership and residents that the current conditions could pose a threat to the future of our public health, as well as our economy.

We would first like to thank you for your recent help in addressing the gap in our local air monitoring system by re-installing a monitor in Indio and placing temporary monitor(s). We recently learned that some of our colleagues at South Coast AQMD believe that our current air quality conditions fall within normal, expected, parameters. Not only do we believe that this does not correlate with our local experience, but it also poses a barrier to future opportunities for mitigation funding and collaboration. We would like to urgently request a meeting with you and your colleagues to discuss the local data and evaluate why our opinions on current conditions are unaligned. Immediate action is needed, and we pledge our collaboration through the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) to work with you.

Our air quality has been noticeably worse since Tropical Storm Hilary plummeted the Coachella Valley with a once in a 1,000-year storm event that deposited new mud and fine sediment in the area. On May 31, CVAG's Executive Director sent you a letter detailing our region's concerns. The call for action by community members and stakeholders has grown even louder over time, and we encourage you to review the video from CVAG's June 13 meeting of the CVAG's Energy and Sustainability Committee where local elected leaders, community organizations and residents expressed their concerns.

South Coast AQMD's leadership and expertise is needed to identify sources of emissive dust and opportunities for soil stabilization, as well as to deploy monitors with enhanced capabilities that can better profile total suspended particulates. With your collaboration, we can create a plan for action that fits the needs of our region's concerns by safeguarding the region's economy and protecting the health and well-being of residents and visitors of the Coachella Valley. We stand ready to work with you.

Sincerely,

Scott Matas  
CVAG Chair  
Fiscal Year 2023/24

Oscar Ortiz  
Chair, CVAG's Energy  
and Sustainability Committee

Ted Weill  
CVAG Chair  
Fiscal Year 2024/25

City of Blythe

Joey Recond *Mary Conley*  
Jim Dins

City of Cathedral City

*Frank Williams*  
Mark Carter *Mark Ross*  
Raymond Rogers  
Dale Lane

City of Coachella

*Shelley Phillips*  
Stephanie Vizer

City of Desert Hot Springs

*Paul R. ...*  
*John ...*

City of Indian Wells

*Dr. W. Reed*

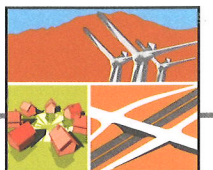
City of Indio

*W. J. ...* *Elan Adams*

City of La Quinta

*Linda Evans* *John ...* *McGary*  
*Doree Fitzpatrick*

Steve Sanchez



CVAG



City of Palm Desert

*Yvonne Nestande* *Margie K. Golder*  
*Jan Harick*  
*Eva Bee* Kathleen Kelly

City of Palm Springs

*J.P.A. B.* *Ron Schante* *Grace Garner*  
*Lucy Mjaduta* *Christy Holtz*

City of Rancho Mirage

*Michael Skopf* *Ted Weese*  
*Ann Macleath* *Weg Mann*

County of Riverside

*V. A. J.*

Tribal Nations

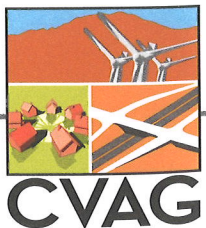
*Carol...* *W.D. Hill (ALBLI)*

Desert Healthcare District

*Chris C...* *Lee Zandle*  
*Carmin Zaval, PsyD.* *Arthur Shorr*  
*Carole Rogers*

Community Stakeholders

*Ron...* *...*



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Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez  
Mallory Crecelius, City Manager

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Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Ross  
Councilmember Ernesto Gutierrez  
Councilmember Raymond Gregory  
Councilmember Rita Lamb

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Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Virgen  
Councilmember Frank Figueroa  
Councilmember Neftali Galarza\*

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Mayor Pro Tem Jan Pye  
Councilmember Russell Betts  
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Councilmember Gary Gardner

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Councilmember Dana Reed  
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Councilmember Waymond Fermon  
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Councilmember Meg Marker  
Councilmember Lynn Mallotto  
Councilmember Michael O’Keefe

**COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez – District 4

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Tribal Chair Reid D. Milanovich  
Tribal Vice Chair Candace Patencio Anderson

**TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS**

Tribal Vice Chair Joseph Mirelez

**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT**

Chris Christensen, CEO  
Carmina Zavala, Vice President  
Lee Zendle, Director  
Carole Rogers, Director  
Arthur Shorr, Treasurer

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Russ Martin, Mission Springs Water District Director  
Amber Duff, Mission Springs Water District Board of Directors – Division 1  
Scott White, President & CEO, Visit Greater Palm Springs  
Brandon Marley, President & CEO, Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce

\* Added after June 28, 2024

