



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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## **South Coast AQMD Issues Emergency Order for Crematoriums due to COVID-19**

**DIAMOND BAR**—Today, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) issued an Emergency Order (Order) to temporarily suspend certain permit conditions for crematoriums in Los Angeles County to assist with the backlog caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 current rate of death is more than double that of pre-pandemic years, leading to hospitals, funeral homes, and crematoriums exceeding capacity without the ability to process the backlog of cases. The Los Angeles County Medical-Examiner Coroner (ME-Coroner) and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health have requested that South Coast AQMD suspend limits on cremations in order to protect public health and to respond to the current emergency.

The Order applies to crematoriums in Los Angeles County and other facilities that have an agreement with the ME-Coroner. Facilities are required to submit an email notice to the South Coast AQMD Emergency Relief Mailbox ([EmergencyRelief@aqmd.gov](mailto:EmergencyRelief@aqmd.gov)) with intent to exceed permit limits. Additional requirements are listed in the Order which can be found [here](#).

All other terms and conditions of the permit and other air quality rule requirements will remain in effect.

Under South Coast AQMD Rule 118, the Executive Officer has the ability to suspend certain rules during a state or federally declared State of Emergency. The Order is in effect for 10 days and can be extended if warranted.

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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