

**Air Quality Alert: May 24, 2012**

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**BLOWING DUST EXPECTED TO RESULT IN EXCEEDANCE OF FEDERAL AIR QUALITY STANDARDS**

**Air Quality is Unhealthy for Sensitive Persons and May Affect  
Healthy Individuals Due to Blowing Dust and Sand**

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA,** – On March 23, the Federal Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter were exceeded in the Oceano Dunes/Nipomo Mesa area. The San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and Public Health Department are advising the public of similar poor air quality conditions in the Oceano Dunes/Nipomo Mesa area, today and tomorrow (May 24 & 25), due to blowing sand and dust. The blowing dust is forecasted to occur from noon to 7 pm, with the dust peaking from 1 pm to 5 pm. Sensitive individuals such as infants, as well as children and adults with existing respiratory or heart conditions may experience adverse health effects during blowing dust periods.

County officials recommend that the public reschedule outdoor activities to occur when there is no visible dust. If blowing dust and sand is visible in the air, County officials recommend all adults and children avoid strenuous outdoor activity, remain indoors as much as possible, and set any heating/air conditioning/ventilation systems to recirculation. The public is advised to consult your doctor if you are experiencing health problems in an area with blowing dust and sand. If staying indoors does not provide relief, temporarily leaving the area and going to a location where the sand is not blowing and dust is not visible is advised.

County officials will continue to closely monitor air pollution levels throughout our region and provide updated forecasts on the APCD website [slocleanair.org](http://www.slocleanair.org). The forecasted air quality index (AQI) is available on the website [http://www.slocleanair.org/air/AirForecasting\\_map.php](http://www.slocleanair.org/air/AirForecasting_map.php). The AQI focuses on health effects individuals may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air. The forecasted AQI is also available to the public via email. Sign up to receive the daily air quality forecast via email by visiting <http://www.slocleanair.org/air/AirForecasting.php>. A recorded message describing San Luis Obispo County air quality conditions is available by calling 805-781-4390.

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