

Our Air Quality

The Monterey Bay region is blessed with a great deal of natural beauty, unfortunately, we still experience some days each year when air pollution levels violate the state standards for ozone and particulate matter.

Ozone, the primary ingredient in smog, can have harmful effects on both human health and vegetation. This irritant results from a photo-chemical reaction when nitrogen oxides and reactive organic gases mix in our atmosphere in sunlight.

Particulate matter is made up of fine minerals and metals, smoke, soot, and dust particles suspended in the air. In addition to reducing visibility, the smaller particles, called fine particulate matter, can lodge deep in the lungs causing respiratory and other health problems.

In the Monterey Bay region, several factors contribute to pollution. Emissions from vehicles, businesses, and industry all combine with our climate and topography to create air pollution.

BURN CLEAN

Burn Dry Wood

Maintain Airflow

Burn Hot Fires

Recycle Yard Waste

Clean Air

You Can Make a Difference!

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Monterey Bay Air Resources District



The Mission of the Monterey Bay Air Resources District is to Protect Public and Environmental Health while Balancing Economic and Air Quality Considerations.

We Are Here to Serve You

The Monterey Bay Air Resources District protects public health and the environment from the effects of air pollution. The District is dedicated to cleaning up the air we breathe through education, regulating local sources of air pollution, and enforcement of air regulations.



What We Do

The District is responsible for air monitoring, permitting, source testing, enforcement, long-range air quality planning, regulatory development, education and public information activities related to air pollution.

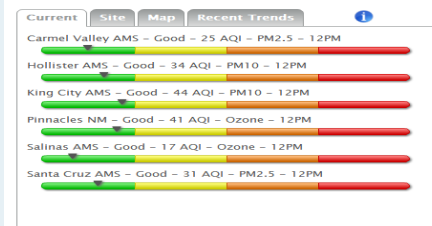
The District regulates, permits, and inspects stationary sources of air pollution. The regulated sources include oil fields, factories, manufacturers, power plants, gasoline stations, auto body shops, dry cleaners, and standby generators. Inspections of regulated stationary sources ensure compliance with permit requirements.

The District's planning ensures that our region meets State and federal air quality standards. The District conducts an education program to inform the general public and students about local air quality issues and about steps we can take to reduce air pollution.

The District also provides grants to local agencies and local businesses to reduce emissions.

The District operates a monitoring network to determine compliance with State and federal air quality standards. The network provides real-time data based on the Air Quality Index (AQI) and is available to the public on the District's website at montereybaycleanair.org.

Current Air Quality and Forecast

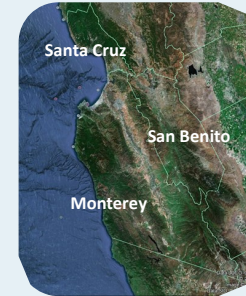


How We Are Funded

The District is funded by both fees and grants. The two largest sources of funding come from vehicle registration fees and annual permit fees paid by businesses and industries that emit pollutants. Other funding sources include State and federal grants, fines for violations, and contributions from the 21 local cities and counties.

Our Air Basin

The counties of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz comprise the North Central Coast Air Basin (NCCAB). The air basin covers an area of more than 5,100 square miles. The region is under the jurisdiction of the District and shares similar air pollution problems.



How We Are Governed

The District is governed by an 11 member Board of Directors appointed from the elected governing bodies of the local jurisdictions. Six Board members are county supervisors, five are mayors or city council members. The Air Pollution Control Officer is appointed by the Board and serves as Executive Director of the District.

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