



## South Coast Air Quality Management District

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### U.S. EPA Schools Monitoring Initiative Fact Sheet

■ **What is the U.S. EPA's Schools Monitoring Initiative?** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has initiated a national project to measure levels of toxic air pollution near approximately 60 schools across the country, including four in California. The U.S. EPA is partnering with local and regional agencies across the country to take a closer look at schools that are located near major sources of industrial pollution.

■ **How is the AQMD participating in the U.S. EPA's air toxics program?** The U.S. EPA has requested AQMD's assistance with this project and the AQMD has provided feedback on the selection of schools and air monitoring methodology. The AQMD will assist with the field work while the federal agency provides the monitoring equipment and air sample analysis. The AQMD will contribute staff time to this effort, expected to last a minimum of two months, with monitoring to be conducted once every six days.

■ **Which schools have been chosen for monitoring by the U.S. EPA in the South Coast Air Basin?**

◦ *Soto Street Elementary School, 1020 S Soto St. Los Angeles, CA 90023*

The school, in the Boyle Heights neighborhood, is adjacent to one of the busiest highway interchanges (the 60/5/10 freeways, with the 710 and 110 freeways close by as well) in the nation. In the past, the AQMD has monitored for PM10 and carbon emissions at the site.

◦ *Felton Elementary, 10417 Felton Ave., Lennox, CA 90304*

The school is located just east of the 405 freeway and is under the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) flight path. In the past, the AQMD has monitored for PM10, carbon and air toxic emissions.

◦ *Santa Anita Christian Academy, 4434 Santa Anita Ave., El Monte, CA 91731*

The school is located near El Monte Airport where piston-engine aircraft use leaded fuel.

■ **Have either of these schools ever been monitored by the AQMD before?**

Two of the schools, Soto Street and Felton, have been monitored by the AQMD in the past. The principal findings for Soto Street included PM10 levels similar to those observed in Central Los Angeles. Samples collected at Felton, in part, showed levels of formaldehyde and acetaldehyde slightly above the Basin-wide

averages determined during previous AQMD studies. This new study will provide an opportunity to examine air quality trends over time at these two schools.

■ **What is the AQMD's experience in monitoring schools for air toxics and pollutants?**

The AQMD has been conducting special monitoring at South Coast Air Basin schools since 1987. The agency does more air toxics monitoring at schools than any other air quality agency in the nation, and sampling at schools is a major focus of its air toxics monitoring program.

■ **How often does AQMD monitor schools and what has been found in the studies?**

In recent years, the AQMD has been conducting monitoring at about five schools (average) per year. Throughout the past 10 years, the agency has monitored at over 50 schools throughout the four-county area for air toxics and other pollutants. Air monitoring samplers have been located at selected schools to test for a variety of air contaminants including hexavalent chromium, sulfur compounds, particulates, air toxic gases and diesel emissions.

■ **What criteria does the AQMD have in choosing schools to monitor?**

- information gathered from regional air toxic studies
- community, teacher, and parent concerns
- a school's proximity to known industrial or mobile sources

■ **What schools are currently monitored by the AQMD for air toxics?**

- Colton High School, 777 W. Valley Blvd. Colton, CA 92324

The school is located near California Portland Cement Co. The AQMD is monitoring the site for hexavalent chromium.

- Edison Elementary School and Wilmington Child Care Center, 3800 W. 182nd St. Torrance, CA 90504

The facilities are located near the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The AQMD has been monitoring for PM mass and carbon every winter for the past seven years.

- Guadalupe Child Care Center, 1633 W 5th St. San Bernardino, CA 92411

The center is located next to a major rail yard. The AQMD has been monitoring for PM10 and carbon.

- Hudson School, 2335 Hudson St. Long Beach, CA 90810

The school is located near the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, refineries, a rail yard, and the Terminal Island Freeway. The AQMD has been monitoring for PM 10, carbon, air toxics, and criteria pollutants. In addition, the AQMD has been monitoring for PM mass and carbon every winter for the past seven years.

◦ Van Buren Elementary School, 9501 Jurupa Rd, Riverside, CA 92509

The school is located near commercialized areas with significant trucking and warehousing activity. In 2007, it had the highest annual average PM 2.5 level in the South Coast Air Basin. The AQMD continues to monitor the school for a variety of criteria pollutants.

◦ Resurrection Catholic School, 3360 E. Opal St. Los Angeles, CA 90023

The school is located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood in a highly industrial area. The AQMD will begin comprehensive year-long monitoring of air toxics in the coming months.

■ **What is the biggest source of air pollution in the South Coast Air Basin and the region's main source for cancer risks?**

The Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study III (MATES III), the most comprehensive and sophisticated air toxics research effort ever conducted in Southern California, found that on average, Southland residents are exposed to a lifetime cancer risk from toxic air pollution of 1,200 in 1 million. The highest computer-modeled risk level is in the port area with a maximum lifetime cancer risk of up to 2,900 in a million. Diesel exhaust accounts for approximately 84 percent of region-wide cancer risk and mobile sources. Cars and trucks as well as ships, trains, aircraft and construction equipment account for 94 percent of the total risk.

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