



# Salton Sea Engagement

Aaron Rojas, Tribal Air Technician  
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission  
Indians





# Agenda

This presentation will present examples for Tribes in Southern California to participate in the Salton Sea Restoration initiative.

- Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP)
- AB 617 Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV)
- 29 Palms Air Monitoring Station
- Outreach





# Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP)

## SSMP Engagement Committee

- Panelist and Attendees
- Provide input and disseminate Salton Sea updates to the Community

## State Water Resources Control Board Public Workshops

- Written or Oral comments on Status of Phase 1 of 10-year SSMP Plan
- State agencies presentations

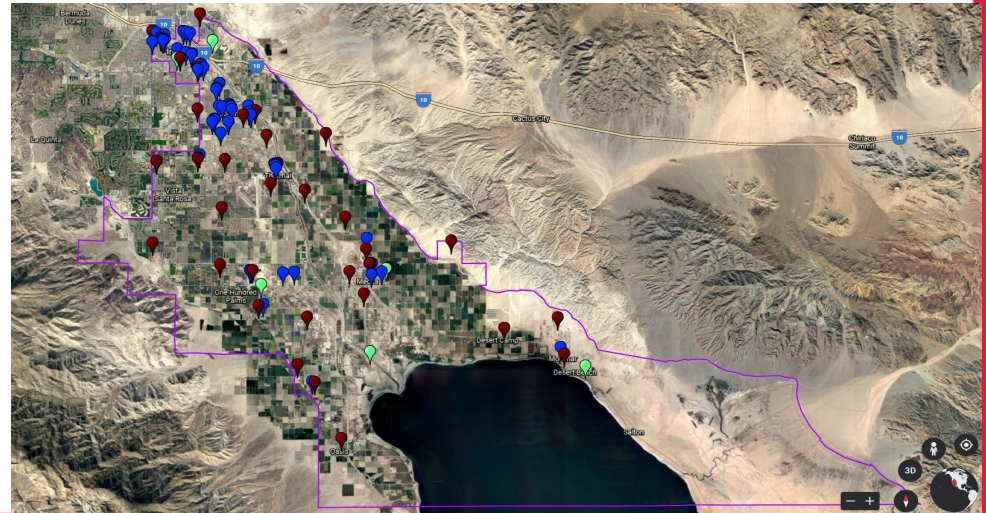




# Assembly Bill 617 Eastern Coachella Valley

Develop Community Emission Reduction Plan (CERP) and Community Air Monitoring Plan (CAMP) for disadvantage communities.

- Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) selected in 2019
- Tribal staff members of the Community Steering Committee
  - Participate and lead monitoring subgroup to develop air sensor network





# Tribal Air Monitoring Program

The Tribe is bound and connected to their lands in perpetuity and have a spiritual connection with the environment. A decline in air quality endangers many aspects of traditional lifeways.

The Tribe will continue to seek funding to build upon this air monitoring effort to increase the spatial coverage of particulate matter detection in the Coachella Valley.





# Outreach

## Events

- Pow Wow
- Earth Day
- Desert Wildlife Celebration

## Conferences

- RTOC
- NTFAQ
- CARB



## EPA - AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Monitoring – CARB A.B. 617

In 2015, the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians began development of an air quality program to understand the Reservation's air pollution risks. Initially, data consisting of pollutant concentrations and emission inventories were retrieved from sources such as the California Air Resources Board (CARB), South Coast Air Quality Management District. In 2018, the Tribe was awarded a CARB AB617 Community Air Grant, which was used to begin an air quality monitoring program that would meet compliance standards for environmental and public health. The air monitoring station is recording regulatory-grade, defensible, data that can be used to make accurate decisions regarding health risks in the eastern Coachella Valley. The target parameter for the Tribe is Particulate Matter (PM) – small particles that are readily suspended in air and known to pose threats to human health. With anticipated increases in air quality pollutants due to vehicle emissions and new emissions from the existing lakebed of the Salton Sea, the community needs to be vigilant. Moreover, the Tribe will conduct outreach to educate people about the air monitoring program and local air quality risks.

### Current Air Quality Info:

(Please be patient while information loads)

Good 0-50	Moderate 51-100	Unhealthy for sensitive groups 101-150	Unhealthy 151-200	Very Unhealthy 201-300	Hazardous 301-500
--------------	--------------------	--	----------------------	---------------------------	----------------------

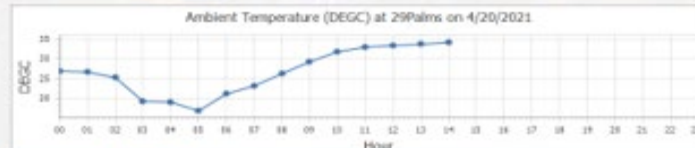
13:00 - 14:00 PT

**Current AQI is 67**

Latest Readings:

Ambient Temperature	33.7	DEGC	(Degrees Celsius)
PM10	40	UG/M3	(micrograms per cubic meter)
PM2.5	6.3	UG/M3	(micrograms per cubic meter)
Wind Direction	150.4	DEG	(Degrees)
Wind Speed	5.3	MPH	(miles per hour)

Date: 04/20/2021



Real-Time Air Quality Website:





# Questions?

Contact Information:

Aaron Rojas, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

[arojas@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov](mailto:arojas@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov), Office: 760-989-1933

