

How is Salton Sea dust affecting people?



Background

The Salton Sea is shrinking rapidly, and the exposed shoreline is growing. For decades, agricultural chemicals have accumulated in the sediment of the Salton Sea, and people worry

that those chemicals are in the dust blowing off the shore of the lake. This project will evaluate whether Salton Sea dust could cause health problems, and what could be done to reduce dust emissions and exposures.

Main Question:

Could dust blowing off the Salton Sea shoreline cause health effects in people living in the region?

Key Research Plans

Using available air pollution measurements and modeling, the researchers will estimate how much dust people around the Salton Sea are exposed to, including how this could change under future climate conditions. They

will also collect and analyze dust samples to identify chemical contaminants and the potential for health effects from dust exposure. The research team will make recommendations on how individuals can reduce their exposure to dust.

Expected Impacts

- People living around the Salton Sea may better understand how dust from the Salton Sea could affect their family's health and how to lessen dust exposure.
- Public health officials could use the data to improve health assessment analyses and inform how they respond to events, such as dust storms.
- Dust emissions modeling could guide dust suppression efforts, including in other locations where dust is a public health issue.



More Information

This project is led by Dr. Amato Evan from the University of California, San Diego. [Contract 24RD001](#)

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