



Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA 92392
(760) 245-1661

MEDIA RELEASE

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For further information contact:

Violette Roberts, Community Relations & Education Manager
Mojave Desert AQMD (760) 245-1661 ext. 6104

MDAQMD Earns Prestigious Transparency Certificate

Victorville – The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District has received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence conferred by the Special District Leadership Foundation, in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

“This award is a testament to the MDAQMD’s commitment to open and accessible government,” said Executive Director Eldon Heaston, who accepted the certificate during the California Special District Association’s Annual Conference in Monterey on September 18. “The agency’s staff and Governing Board are to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight,” added Heaston.

To qualify for the certificate, a special district must complete eight essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all Board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State controller in a timely manner. Additionally the MDAQMD was required to fulfill fifteen website requirements – including providing readily available public information - and to demonstrate active outreach that engages the public through newsletters and special community engagement projects.

Special districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities – such as water, fire protection, healthcare and more – which are established and funded by

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voters.

SLDF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation and other recognition programs.

Approximately 2,000 of the state's 5,000 special districts are current members of SLDF. Less than 1% of SLDF's eligible member agencies have successfully applied for the coveted Transparency Certificate.

The MDAQMD is the local air pollution control agency for San Bernardino County's High Desert region and the Palo Verde Valley portion of Riverside County. The District is responsible for regulating stationary air pollution sources and implementing state and federal air quality rules and regulations within its 20,000-plus square mile jurisdiction, which is home to over 540,000 residents.

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