

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **2020 POSTER CONTEST EXTENDED THROUGH SEPTEMBER**

Participating K-12 students eligible for \$100 prizes, new bicycles

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District has extended the submission deadline for the 2020 installment of its annual Clean Air Month Poster Contest. Students have until 5 p.m. Sept. 25 to enter an original drawing with the chance to win up to \$100 and a new bicycle.

The District adjusted the submission period in light of school closures in the second half of the 2019-20 school year. This year's contest coincides with the District's recently launched Our Desert Air, a public outreach initiative to make more local people aware of air quality benefits and issues than ever before.

To put it simply: MDAQMD is asking students to help illustrate all there is to love and protect in the vast expanse of the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

The contest theme, appropriately named, "Our Desert Air," invites participants to create and submit a hand-drawn poster that shows one or more features of the Mojave Desert that make it unique. Whether it's as detailed as a scene in the midst of Mojave National Preserve, or as simple as a Joshua tree, students have a unique opportunity through their own creativity to help shine a spotlight on the wonders of the region.

"We hope by extending the deadline to submit, our creative, artistic and willing student participants have ample time to study and illustrate the features of our beautiful desert," said Brad Poiriez, Executive Director of the MDAQMD. "As distance learning continues, we want to support that by engaging our broad student population in understanding the core of our mission here at MDAQMD."

Students compete in one of four categories by grade level: kindergarten through second; third through fifth; sixth through eighth; and ninth through 12<sup>th</sup>. The top three winners in each category will win \$100, \$50 and \$25 respectively and every accepted entry is automatically entered for a chance to win a new bicycle generously donated by contest cosponsor Victor Valley Transit Authority.

Students in grades K-12 who attend school in the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County or Palo Verde Valley of Riverside County are eligible to participate. Get full contest rules and learn how to submit entries at [mdaqmd.ca.gov/CAMP2020](http://mdaqmd.ca.gov/CAMP2020).

MDAQMD is the air pollution control authority and permitting agency for the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County and the Palo Verde Valley in Riverside County. It's governed by a board of 13 members representing nine incorporated municipalities and two counties within its boundaries. Visit [mdaqmd.ca.gov](http://mdaqmd.ca.gov) or follow us on social media @MDAQMD.

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### **MOJAVE DESERT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**BRAD POIRIEZ**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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