

APRIL 2008 WEATHER SUMMARY

*RIVERSIDE FIRE WEATHER CENTER
PREDICTIVE SERVICES UNIT*

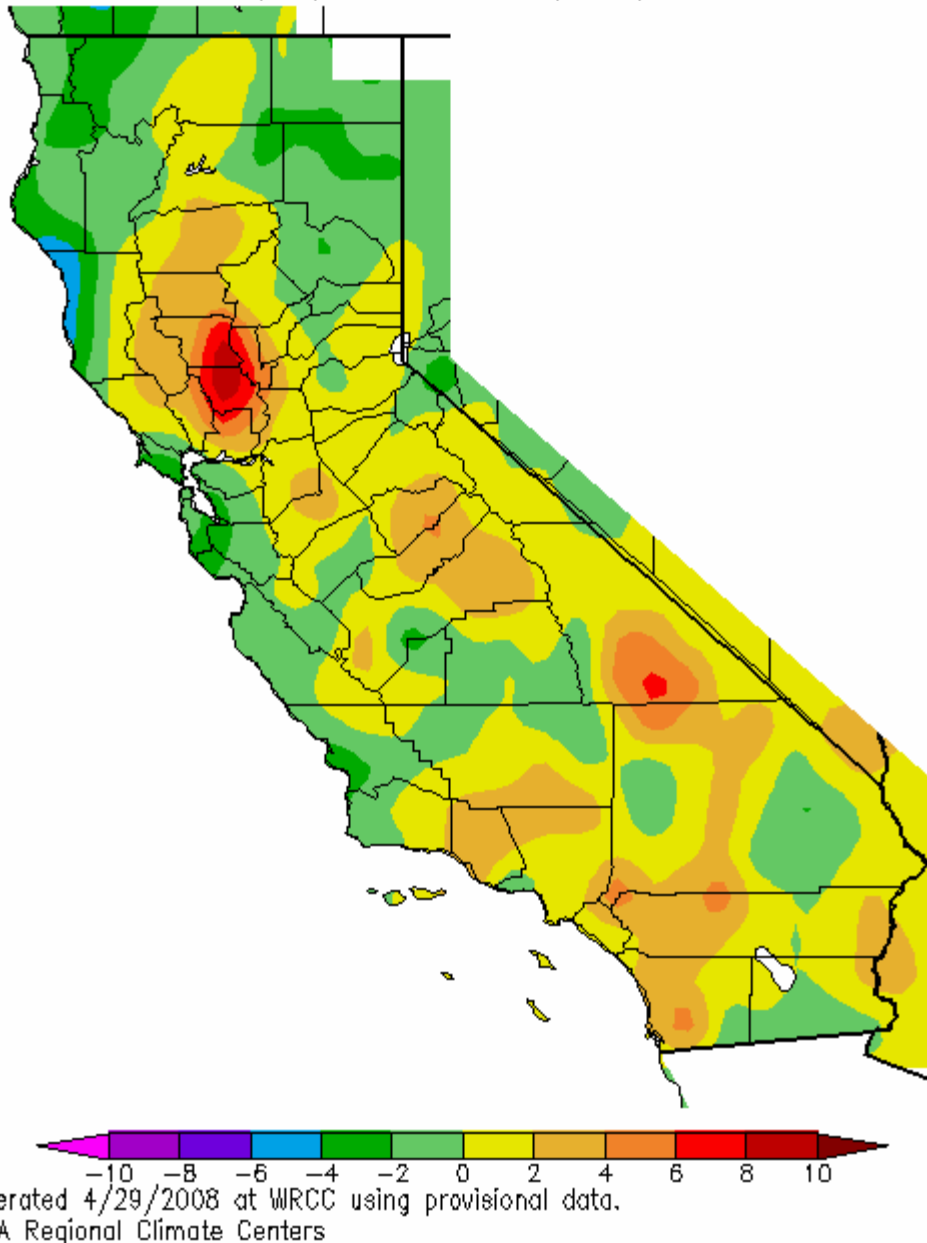
INTRODUCTION

A series of Pacific troughs brought near to below normal temperatures from April 1st – April 10th, April 19th – April 24th, and on April 30th. A couple of ridges of high pressure brought above normal temperatures from April 11th – April 18th, and then again from April 25th – April 29th. There were scattered showers over the Central Coast and over the Sierra April 1st – April 3rd, otherwise there was little or no precipitation across the region during the month. General winds were south to west ahead of and with the Pacific troughs and north to east behind the Pacific troughs and with the ridges of high pressure. There were no significant offshore winds events during the month.

TEMPERATURES

A series of Pacific troughs moving through California brought near to below normal temperatures to the region from April 1st – April 10th, April 19th – April 24th, and on April 30th. A couple of ridges of high pressure moving over the region from the Pacific Ocean brought above normal temperatures from April 11th – April 18th, and then again from April 25th – April 29th. Across Southern California, many inland valley locations had maximum temperatures in the upper 70s to upper 90s with the ridges of high pressure and 60s to mid 70s with the Pacific troughs. Normally, the valley locations of Southern California are in the low 70s to start the month and upper 70s to end the month. For the month, maximum temperatures over the region averaged out to around normal. However, maximum temperatures ranged from 2 to 4 degrees below normal over some Central Coast locations to 6 to 8 degrees above normal over the southern portions of the Inyo County Deserts. For the most part, coastal locations had a little below normal temperatures and inland locations had a little above normal temperatures for the month. Riverside set a daily high minimum temperature of 59 degrees on April 14th, 63 degrees on April 27th, and 58 degrees on April 28th. Riverside tied a daily high minimum temperature on April 26th with 58 degrees.

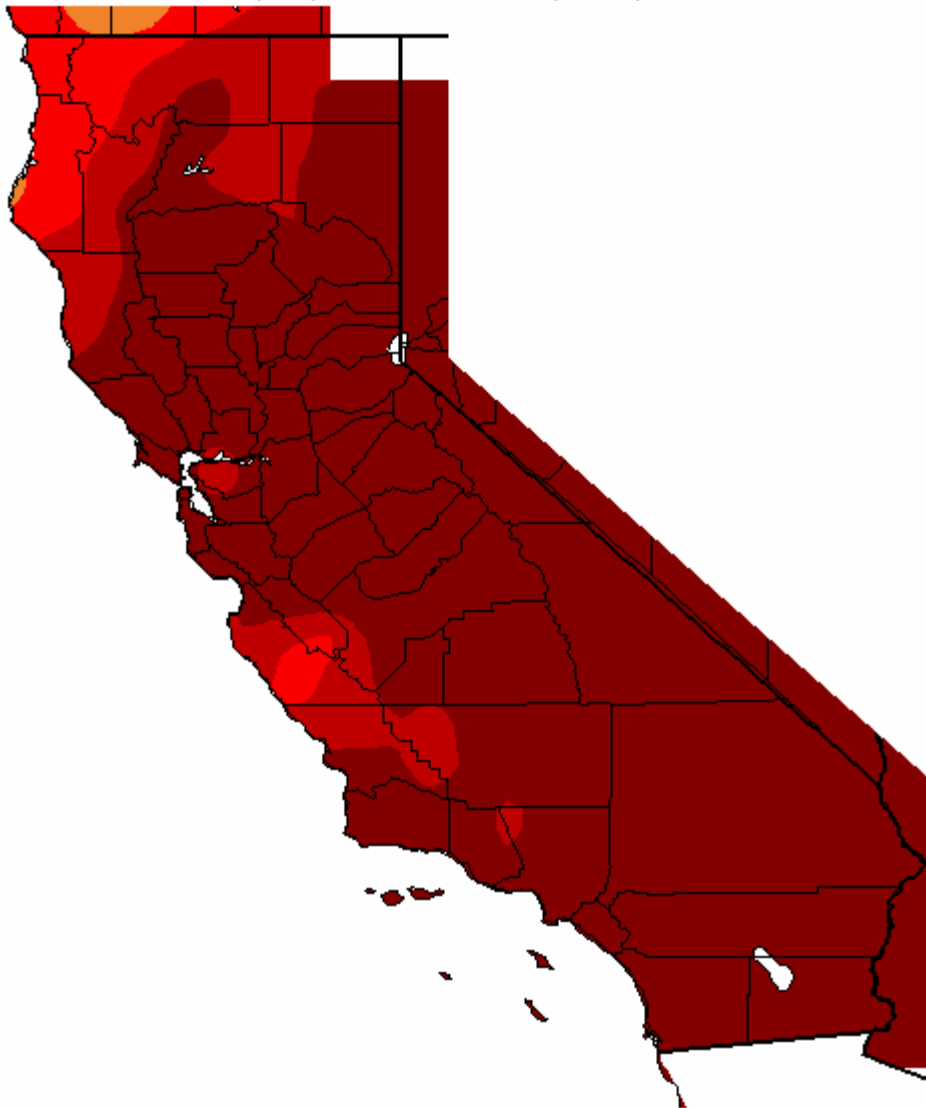
Av. Max. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
4/1/2008 – 4/28/2008



PRECIPITATION

A low pressure area off the Central California Coast brought scattered showers to the Central California Coast and to the Sierra April 1st – April 3rd. Most of these locations received less than a half inch of rainfall. The snow level was around 6,000 feet with a few inches of new snow over the Sierra. Otherwise, there was little or no precipitation across the region during the month. All locations across the region received well below normal precipitation for the month. Riverside received no rainfall for the month, when normally they receive 0.61 inches.

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
4/1/2008 – 4/28/2008



25 50 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 150 175
Generated 4/29/2008 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

WINDS

General winds were south to west ahead of and with the Pacific troughs and north to east behind these troughs and with the ridges of high pressure. South to west afternoon winds with the Pacific troughs were mainly 10 to 20 mph and north to east winds with the ridges of high pressure were mainly 5 to 15 mph. However, a few stronger Pacific troughs brought south to west winds over some mountain and desert locations to 15 to 30 mph with gusts to 50 mph. There were no significant offshore wind events during the month.

FIRES

As of April 30th, according to the ICS-209, there were four fires this month for a total of 1,750 acres. Two of the four fires were considered large. The largest fire was called the Apache Fire. It occurred in the San Jacinto Mountains west of Palm Springs in the Southern Mountain PSA. It has burned 700 acres so far and has the ability to gain many more acres.

CONCLUSION

Overall, for much of the region, April had near normal temperatures and well below normal precipitation. Winds were mainly south to west ahead of and with the Pacific troughs and north to east behind these troughs and with the ridges of high pressure. There were no significant offshore wind events during the month.