

# ***DECEMBER 2018 WEATHER SUMMARY***

*RIVERSIDE FIRE WEATHER CENTER*

*PREDICTIVE SERVICES UNIT*

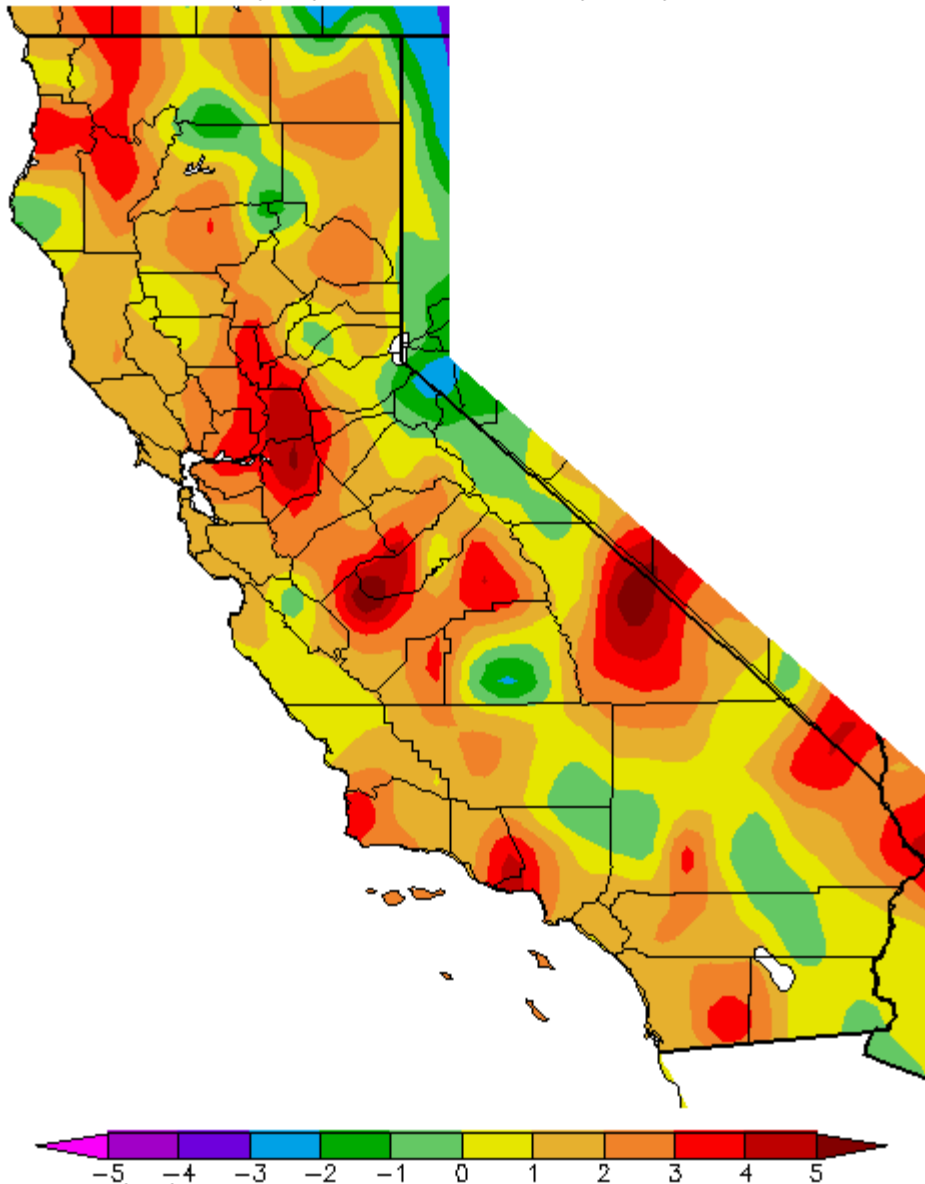
## ***INTRODUCTION***

A series of Pacific troughs and ridges of high pressure brought big temperature swings to the region in December. A strong Pacific trough brought periods of rain, heavy at times, December 5<sup>th</sup> – December 6<sup>th</sup>. A few Pacific troughs brought scattered showers with light rainfall totals to the region December 17<sup>th</sup>, December 25<sup>th</sup>, and December 31<sup>st</sup>. General winds were mainly south to west ahead of and with the Pacific troughs and north to east behind the troughs and with the ridges of high pressure. There was one moderate to strong Santa Ana wind event and three weak Santa Ana wind events during the month. The moderate to strong event occurred from December 26<sup>th</sup> – December 29<sup>th</sup> and the weak events occurred on December 3<sup>rd</sup> – December 4<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup>, and December 19<sup>th</sup> – December 20<sup>th</sup>.

## ***TEMPERATURES***

A series of Pacific troughs brought below normal temperatures to most of the region December 1<sup>st</sup> – December 2<sup>nd</sup>, December 5<sup>th</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>, December 17<sup>th</sup>, and December 25<sup>th</sup> through the end of the month. High pressure off the California Coast brought near to above normal temperatures December 3<sup>rd</sup> – December 4<sup>th</sup>, December 8<sup>th</sup> – December 16<sup>th</sup>, and December 18<sup>th</sup> – December 24<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures in the valleys were mainly in the upper 60s to low 80s with the ridges of high pressure and 50s to mid 60s with the Pacific troughs. For the month, maximum temperatures averaged out to 0 to 2 degrees above normal. However, maximum temperatures ranged from 2 to 3 degrees below normal over some mountain locations in Kern County to 5 to 6 degrees above normal over some desert locations in Inyo County. For the most part, most locations received near to a little above normal temperatures.

Av. Max. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)  
12/1/2018 – 12/28/2018



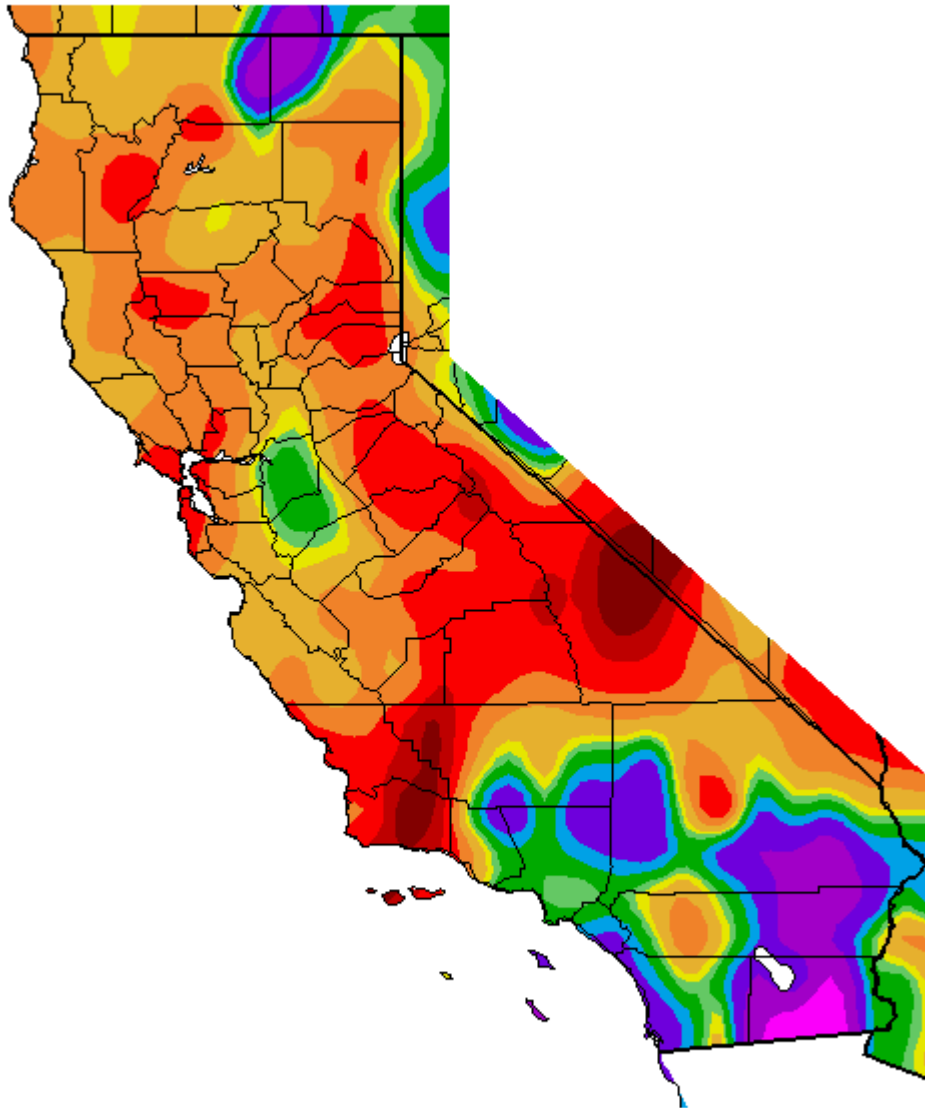
Generated 12/29/2018 at WRCC using provisional data.  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

### ***PRECIPITATION***

A strong Pacific trough brought widespread heavy rainfall to most of the region December 5<sup>th</sup> – December 6<sup>th</sup>. A few troughs dropping into the region from the north brought scattered showers with light rainfall December 17<sup>th</sup>, December 25<sup>th</sup>, and December 31<sup>st</sup>. Most locations received between 1 and 3.5 inches of rainfall for the month. However, most desert locations and the San

Joaquin Valley received less than an inch of rainfall. The snow level was between 4,000 and 5,000 feet most of the month. Several feet of new snow fell over the High Sierra, with up to a foot of new snow over the higher mountains of Southern California. Most locations across Southern California received above normal rainfall for the month, while most of Central California received below normal rainfall.

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)  
12/1/2018 – 12/28/2018



Generated 12/29/2018 at WRCC using provisional data.  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

## ***WINDS***

General winds were mainly 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 most of December. South to west winds with the 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, with the stronger troughs, south to west winds over some mountain and desert locations increased to 20 to 40 mph with gusts to 60 mph. There was one moderate to strong Santa Ana wind event and three weak Santa Ana wind events during the month. The moderate to strong event occurred from December 26<sup>th</sup> – December 29<sup>th</sup> and the weak events occurred on December 3<sup>rd</sup> – December 4<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup>, and December 19<sup>th</sup> – December 20<sup>th</sup>. With the moderate to strong event, winds over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California were mainly 20 to 30 mph with gusts to 50 mph. However, over the windiest locations, there were gusts to 70 mph.

## ***FIRES***

According to the ICS-209, there were no significant fires in December.

## ***CONCLUSION***

Overall, for much of the region, December received near to a little above normal temperatures. Most of Southern California received above normal rainfall and most of Central California received below normal rainfall. Winds were mostly south to west ahead of and with the Pacific troughs and north to east behind the troughs and with the ridges of high pressure. There was one moderate to strong Santa Ana wind event and three weak Santa Ana wind events during the month.