

JANUARY 2008 WEATHER SUMMARY
RIVERSIDE FIRE WEATHER CENTER
PREDICTIVE SERVICES UNIT

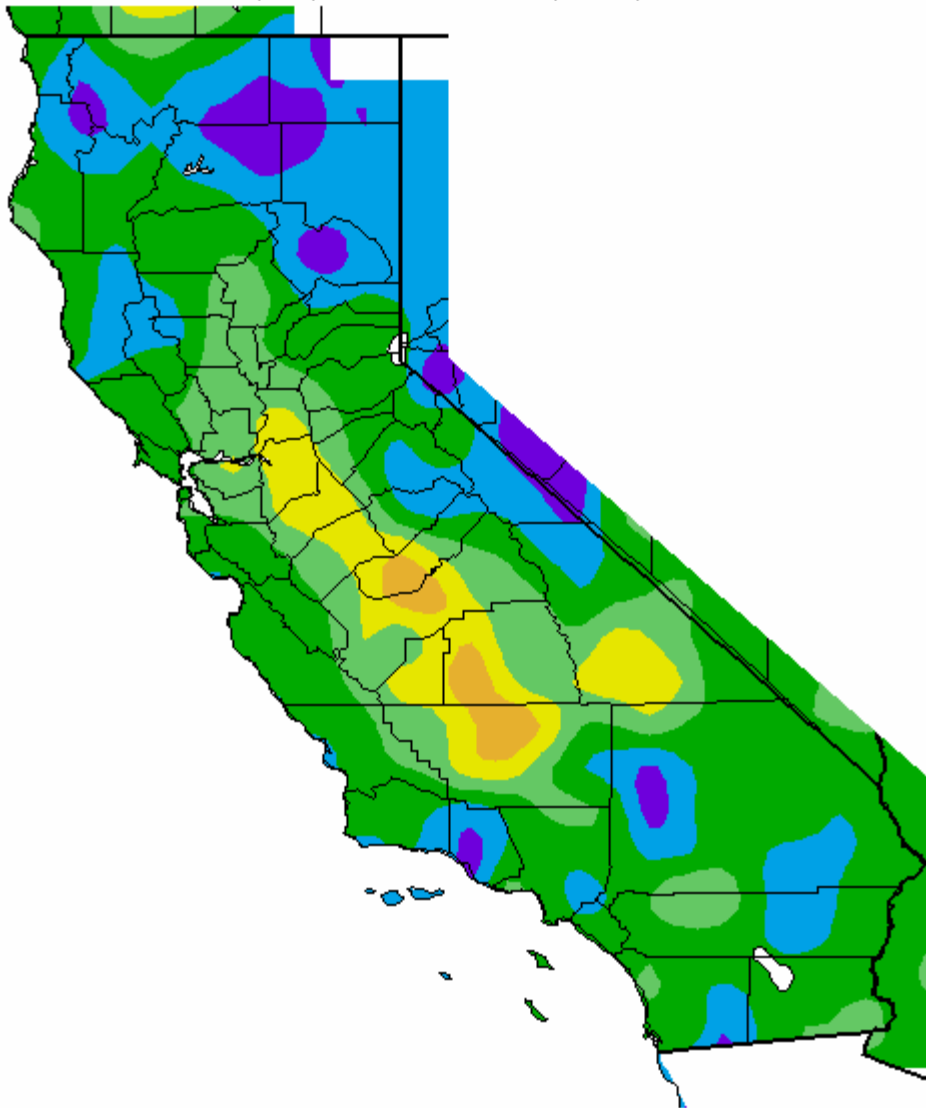
INTRODUCTION

A series of Pacific troughs brought near to below normal temperatures most of January. A couple of weak ridges of high pressure brought two brief periods of a little above normal temperatures. There were periods of rain across the entire region from January 3rd – January 7th and then again from January 20th through the end of 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 three Santa Ana wind events during the month, all of which were fairly strong. The first event occurred January 1st – January 2nd. The second event occurred January 11th – January 14th and the final event occurred January 16th – January 18th.

TEMPERATURES

A series of Pacific troughs moving through California brought near to below normal temperatures to the region most of January. A couple weak ridges of high pressure moving over the region from the Pacific Ocean brought two brief periods of a little above normal temperatures. These periods occurred January 2nd and January 11th – January 15th. Across Southern California, many inland valley locations had maximum temperatures in the upper 60s to mid 70s with the ridges of high pressure and 50s to mid 60s with the Pacific troughs. Normally, the valley locations of Southern California are in the mid 60s to low 70s the whole month. For the month, maximum temperatures over the region averaged out to around 2 to 4 degrees below normal. However, maximum temperatures ranged from 6 to 8 degrees below normal over much of Ventura County and the deserts of western San Bernardino County to 2 to 4 degrees above normal over some San Joaquin Valley locations. For the most part, almost all locations had below normal temperatures, except for the San Joaquin Valley. There were no record temperatures set at Riverside for the month.

Av. Max. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
1/1/2008 – 1/27/2008



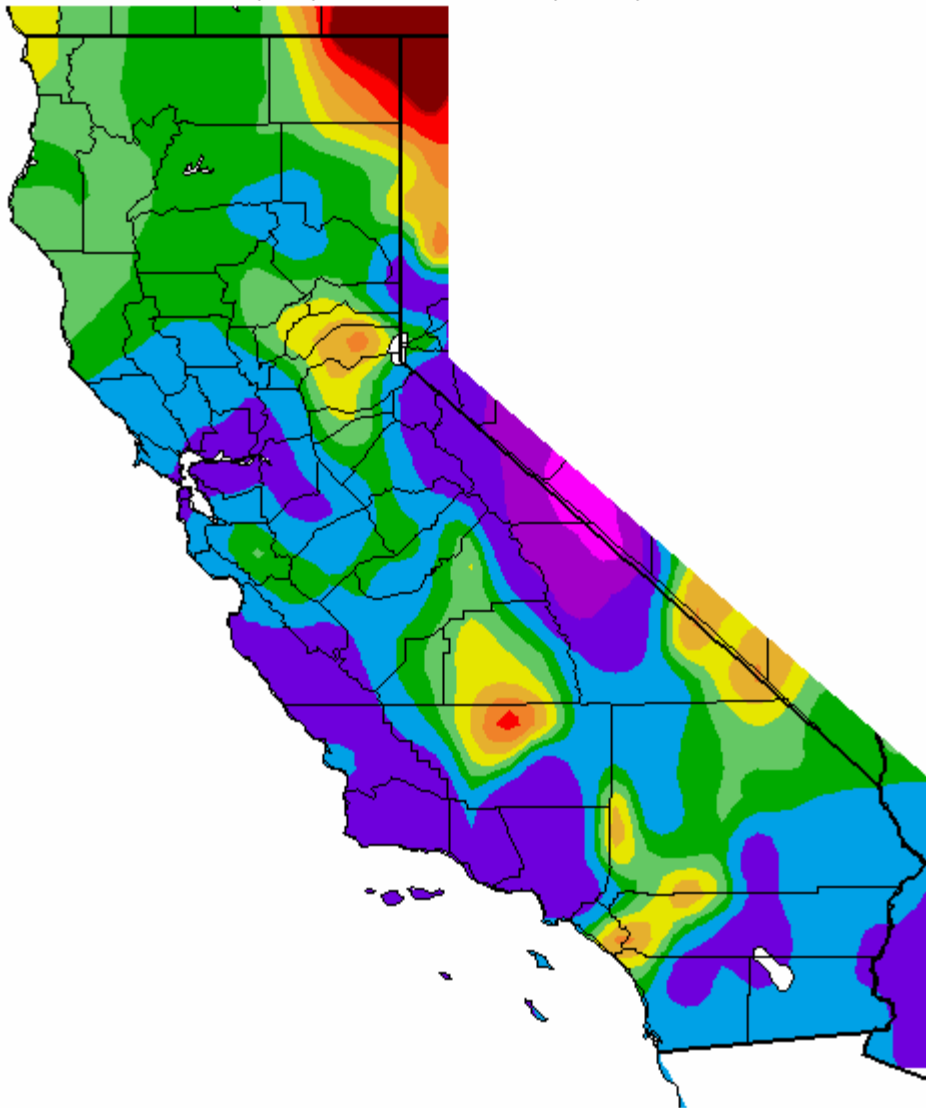
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PRECIPITATION

There were two periods of significant widespread rains during the month associated with strong Pacific storms. The first widespread significant rains occurred from January 3rd – January 7th. Most of the region received 2 to 4 inches of rainfall during this period. Snow levels started high, but toward the end of the period snow levels lowered to around 3,000 feet. Most locations in the Sierra received 2 to 4 feet of new snow and the higher mountain locations of Southern California received 1 to 2 feet of new snow. The next period of widespread significant rains occurred January 20th – January 28th. Most of the

region received another 2 to 4 inches of rainfall during this period. The snow level was around 3,000 feet for the most part during this period. New snow accumulations were mainly 2 to 4 feet over the Sierra and over the higher elevations of Southern California. Quick moving troughs will bring scattered showers to the region from January 29th through the end of the month with little rainfall or snowfall accumulation. For the most part, most locations had well above normal rainfall for the month. Most locations received between 4 and 8 inches of rainfall for the month, except there was more rain over some favored upslope areas and less rain over the Deserts and the San Joaquin Valley. As of January 28th, Riverside received 2.77 inches of rainfall, when normally they receive 2.45 inches.

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
1/1/2008 – 1/27/2008



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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 20 to 40 mph with gusts to 60 mph. There were three fairly strong Santa Ana wind events during the month. The first event occurred January 1st – January 2nd. The second event occurred

January 11th – January 14th and the final event occurred January 16th – January 18th. Winds over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California were mainly 20 to 40 mph with gusts to 60 mph with each event. However, over the windiest locations, there were gusts to between 80 and 100 mph.

FIRES

As of January 29th, according to the ICS-209, there were no significant fires this month.

CONCLUSION

Overall, for much of the region, January had well below normal temperatures and well above 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 three significant offshore wind events during the month.