

JANUARY 2019 WEATHER SUMMARY

RIVERSIDE FIRE WEATHER CENTER

PREDICTIVE SERVICES UNIT

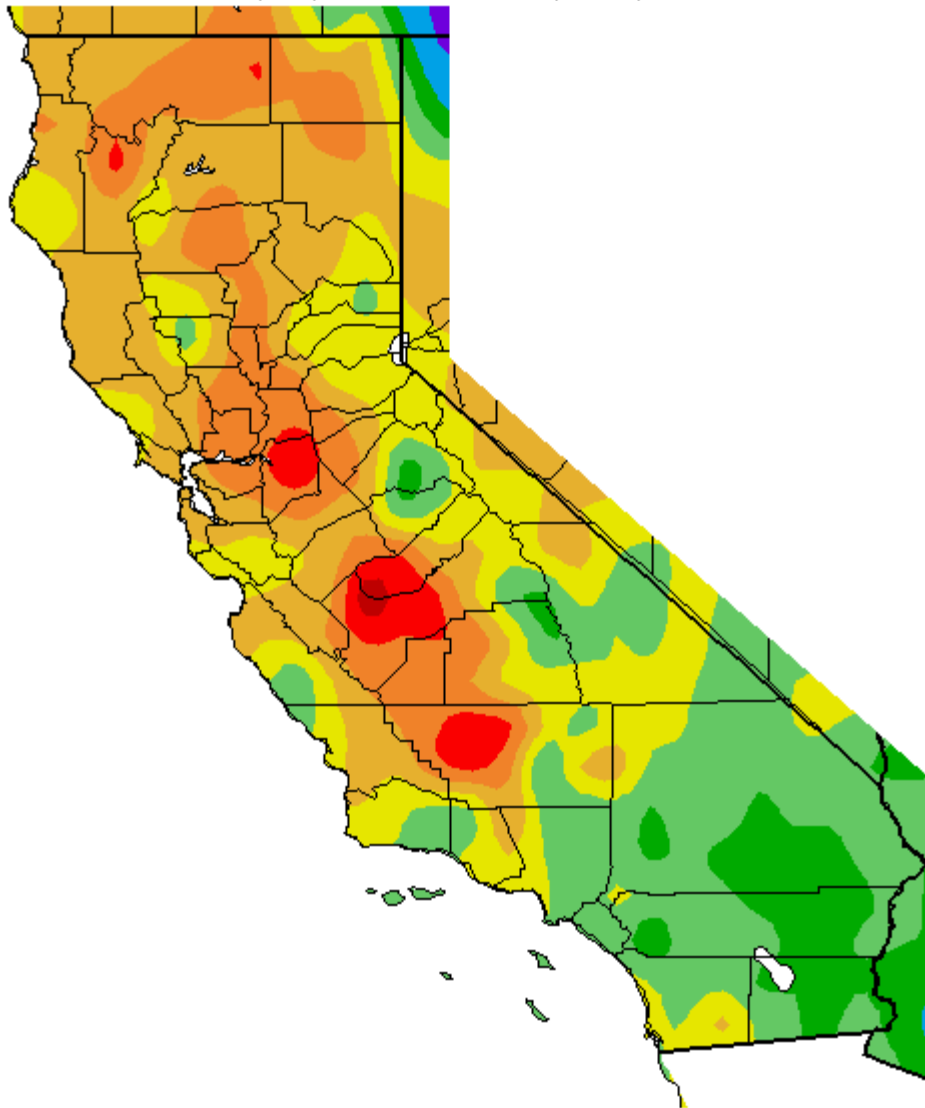
INTRODUCTION

A series of Pacific troughs and ridges of high pressure brought big temperature swings to the region in January. A series of strong Pacific troughs brought periods of rain, heavy at times, January 5th – January 7th, January 11th – January 17th, and January 31st. 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 were two moderate to strong Santa Ana wind events during the month. They occurred from January 1st- January 2nd and from January 22nd – January 26th.

TEMPERATURES

A series of Pacific troughs brought below normal temperatures to most of the region January 1st – January 2nd, January 5th – January 7th, January 11th – January 17th, January 21st, and January 31st. High pressure off the California Coast brought near to above normal temperatures January 3rd – January 4th, January 8th – January 10th, January 18th – January 20th, and January 22nd – January 30th. 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 near normal. However, maximum temperatures ranged from 2 to 4 degrees below normal over most Eastern Desert locations to 8 to 10 degrees above normal over some valley locations in Fresno County. For the most part, Central California received above normal temperatures and Southern California received below normal temperatures.

Av. Max. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
1/1/2019 – 1/31/2019



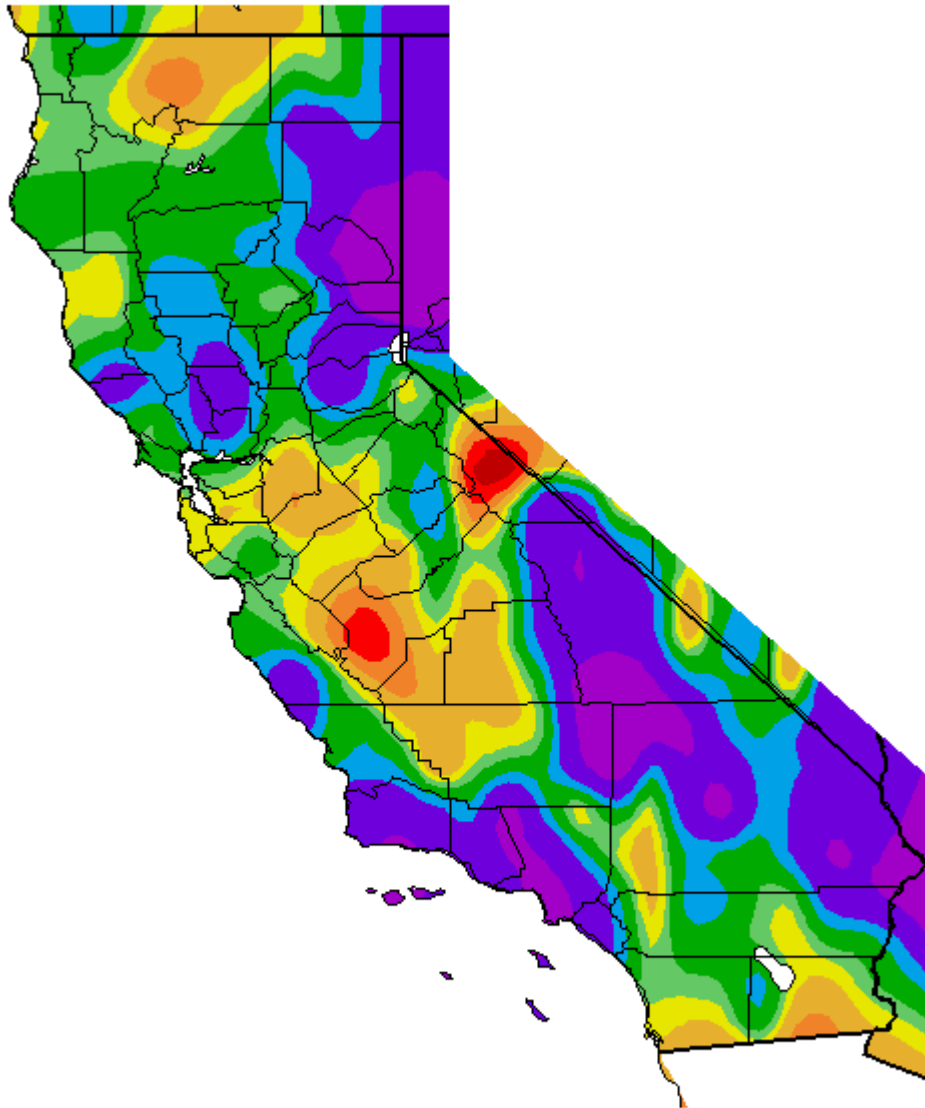
Generated 2/ 1/2019 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

PRECIPITATION

A series of strong Pacific troughs brought periods of rain, heavy at times, January 5th – January 7th, January 11th – January 17th, and January 31st. Most Sierra locations as well as most coastal mountain locations westward from Monterey County to Los Angeles County received between 6 and 12 inches of rainfall for the month. Most other areas received between 1.5 and 6 inches of

rainfall, but most desert and San Joaquin Valley locations received less than 1.5 inches of rainfall. The snow level was mainly between 5,000 and 6,000 feet most of the month, but it briefly fell to 4,000 feet at times. Several feet of new snow fell over the High Sierra, with up to a foot of new snow across the higher mountains of Southern California. Most locations received above normal rainfall for the month, but the San Joaquin Valley received below normal rainfall.

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
1/1/2019 – 1/31/2019



Generated 2/ 1/2019 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 January. 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 were two moderate to strong Santa Ana wind events during the month. They occurred from January 1st- January 2nd and from January 22nd – January 26th. Winds over the mountain 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 January.

CONCLUSION

Overall for much of the region, January received above normal temperatures across Central California and below normal temperatures across Southern California. Most locations received above normal rainfall, except there was below normal rainfall across the San Joaquin Valley. 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 were two moderate to strong Santa Ana wind events during the month.