

# ***MARCH 2019 WEATHER SUMMARY***

*RIVERSIDE FIRE WEATHER CENTER*

*PREDICTIVE SERVICES UNIT*

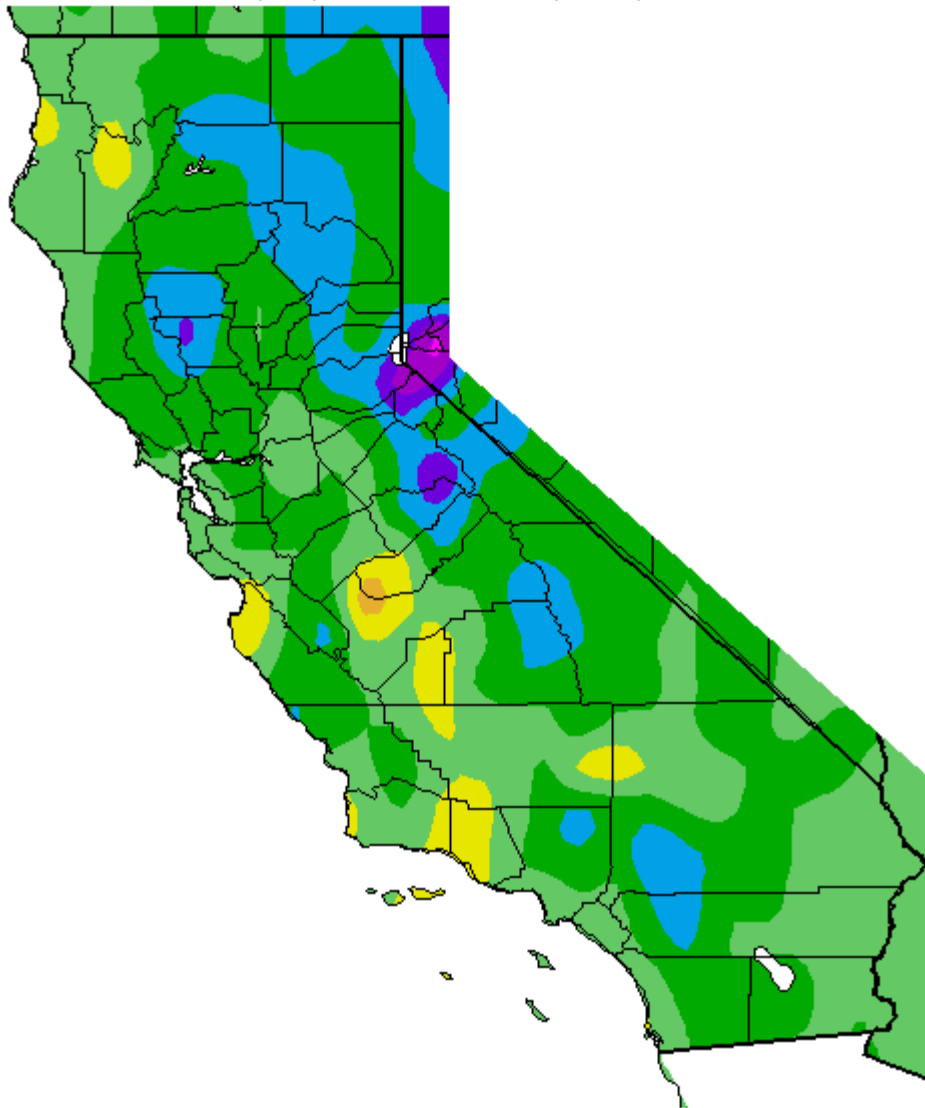
## ***INTRODUCTION***

A series of Pacific troughs brought near to below normal temperatures during the first two weeks of March. A series of Pacific troughs and ridges of high pressure brought big temperature swings the last two weeks of the month. Periods of rain, heavy at times, moved across the region March 1<sup>st</sup> – March 8<sup>th</sup>. Scattered showers moved mainly across Southern California March 11<sup>th</sup> – March 12<sup>th</sup>. Scattered showers moved mainly across Central California March 19<sup>th</sup> – March 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> – March 28<sup>th</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 were two weak Santa Ana wind events during the month. They occurred from March 13<sup>th</sup> – March 16<sup>th</sup> and from March 30<sup>th</sup> through the end of the month.

## ***TEMPERATURES***

A series of Pacific troughs moving inland over the West Coast brought near to below normal temperatures to most of the region March 1<sup>st</sup> – March 15<sup>th</sup>, March 19<sup>th</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup>, and March 26<sup>th</sup> – March 29<sup>th</sup>. High pressure off the California Coast brought above normal temperatures March 16<sup>th</sup> – March 18<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup>, and March 30<sup>th</sup> through the end of the month. Temperatures in the valleys were mainly in the mid 70s to mid 80s with the ridges of high pressure and mid 50s to low 70s with the Pacific troughs. For the month, maximum temperatures over the region averaged out to 1 to 3 degrees below normal. However, maximum temperatures ranged from 6 to 8 degrees below normal over some Central Sierra locations to 2 to 4 degrees above normal over some valley locations in Fresno County. For the most part, almost the entire region received below normal temperatures.

Av. Max. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)  
3/1/2019 – 3/28/2019



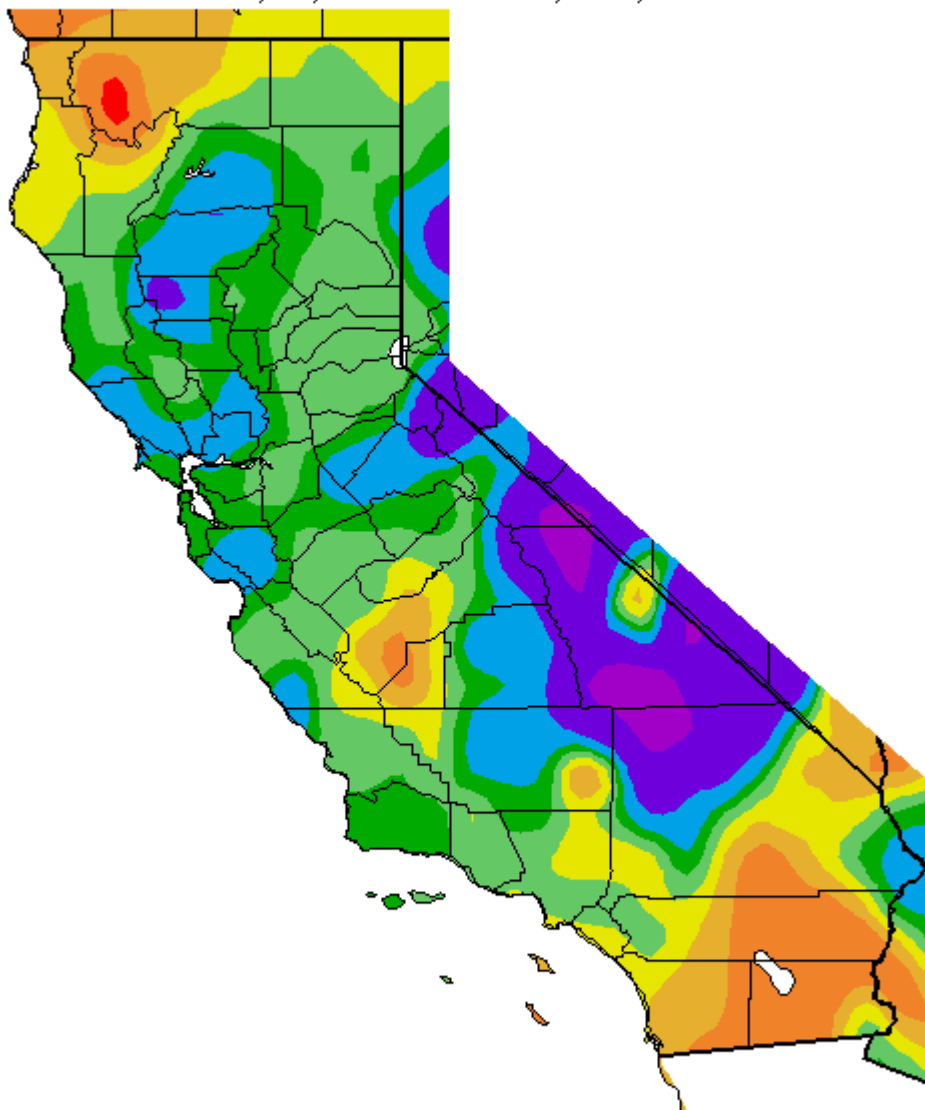
Generated 3/29/2019 at WRCC using provisional data.  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

### ***PRECIPITATION***

A series of strong troughs moving inland into the West Coast brought periods of rain, heavy at times, to the region March 1<sup>st</sup> – March 8<sup>th</sup>. An area of low pressure moved into Northern Baja bringing scattered showers to Southern California March 11<sup>th</sup> – March 12<sup>th</sup>. Pacific troughs moving inland over Northern California and the Pacific Northwest brought scattered showers

mainly to Central California March 19<sup>th</sup> – March 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> – March 28<sup>th</sup>. Most of the region received between 1 and 3.5 inches of rainfall for the month. However, the Sierra and the Central Coast received between 3.5 inches and 10 inches of rainfall and the eastern deserts received less than an inch of rainfall. The snow level was mainly between 5,000 and 6,000 feet for the month. Several feet of new snow fell over the Sierra and up to a foot of new snow fell over the higher mountain locations of Southern California. For the most part, most of the region received near normal rainfall for the month. However, the Sierra and northern deserts received well above normal rainfall and far Southern California received well below normal rainfall.

### Percent of Average Precipitation (%) 3/1/2019 – 3/28/2019



Generated 3/29/2019 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 March. 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. Over the windiest locations, there were gusts to 80 mph. There were two weak Santa Ana wind events during the month. They occurred from March 13<sup>th</sup> – March 16<sup>th</sup> and from March 30<sup>th</sup> through the end of the month. Winds over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California were mainly 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 40 mph. However, over the windiest locations, there were gusts to 50 mph.

## ***FIRES***

For March, according to the ICS-209, there was one large fire. It was called the Lincoln Fire and it burned 564 acres. It occurred just south of Mecca in the Lower Desert PSA.

## ***CONCLUSION***

Overall, for much of the region, March received below normal temperatures and near 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 were two weak Santa Ana wind events during the month.