

MAY 2019 WEATHER SUMMARY

RIVERSIDE FIRE WEATHER CENTER

PREDICTIVE SERVICES UNIT

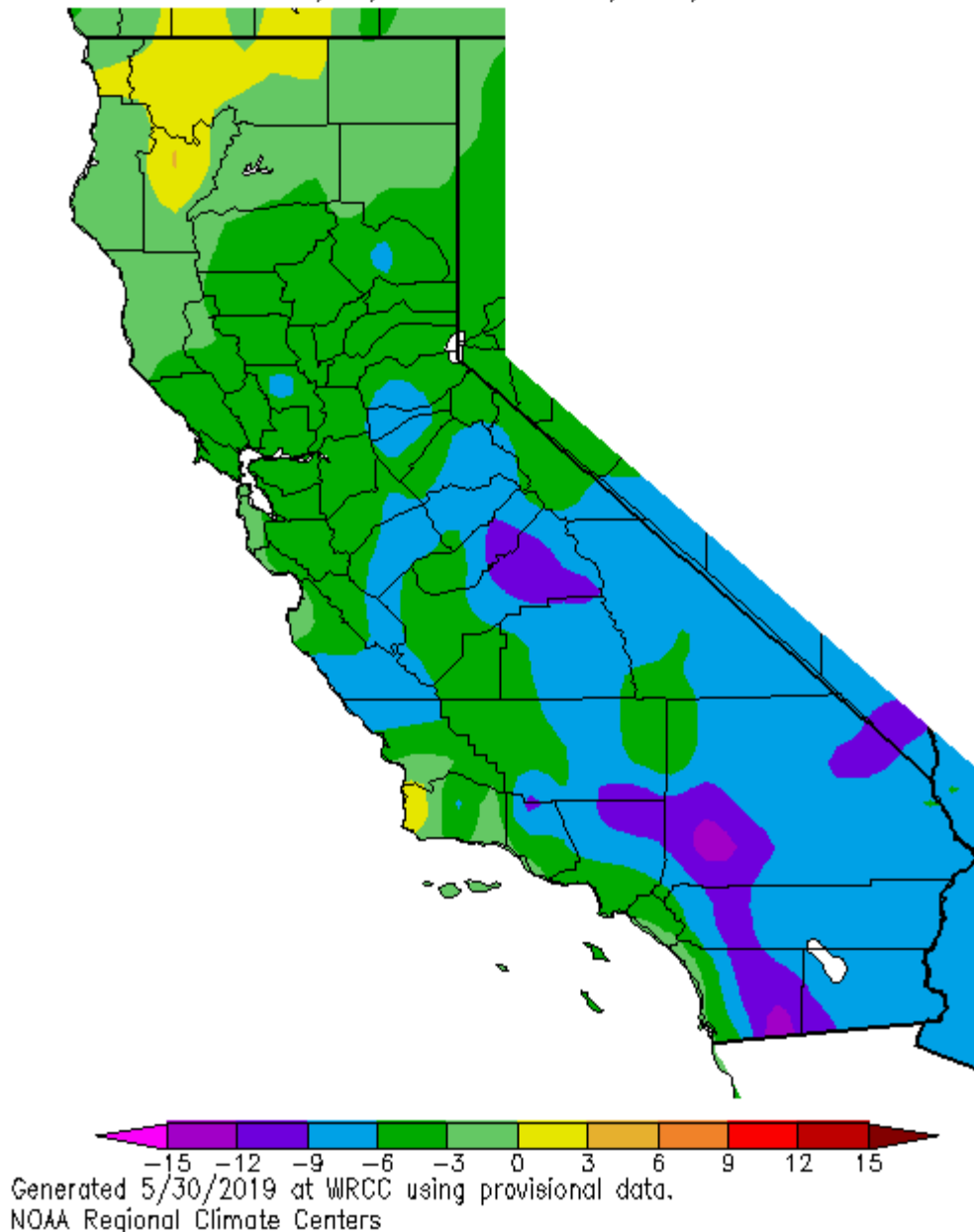
INTRODUCTION

A series of Pacific troughs brought below normal temperatures to the region for much of May. However, there were several brief periods of near normal temperatures as weak ridges of high pressure moved inland from the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific troughs brought scattered showers and thunderstorms to the area throughout the month. There were no significant offshore wind events during the month.

TEMPERATURES

A series of Pacific troughs moving inland over the West Coast brought below normal temperatures to most of the region for much of May. However, weak ridges of high pressure brought near normal temperatures to the area May 2nd – May 4th, May 11th – May 14th, May 24th, and May 29th through the end of the month. Temperatures in the valleys were mainly in the upper 70s and 80s with the ridges of high pressure and upper 50s to mid 70s with the Pacific troughs. For the month, maximum temperatures averaged out to 5 to 8 degrees below normal. However, maximum temperatures ranged from 12 to 15 degrees below normal over some mountain locations in San Bernardino County to 0 to 3 degrees above normal over some coastal locations in western Santa Barbara County. For the most part, almost the entire region received well below normal temperatures.

Av. Max. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
5/1/2019 – 5/29/2019

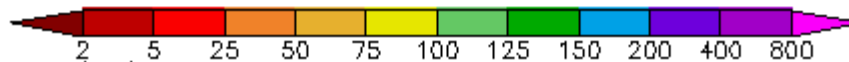
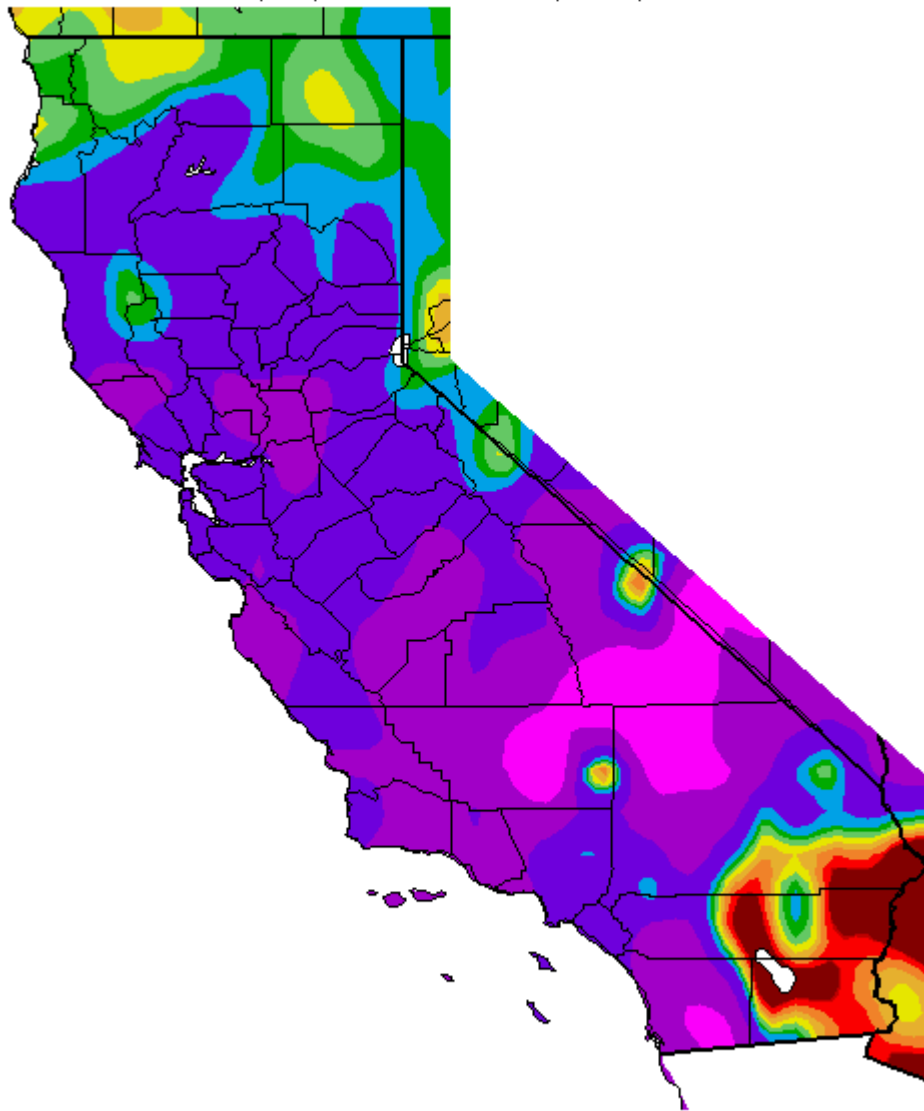


PRECIPITATION

A series of Pacific troughs moving inland from the Pacific Ocean brought scattered showers and thunderstorms to the area throughout May. Most of the region received between a half inch and 2 inches of rainfall for the month. However, the mountains received between 2 and 6 inches of rainfall and there was little or no rainfall across the lower and eastern deserts. The snow level

was mainly between 6,000 and 7,000 feet during the month. Several feet of new snow fell over the High Sierra and up to a half foot of new snow fell over the higher elevations of Southern California. For the most part, the region received well above normal rainfall. However, the Lower and Eastern Deserts received well below normal rainfall.

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
5/1/2019 – 5/29/2019



Generated 5/30/2019 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

WINDS

General winds were mainly south to west all of May. South to west winds were mainly 10 to 20 mph in the afternoons. 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 no significant offshore wind events during the month.

FIRES

For May, according to the ICS-209, there was one large fire. It was called the Belmont Fire and it burned 835 acres. It occurred in the mountains of San Luis Obispo County on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley in the Central Coast Interior PSA.

CONCLUSION

Overall, for much of the region, May received well below normal temperatures and well above normal rainfall. Winds were mainly south to west the entire month. There were no significant offshore wind events during the month.