

MAY 2008 WEATHER SUMMARY

*RIVERSIDE FIRE WEATHER CENTER
PREDICTIVE SERVICES UNIT*

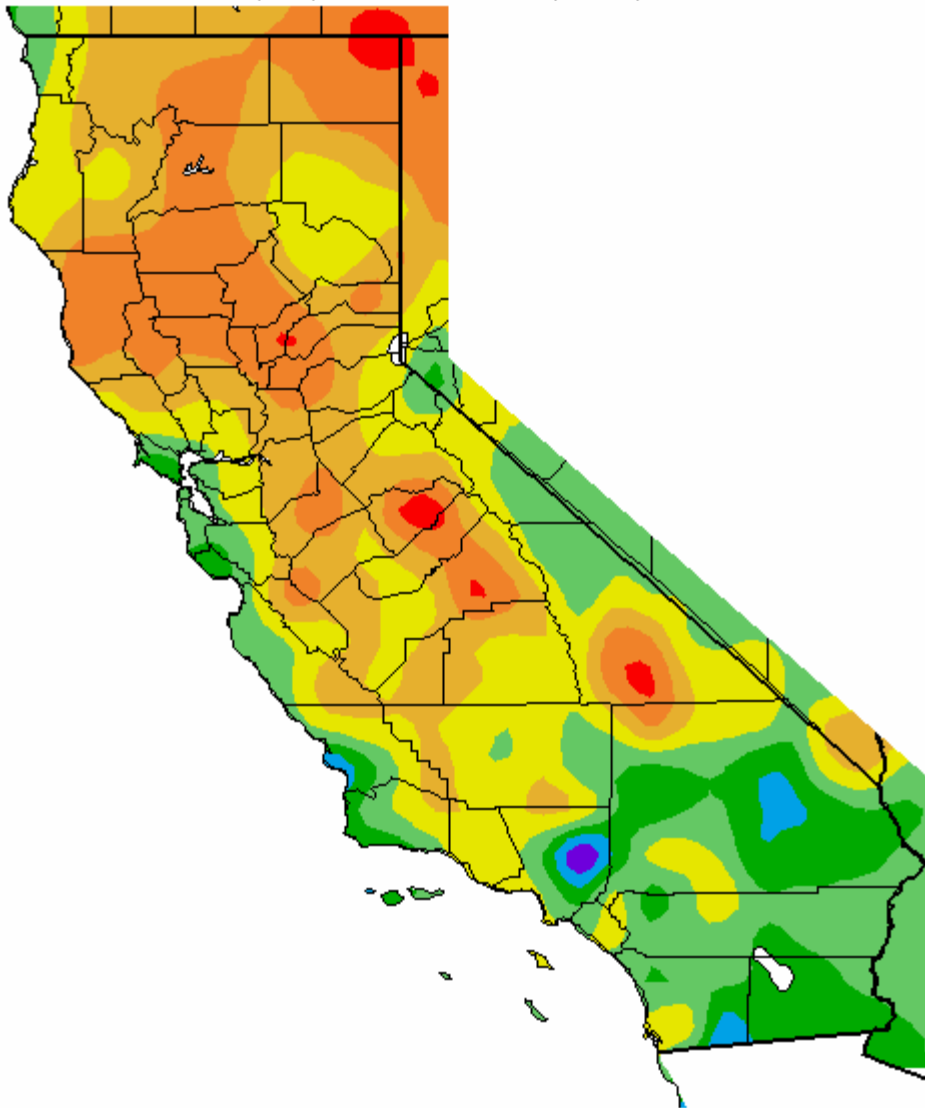
INTRODUCTION

A series of Pacific troughs brought near to below normal temperatures from May 1st – May 12th, and then again May 27th through the end of the month. A strong ridge of high pressure brought well above normal temperatures from May 13th – May 20th. A strong low pressure area brought well below normal temperatures from May 21st – May 26th. A weak low pressure area off the Southern California Coast brought a few showers and thunderstorms mainly to the Sierra May 4th – May 6th. A strong low pressure area brought scattered showers and thunderstorms to much of the region May 22nd – May 26th. Scattered showers and thunderstorms continued over the Sierra May 27th – May 29th. General winds were south to west ahead of and with the Pacific troughs and low pressure areas and north to east behind the Pacific troughs and with the ridge of high pressure. There were no significant offshore wind events during the month.

TEMPERATURES

A series of Pacific troughs moving through California brought near to below normal temperatures to the region from May 1st – May 12th. A strong ridge of high pressure moving over California from the Pacific Ocean brought well above normal temperatures from May 13th – May 20th. A strong low pressure area formed over the Western States bringing well below normal temperatures to the region May 21st – May 26th. This low pressure area weakened and moved to off the Northern California Coast bringing near to a little below normal temperatures May 27th through the end of the month. Across Southern California, many inland valley locations had maximum temperatures in the 80s to 105 with the ridges of high pressure and mid 50s to upper 70s with the Pacific troughs and low pressure areas. Normally, the valley locations of Southern California are in the upper 70s to low 80s the whole month. For the month, maximum temperatures over the region averaged out to around normal. However, maximum temperatures ranged from 6 to 8 degrees below normal over some mountain locations in eastern Los Angeles County to 6 to 8 degrees above normal over some Central Sierra locations and over the southern portions of the Inyo County Deserts. For the most part, coastal locations and much of Southern California had below normal temperatures and much of Central California had above normal temperatures for the month. Riverside set a daily high maximum temperature on May 17th with 99 degrees and on May 18th with 98 degrees. Riverside set a monthly high minimum temperature of 68 degrees on May 18th and May 19th. A daily high minimum temperature was set at Riverside on May 17th with 66 degrees. Riverside tied a daily high minimum temperature on May 16th with 63 degrees and on May 20th with 61 degrees. Record daily low maximum temperatures were set at Riverside on May 23rd with 56 degrees and on May 25th with 63 degrees. Riverside tied a daily low maximum temperature on May 24th with 60 degrees.

Av. Max. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
5/1/2008 – 5/26/2008



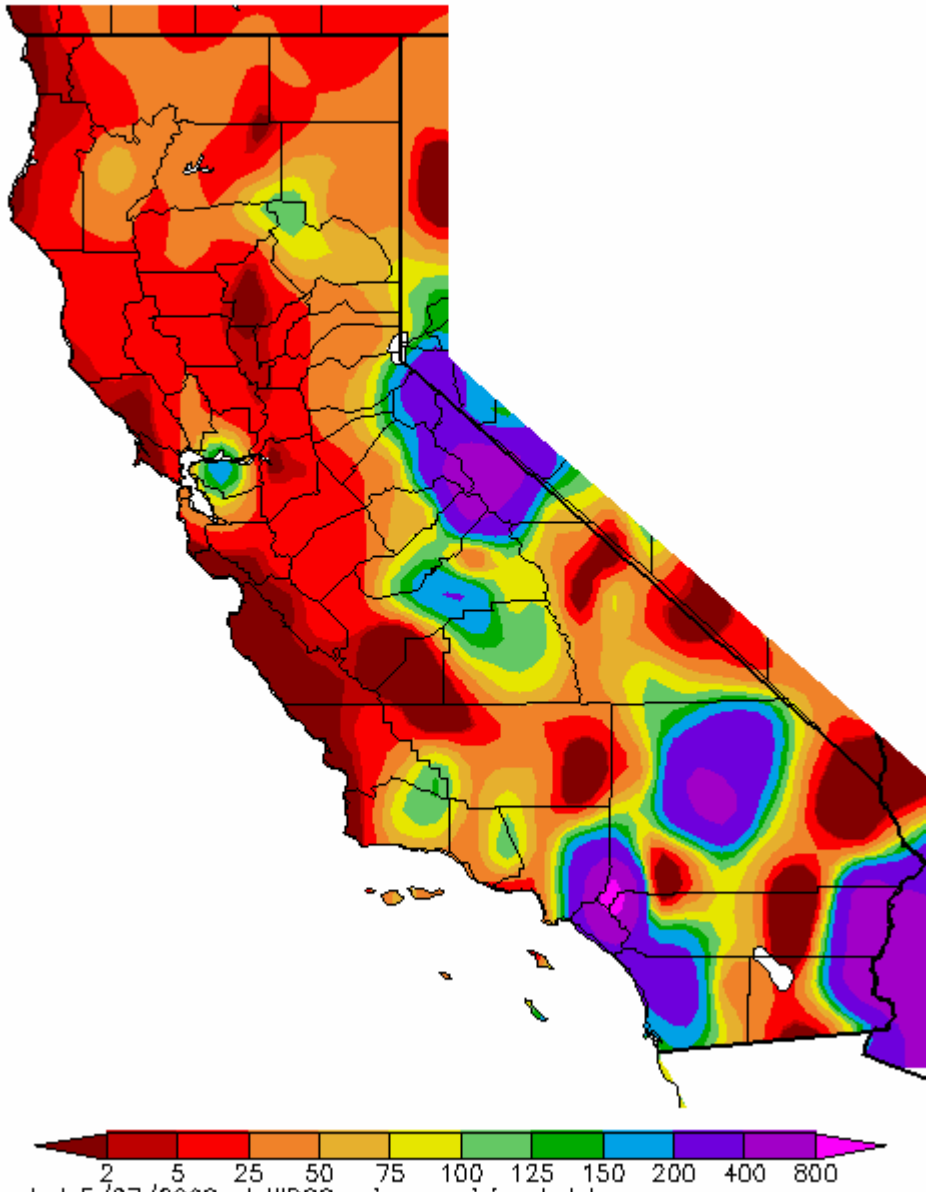
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NOAA Regional Climate Centers

PRECIPITATION

A weak low pressure area off the Southern California Coast brought a few showers and thunderstorms mainly to the Sierra May 4th – May 6th. Most locations over the Sierra received less than a quarter inch of rainfall, with little or no rainfall elsewhere. A strong low pressure area over the Western States brought scattered showers and thunderstorms to most of the region May 22nd – May 26th. Scattered showers and thunderstorms continued mainly over the Sierra May 27th – May 29th. Rainfall rates were highly variable with this low pressure area. However, most locations over the region received

between 0.25 and 0.75 inches of rainfall with this low pressure area. The Sierra received more with most locations receiving between 1 and 2 inches of rainfall, while the deserts and Central Coast received less with most locations getting less than 0.25 inches of rainfall. The snow level was around 6,000 feet with this low pressure area, with up to a foot of new snow over the Sierra. Most locations received above normal precipitation for the month. However, most Central Coast locations received below normal precipitation. Riverside received 0.54 inches of rainfall, when normally they receive 0.27 inches. Riverside set a daily high rainfall total on May 22nd with 0.51 inches and tied a daily high rainfall total on May 23rd with 0.03 inches.

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
5/1/2008 – 5/26/2008



Generated 5/27/2008 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

WINDS

General winds were south to west ahead of and with the Pacific troughs and low pressure areas and north to east behind the Pacific troughs and with the ridge of high pressure. South to west afternoon winds with the Pacific troughs and low pressure areas were mainly 10 to 20 mph and north to east winds with the ridge of high pressure was mainly 5 to 15 mph. However, the stronger troughs brought south to west winds over some mountain and desert locations to 15 to 30 mph with gusts to 50 mph. There were no significant offshore wind events during the month.

FIRES

As of May 28th, according to the ICS-209, there were five fires this month for a total of 2,396 acres. Three of the five fires were considered large. The largest fire was called the Avocado Fire. It occurred 20 miles east of Fresno in the Sierra Foothill PSA and burned 1,200 acres. It was the only fire that burned over 1,000 acres this month.

CONCLUSION

Overall, for much of the region, May had near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Winds were mainly south to west ahead of and with the Pacific troughs and low pressure areas and north to east behind the troughs and with the ridge of high pressure. There were no significant offshore wind events during the month.