

OCTOBER 2008 WEATHER SUMMARY

*RIVERSIDE FIRE WEATHER CENTER
PREDICTIVE SERVICES UNIT*

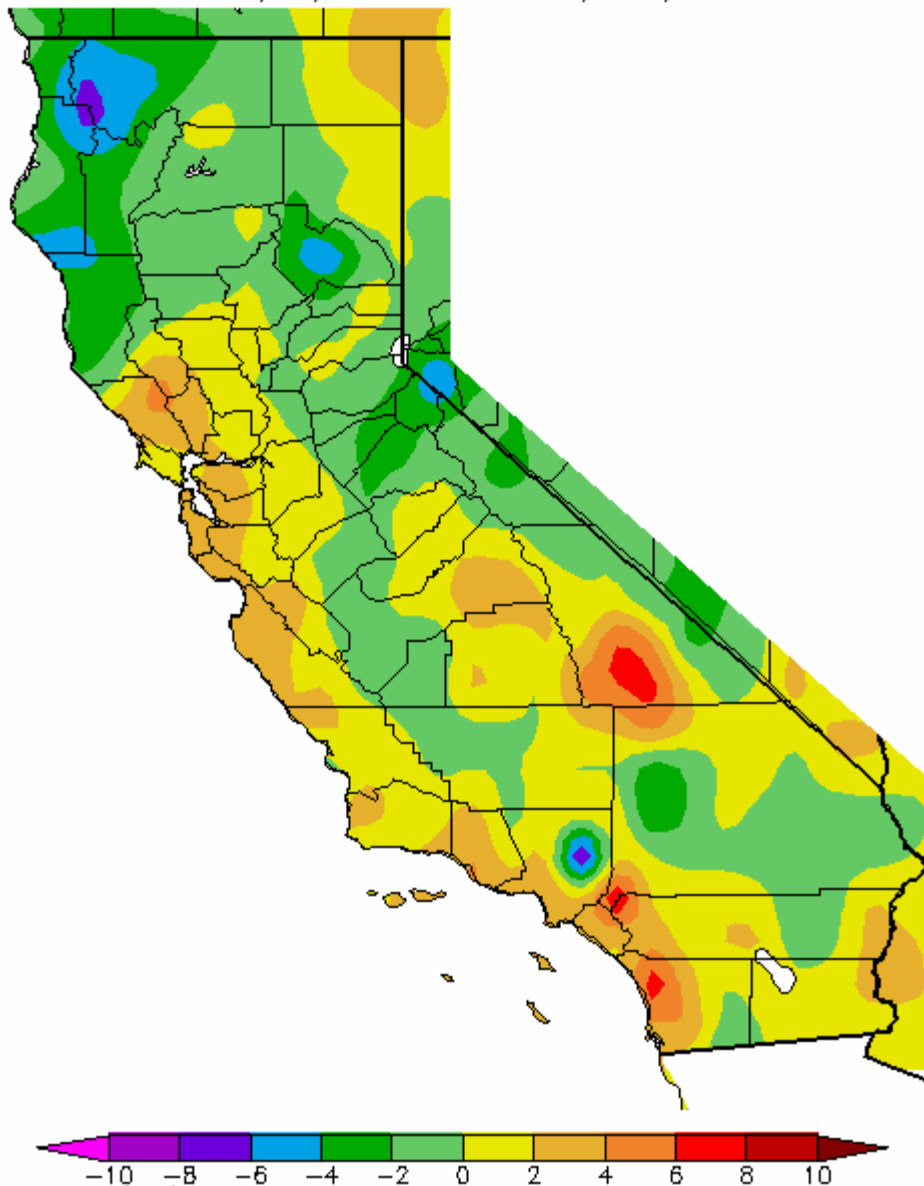
INTRODUCTION

A strong ridge of high pressure brought well above normal temperatures to the region for much of October. However, there were a few brief periods of near to below normal temperatures as weak Pacific troughs moved quickly across the state. A Pacific trough brought scattered showers to the entire region October 3rd – October 4th. This trough brought significant precipitation to the Sierra, with light rainfall accumulations elsewhere. A weak low pressure area brought isolated showers to Central California October 18th. General winds were mainly south to west most of the month. However, there were two Santa Ana wind events. The first event was strong and occurred October 13th – October 14th. The second event was weak and occurred October 22nd.

TEMPERATURES

A strong ridge of high pressure over California brought well above normal temperatures to most of the region for much of October. However, a few weak Pacific troughs moving across California brought brief periods of near to below normal temperatures. Across Southern California, many inland valley locations had maximum temperatures in the 90s to 105 with the ridges of high pressure and 70s and 80s with the Pacific troughs. Normally, the valley locations of Southern California are in the mid 80s to start the month and mid 70s to end the month. For the month, maximum temperatures over the region averaged out to around 1 to 3 degrees above 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 the deserts of Southern Inyo County and some valley locations in Southern California. For the most part, most locations in the region received above normal temperatures for the month. Riverside tied a daily high maximum temperature on October 8th with 103 degrees. Riverside set a daily high minimum temperature on October 1st with 69 degrees and on October 2nd with 64 degrees.

Av. Max. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
10/1/2008 – 10/25/2008

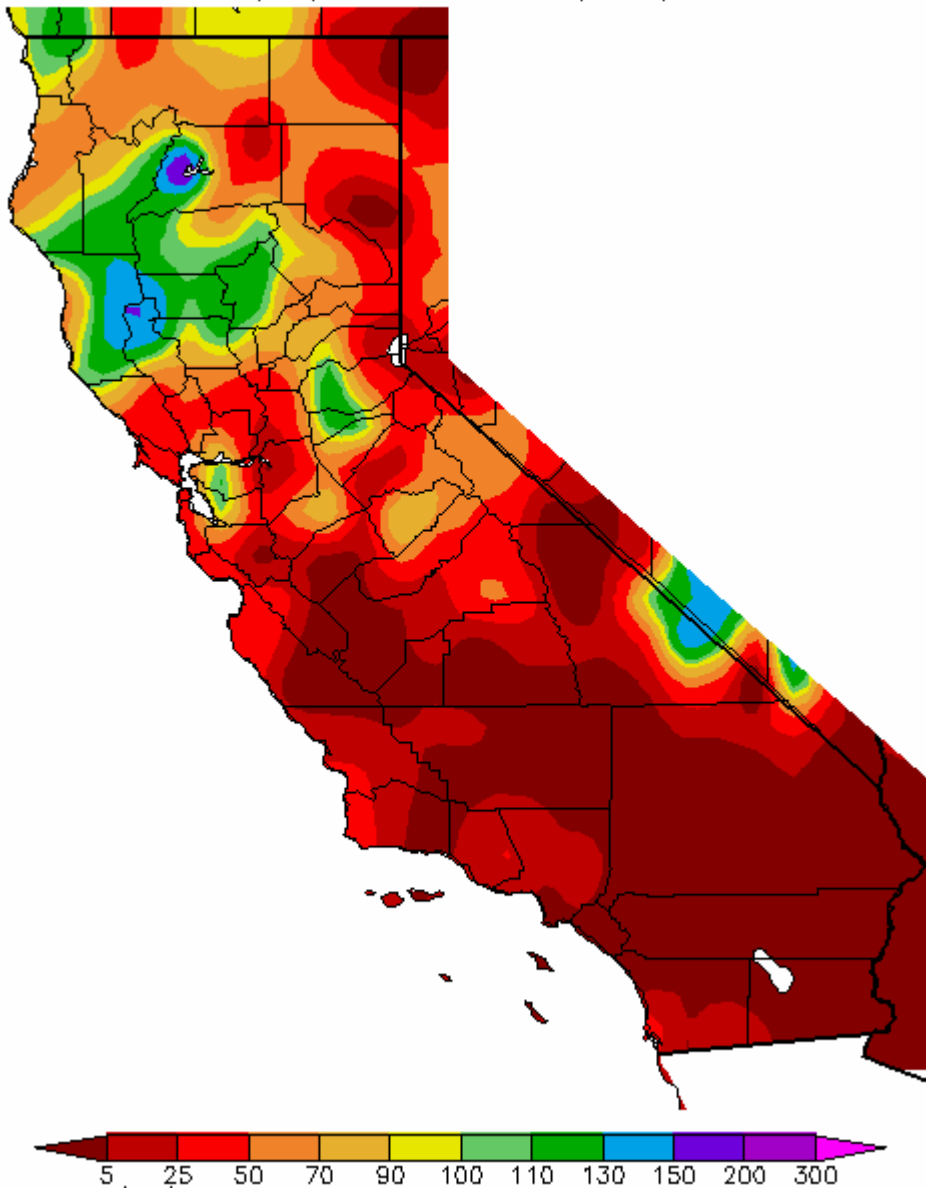


PRECIPITATION

A Pacific trough brought scattered showers to the entire region October 3rd – October 4th. Most locations over the Sierra received between 0.5 and 1.5 inches of rainfall. The snow level over the Sierra was around 8,000 feet, where many locations received around a foot of new snow. Elsewhere, most locations received less than a quarter inch of rainfall with this trough. A weak low pressure area brought isolated showers to Central California October 18th. Most locations received little or no rainfall with this low pressure area. For the month, most locations in the region received below normal rainfall. The only

locations that received above normal rainfall were the deserts of eastern Inyo County. Riverside received no rainfall for the month, when normally they receive 0.26 inches.

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
10/1/2008 – 10/25/2008



Generated 10/26/2008 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

WINDS

General winds were mainly south to west most of October. South to west afternoon winds were mainly 10 to 20 mph. There were two Santa Ana wind events during the month. The first event occurred October 13th – October 14th and the second event occurred October 22nd. The first event was strong, with widespread winds of 20 to 40

mph gusting up to 60 mph over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California. Over the windiest areas of Southern California, there were reports of wind gusts up to 90 mph. The second event was weak, with localized winds of 15 to 30 mph gusting up to 50 mph over the mountains and below the canyons and passes of Southern California.

FIRES

As of October 27th, according to ICS-209, there were 18 fires this month for a total of 26,364 acres. Eight of the eighteen fires were considered large. There were four fires over 1,000 acres and one fire over 10,000 acres. The largest fire was called the Sesnon Fire and it occurred in the South Coast PSA just north of Chatsworth in Los Angeles County. The Sesnon Fire burned 14,703 acres.

CONCLUSION

Overall, for much of the region, October had above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall. Winds were mainly south to west the entire month. There were two Santa Ana wind events during the month.