SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 1983 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA, CALIFORNIA

General: April 1983 was mild, wet and fogless, with seasonal winds.

Temperature: April was like March which was like February -- mild, with much the same average. The April 54.5°F average is 0.4°F above the 32-year normal. Due to considerable cloudiness by day, the daytime highs averaged 62.7°F (0.3°F below normal) while the nights, for the same reason, averaged above normal: 46.4°F vs 45.2°F. High for the month, 72°F, was registered 17 April – just before the rainy season got underway for the n-th time this season. The mild low of 41°F was set on 11 April.

Historical records suggest the chance of frost has passed. Temperatures this winter did not drop below 37°F and, the last temperature below 39°F (actually 38°F) was observed on 20 January 1983. This normally occurs on 20 March. Temperatures less than 34°F have occurred in only two years of the past seven (winters of 78-79 and 81-82). This is unique in the temperature records since 1951.

Precipitation: Rainfall was again the talk of the town! Fifteen days with measureable rain (vice six expected) in April totaled 4.42” compared to an April normal (32 years) of 1.82”. The season to the end of April totaled 40.20”, well above the memory and record of any seasonal rain total available on the Monterey Peninsula, including the wet years of 1906-07, 1889-90 and 1861-62.

The 4.42” is the fourth highest April amount since 1951. The 40.20” compares to the 18.82” normal at the end of April and 19.43” for the updated seasonal normal. If just normal occurs the next two months, another 0.61” could be expected — bringing us close to 41” for the rain year.

Another 1983 thunderstorm was observed in Monterey in April, bringing the total to seven since the start of the year, and equaling a four-month record (19-years) set in January-April 1978. Five thunderstorm days a year is the average.

Luckily, winds were light during the April rains, since the ground became re-saturated by month’s end, after considerable drying late March and the first half of April.

Fog: The start of the fog season has been delayed. Like 1967, April did not have any days with fog at the National Weather Service Climatological Station. Seven is expected in April. And, May normally would produce 14 such days!

Wind: Normally March, April and May produce seasonal gusty spring winds. These have yet to materialize for more than a day or two this spring. Maximum daily gusts in April averaged 23 miles per hour, less than the average April gusts in the last seven years (10-year record). Airport wind averaged 8.9 mph in April (observations from period 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. only).