SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 1989 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA, CALIFORNIA

General: April 1989 – a most unusual month in weather on the Monterey Peninsula – high temperatures broke all existing records for the month; rainfall was moderate, and fog occurrence continue at near-record levels; winds were on the low side for a typically wind month like April.

Temperatures: There is not another April on record for at least 38 years that compare with April in the temperature department! The average high for the month, 68.3°F, topped the 38-year norm by a whopping 4.9°F (nearest challenger is 67.9°F in 1987). The average low for the month is also a warm-side record at 49.0°F, again easily exceeding the norm, in this case by 3.5°F. A 48.5°F in 1959 is the closest competitor. And, of course, the overall average, 58.7°F is also a record, with 57.3°F in 1959 – 1.4°F lower – being the previous warm minimum temperature record.

The month produced four days in the 90's (5, 6, 7, 8 April) and one in the 80's (9 April). There are only two 90's on record in April previous to this year’s Four! Maximum for the month is 92°F on 7 and 8 April. Minimum for the month is 42°F on 1 and 26 April.

Daily warm temperature records abounded in April:

Daily maximum temperature records set on:

- 5 Apr  90°F  beats 82°F in 1960
- 6 Apr  90°F  beats 75°F in 1960
- 7 Apr  92°F  beats 77°F in 1962
- 8 Apr  92°F  beats 75°F in 1980
- 9 Apr  85°F  beats 82°F in 1968

Daily (warm) minimum temperature records set on:

- 5 Apr   55°F  beats 54°F in 1980
- 6 Apr   59°F  beats 53°F in 1961
- 7 Apr   62°F  beats 52°F in 1960
- 8 Apr   59°F  beats 50°F in 1983
- 9 Apr   58°F  beats 52°F in 1968
- 17 Apr  51°F  beats 50°F in 1966

Citrus fruit in the local area shows some signs of burning due to the several days of hot sun and the springtime browning of local grasses was speeded up by the record hot spell.

Precipitation: A welcome five-day period of light/moderate rains occurred from 21 through 25 April. Precipitation, mostly as showers, on and in the vicinity of the Peninsula, was quite variable with the immediate coastal area receiving more than inland. Total for the month was 0.98", bringing the rain year total (1 July 1988 to date) to 14.09". Normal (median) for April is 1.67" (1.24"), and we should have 18.13" (15.52") by this time in the rain year. Thus, we are at 78% (91%) of normal (cumulative median). Last year at this time we measured 12.23" and ended the rain year with 12.14", while the year before the two figures were 12.85" and 12.98", respectively. Normal (median) rainfall for the rain year is 18.73" (16.55"). Thus, we are now at 75% of normal and 85% of the median for the year. (Again, median is that rainfall figure that equally divides the years with rainfalls above and below the median; in our case, for the yearly total, 19 years with rainfall exceeding 16.55" and 19 years with rainfall less than
16.55". Eight of the last ten months produced less than normal rainfall while six produced less than median.

One day with hail also occurred, namely on 23 April. Nearby areas registered several area hail storms in the rainy period of late April.

**Fog:** Fog is setting records/near records as well! 14 fog days (days with one or more hours of fog) in April is the third highest in 26 years of Aprils on the Peninsula. Normal for April is 8 days. Every month from June 1988 (except August) was above normal in fog-day occurrence.

**Wind:** Winds were very light for April on the Peninsula. The spring sea-breeze phenomenon, along with the coastal ocean upwelling, has yet to be established this year. The airport average (6 a.m. to 11 p.m.) is 7.7 miles per hour (mph) for April while the average daily peak wind gust at the National Weather Service Climate Station in Monterey is 19 mph, the lowest April value in 16 years of record!

**Earthquake:** A minor tremor was felt on the Peninsula at 1047 a.m. on 2 April. No damage reported.