SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST 1979 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA, CALIFORNIA

General:  August was a mild, relatively dry, windy month with near normal fog occurrence. A mild earthquake on the 2nd and a strong tremor on the 6th marred the otherwise pleasant month.

Temperature:  Temperatures continued warm on the Peninsula in August. The overall average of 61.5°F (same as August 1978) is 0.8°F above the 28-year normal. Both nite and day temperatures contributed – the 70.0°F average high is 1.0°F above normal while the 52.9°F average low is 0.6°F above normal. High for the month, 79°F, was registered on the last day while the month’s low, 48°F, occurred on early morning 6 August.

October 78 through February 79 were below normal in temperature while every month since has averaged above, giving Monterey a larger than normal annual (winter to summer) range in temperature. Thus, the past year has been more “continental” or less “maritime” in character than normal.

The last 19 days of August have been equal to or above normal in both nitetime minima (except 15 Aug with a 50°F min.) and daytime maxima. And the trend is continuing into September. Although local historical records on humidity are not readily available, most residents have noted the combination of high humidity (60 – 90+%) and temperature (mid/hi 70s) by day in the last week of August, a circumstance uncommon during warm spells on the Peninsula.

Precipitation:  Even though only 0.09” fell in August (almost totally due to drizzle) compared to a 28-year normal of 0.13”, the 1979/80 seasonal amount is well above normal (0.44” vs 0.29”). However, such amounts at this time of the year are not considered significant to the local water supply considering the loss due to evaporation and the discontinuous nature of the rain this time of the year. The high winds 25-27 August signaled a change in the circulation pattern in the eastern Pacific although Monterey, as usual at this time of year, finds itself on the southern dry end of most weather disturbances entered the Pacific coast.

Wind:  Normal airport wind speed for August is 6.1 miles per hour (mph) while this past August 6.4 mph is the average. The strongest August wind gusts in at least 7 year (no records of gusts prior to Oct 1972) and the highest winds since Mar 1979 were recorded at the climatological station this month: 51, 39, 45 mph on 27, 26, and 25 Aug, respectively. However, winds were not generally gusty on these dates over all of the Peninsula.

Fog:  In this and the past two Augusts, 22 days with some fog were recorded. This is practically normal since 21 days is the 16-year normal.