SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 1995 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA, CALIFORNIA

General: The weather in February 1995 was characterized by widely varying temperatures, with several record and near-record high temperatures; light rainfall; near-record fog occurrence; and light winds.

Temperature: Temperatures in February 1995 varied between record and near-record highs to periods of mid/low fifties with dismal grey skies. The overall average of 56.0°F, which is 2.8°F above the 44-year average, doesn't tell the full story, although it is (along with February 1968 and 1986) the fourth warmest February in at least 44 years. Daytime highs averaged 63.7°F, compared to 61.8°F for the normal, certainly not a record, but several individual daily highs were records. Highlighting the record is the 86°F on 20 February, which is not just a record for the date (easily topping 75°F in 1982) but the highest maximum for any date from 4 December through 1 April ... a most significant record!!! 19 February and 21 February also recorded record highs for the dates: 76°F on the 19th (beat 72°F in 1964) and 79°F on the 21st (beat 75°F in 1989).

Minimcys in February contributed most strongly to the positive temperature anomaly for the month. The 48.3°F average minimum is 3.7°F above normal; only February 1963 and February 1968 recorded a warmer average minimum, namely 48.9°F in each month. Individual daily records were set or equaled: a minimum of 54°F on 21 February tied the warm-nite record set in 1968, and the minimum of 53°F on 27 and 28 February was one degree higher than the previous record in both 1986 and 1992.

The February 1995 nighttime temperatures were those expected in late May and spring. Because of the mild January nights and relatively warm February, the growth stage in vegetables, flowers and trees is weeks and months ahead of the normal seasonal schedule.

Low for the month was 37°F on 15 February. Low temperatures on 14, 15, and 16 February (38°F, 37°F, and 39°F) qualified for frost at the ground. Normal last day of light frost is 17 March.

Precipitation: The cutoff in record rainfall with the end of January was dramatic! There were only five days with measurable rainfall in February 1995, about 50% of normal. Traces (i.e., rainfall less than 0.01", mostly due to drizzle), were 3.5 times the February normal of only two, attesting to the weak weather systems affecting the Central Coast. The 0.73" for the month is 2.18" below the 44-year average, and the sixth driest February on record in that period.

This is still the year of a moderately strong El Nino in the tropical Pacific, but the Central Coast of California does not have a strong statistical relation to the El Nino phenomenon. Still, with a wet November, an extremely wet January and near normal December the rain-year total is 17.02" at month's end, which is 3.51" above normal and already above the median (= 16.42") for the whole rain-year. In fact, 17.02" is higher than over 50% of the rain-year totals in the last 44 years! And, with a strong indication of a restart to wet circulation pattern in the eastern Pacific the rain-year total appears headed to well above normal for the year. 5.31" is the normal rainfall from 1 March through 30 June, the end of the rain-year.
**Fog:** The fog scene in California was unusual for many days in February -- summer-like fog over the eastern North Pacific and the tule-fog of winter in the Central Valley. Monterey recorded 19 fog days (defined as visibility equal to or less than 6 miles for one or more hours); 21 days is the February record, set in 1991. Normal number is seven. Both fog with rain and drizzle, and near day-long periods of summer-like fog were part of the February picture.

**Wind:** Winds were light in February. The airport average (6 AM to 11 PM) was 3.4 miles per hour (mph) (data for 21-24 February not included), while the average daily maximum gust is only 15 mph. (Gust data for 21-28 February are missing due to a temporary outage of the wind recorder at the National Weather Service Climate Station).

**Temperature and Precipitation Outlook**

The National Weather Service's Central Coast 90-day outlook for March through May gives strong indication of above normal temperatures, with precipitation prospects best described as near normal. Following normals are for the National Weather Service Climate Station (44-year data base).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rainfall</th>
<th>Normal Max/Min Temps (°F)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>3.10&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>1.58&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>0.44&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comparative Weather Data for Stations on/ near the Monterey Peninsula**

Following are comparative figures from six local observations sites for February 1995: 1) the National Weather Service Climate Station (NWSCS), (elevation 385') located in the western hilly section of Monterey; 2) the newly established National Weather Service Forecast Office (NWSFO) site (elevation 122'), located in the flat area of eastern Monterey, on the NPS Annex grounds adjacent to Airport; 3) the Naval Postgraduate School Campus (NPS), Monterey; 4) the Ft. Ord site (Ft. Ord (NPS)) (elevation 167') located just northwest of Fritzschie Airfield. This is the site of the Naval Postgraduate School's wind profiler (managed by the Department of Meteorology); 5) Site SE end of Marina, located about 2 1/2 miles ESE of Monterey Bay (elevation 80'); 6) Carmel Valley site (CV) near Village (elevation 500'); south facing slope; 37 years of record.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Avg. Max.</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Avg. Min.</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Precipitation (inches)</th>
<th>Wind (mph)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1Jul-28 Feb)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>this rain year</td>
<td>Max Gust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(% of norm)</td>
<td>Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWSCS</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>17.02 (125%)</td>
<td>25*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| NWSFO    | 65.7      | 85      | 47.8      | 36     | 0.52  | ----                   | ----       | 3.4**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temp (°F)</th>
<th>Dewpt (°F)</th>
<th>Slt (mm)</th>
<th>Wind (mph)</th>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Pressure (hPa)</th>
<th>2 AM</th>
<th>11 PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NPS</td>
<td>63.1</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>46.1</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>13.83</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ft. Ord NPS</td>
<td>61.8</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>10.70</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marina</td>
<td>63.4</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>46.2</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>13.55</td>
<td>----</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>16.85 (137%)</td>
<td>12.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*= based on data through 20 February only. **= average Airport winds in period 6 AM to 11 PM; 21-24 Feb not included.