R. J. Renard, Volunteer Observer
Nat’l Wea Serv Climatological Station
Monterey, California  93940

SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 1985 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY
PENINSULA, CALIFORNIA

General:  January 1985 turned in a cool, dry record with light winds and average fog conditions. Winter storm activity was minimal.

Temperature:  January 1985 continued the string of abnormally cool months with a mean maximum of 58.0°F (2°F below the 34-year normal), a mean minimum of 42°F (1°F below normal), and an overall average of 50.0°F. Although the month was cold it was not record-breaking – there are eight January’s in the past 34 years that were colder. Extremes for the month ranged between 69°F (17 Jan 85) and 35°F (1 Jan 85). Along with 22 Jan 1982, the 1 Jan reading is the coldest Jan temperature since 32°F on 8 Jan 82.

Precipitation:  January produced five days with measureable rainfall, just half of the expected number. The 1.11” total for the month is 2.94” below the 34-year normal. At month’s end the rain season (July 1 to date) total is 10.09” compared to 11.02” normal. The two-month (Dec and Jan) rainfall is only 3.14” compared to 7.06” expected.

The January 1984 total, 0.11", set a January record for the National Weather Service Climate Station. Only three January’s were drier than the one just past (Jan 84; Jan 76; with 0.18” and Jan 71
with 1.08”).

The month of Jan 85 was practically free of “storm” activity, the highest daily total being 0.32”. No hail, no strong winds, no thunder, no snow!

Wind:  Winds were light in January, averaging 5 miles per hour (mph) at the Airport for the observation period 6 AM to 11 PM. The maximum gust at the National Weather Service Climate Station was 26 mph. The average daily maximum gust of 13 mph is the lowest for any month in at least two years.

Fog:  Fog days were confined to the five-day period 17-21 Jan. Normal (22 years of record) is 6 days in January, which is the least foggy month of the year.