SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 1987 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA, CALIFORNIA

General: Temperatures in January 1987 were below normal while rainfall was slightly below normal. The number of fog days averaged near normal while the winds were stronger than expected.

Temperature: Both daily high and low temperatures averaged below normal (36 years) with 50.5°F for the overall average (vs. 51.6°F normal), 58.9°F for the average daily high (1.2°F below normal), and 42.1°F for the average daily low (1.0°F below normal). High for the month is a cool 68°F on 26 January while the month’s low, 32°F on 10 January, was the coldest day since 32°F on 8 January 1982 and 29°F on 7 January 1982. The low on the 10th also set a record for the date (beat 35°F in 1957). A thermal shelter temperature of 34°F and lower generally correlates with a freeze at the ground. There were three days with temperatures equal to or below 34°F in January 1987.

Precipitation: January 1987 was the wettest January in five years with 3.36” falling on 12 days with mostly light to moderate amounts. Normal for January is 3.98”. Even with 84% of the normal rainfall in January 1987 the rain-year amount (1 July to 30 June) is only 59% of the 36-year normal (6.46” vs. 10.97”) at the end of January. Should the remainder of the rain year be normal, another 8.29” could be expected, most of which would fall from now through early April. However, it is to be noted that every month during this current rain year has produced below normal rainfall, except September. Monterey’s last year of significantly low rainfall was 1 July 1976 through 30 June 1977 with 10.46” and the year before with only 8.86”. Last year’s annual was 20.46”, comfortably above normal of 19.16”.

Wind: Monterey’s January winds were above expectation: 7.0 miles per hour (mph) for period 6 AM – 11 PM at the Monterey airport. This compares with an average of 5 mph the past five January’s. Wind gusts did not exceed 32 mph (recorded near 4 PM, 27 January 1987) at the National Weather Service Climate Station; the average daily maximum gust was 17 mph, close to that observed in January 1986.

Fog: The number of days with one or more hours of fog averaged close to the 24-year January normal: 7 vs. 6 normal.
NWS Climate Station, Monterey, CA

January 1987

Temperature (degree F) vs Precipitation (inches)

Total = 3.36  Average = 42.1  Average = 58.7