SUMMARY OF THE JULY 1988 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA, CALIFORNIA

General: July 1988 was an uneventful month, with warmer-than-normal temperatures, very little rain but lots of fog, and winds that gusted to above normal levels 50% of the days.

Temperature: July added the sixth warmer-than-normal month to 1988 after a near normal June. The average daily high of 70.1°F exceeded the 37-year normal by 2.1°F and the nites turned in a positive anomaly as well, with 52.6°F compared to 51.5°F expected. The 97°F on 17 July was easily a record for the date (beats 85°F in 1961) and the second highest July temperature in at least 37 years (98°F on 10 July 1959 still holds the record). Other daily records were set – a maximum of 80°F on 16 July is a record for the date, exceeding 78°F in 1984. In the minimum temperature category, 47°F on 10 July (the low for the month) is now the coldest for the date (beats 48°F in 1971), while several warm daily minimums equaled or beat the record; for example, 58°F on 23 July topped 56°F in 1972 and the minimums on 24 July (58°F) and 26 July (56°F) tied the daily record. On two other mornings (22 and 31 July) the minimums were within a degree of tying the warm record. The trend to record/near record warm nites in the last third of the month continued into early August.

Precipitation: The 0.02” that fell early day 2 July is best described as local drizzle. Some other local points received a trace at best. 0.08” is average for July so the 0.02” is a meager start.

Fog: Fog made a good showing in July, with 23 fog days recorded. A fog day is one with at least one hour of fog limiting visibility to six miles or less. July and August are the two foggiest months of the year.

Wind: The Airport average, based on hourly observations from 6 am to 11 pm, is 8.4 miles per hour (mph), which makes July the least windy month since February and certainly less windy than July 1987 with 10.0 mph. However, the July 1988 winds were gusty in the hilly areas near the ocean, with an average daily high gust of 24.6 mph at the National Weather Service’s Climate Station, the highest July figure since 1982. There were eight days with gusts equal to or exceeding 30 mph.

Earthquake: A light tremor was felt on the Peninsula Monday evening 25 July, about 8:25 pm. No damage was reported.