SUMMARY of the October 2009 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA

General: October 2009 averaged well below normal by day, with the record-setting storm of 13/14 October “the” highlight of the month. Number of fog days was near expectation. Winds were significantly high with the storm, otherwise as expected for a fall month.

Temperature: At the National Weather Service Climate Station (NWSCS), Monterey: the daytime maximums averaged 66.7°F – 3.5°F below the 58-year average, while night-time minimums were near normal, namely 51.1°F versus 51.0°F for the long-term average. With a high of 81°F on the 17th and a low of 44°F on the 29th and lots of October sun, the month turned in a pleasant fall report. There were very few record setting temperatures at the NWSCS (58 years of data).

- 5 October: 44°F minimum new cold record for date (was 45°F in 1954);
- 4 October: 57°F maximum new cold record for date (was 59°F in 2001); and
- 8 October: the 60°F maximum tied the cold record for the date, set in 2005.

Temperatures in the 30’s are beginning to show in the past October! Carmel and Carmel Valley both reported an October temperature minimum of 36°F, with minimums of 37°F (38°F) at Fort Ord and Salinas (Marina). More 30’s to come in November!

Finally, some long-term temperature statistics to think about for those concerned with temperature trends. For the three-month period June/July/August at the NWSCS, in the years 1951-2009: overall average 59.8°F; and, by ten-year periods

- 1951-1960 → average 59.2°F
- 1961-1970 → average 59.2°F
- 1971-1980 → average 60.1°F
- 1981-1990 → average 60.4°F
- 1991-2000 → average 60.4°F
- 2001-2009 → average 59.3°F
- 2009 → average 59.4°F

Precipitation: October 2009 rainfall at the NWSCS: 3.41” versus 0.87” (59-year average), which brings the rain-year (since 1 July 2009) up to 3.91” compared to 1.29” for a 59-year average.

The tropical-fueled intense storm of 13/14 October gave the area record October rainfall. The 24-hour 2.66” (to 6 pm on 13 October) is a record for rainfall this early in the rain-year, as is the two-day total of 3.35” (13, 14 October). And, of course, the wind factor added to the record-setting event. Wind gusts in the 40’s and 50’s (mph) were widespread (see data page), along with the heavy rain and associated minor flooding on the 13th, with tens of thousands affected by power outages, considerable wind damage to (especially) trees, and minor car accidents galore. Precipitation totals probably exceeded ten inches in favored elevated central coast locations along with winds near 70 mph at higher elevations. See newspaper accounts for details.

What does the October tropical-oriented storm say for the rain-season ahead? Not much! El Nino may be our key. El Nino conditions in the Pacific Ocean are continuing to intensify, with computer models predicting above normal rainfall in the area, but not until late calendar year and early 2010 (January and perhaps beyond) when El Nino is expected to be moderate to strong.

Fog: The number of fog-days was well behaved in October 2009, with 15 such days compared to an expectation of 14. Statistically, the fog season is over but still some eight fog days is the norm for November.

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for the Central Coast for the period November 2009 through January 2010: As El Nino strengthens, temperatures along the West Coast are uncertain (above to below normal are all possible); California rainfall probability is expected to tend toward above-normal by the December/January period.
NOTE: The Monthly Monterey Peninsula Weather Summary is available electronically using the following website address: [http://www.weather.nps.navy.mil/renard_wx/](http://www.weather.nps.navy.mil/renard_wx/). Click on a given month and year to see the desired weather summary. Listings go back to January 1992. The latest weather summary is generally available by the fifth of the month following.

Average temperatures and precipitation for the NWSCS, Monterey November 2009 through January 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rainfall (# rain days / inches)</th>
<th>Normal Max/Min Temps (°F)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November (7)</td>
<td>November 65.1 47.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>December (9)</td>
<td>December 60.4 43.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>January (10)</td>
<td>January 59.9 43.5</td>
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Comparative Weather Data for Stations on/near the Monterey Peninsula & Salinas

October 2009

Following are comparative figures from eleven local observation sites:

1. National Weather Service Climate Station (NWSCS), (elevation 385’) located in the western hilly section of Monterey;
2. 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. Naval Postgraduate School Campus (NPS) site, Monterey; (elevation 45’);
4. Ft. Ord (NPS) site (elevation 167’) located just north of the Marina Municipal Airport (formerly Fritzschie Army Airfield). This is the site of the Naval Postgraduate School's wind profilers managed by Department of Meteorology;
5. Marina site, SE end of Marina located about 2-1/2 miles ESE of Monterey Bay (elevation 80’);
6. Carmel Valley site near Carmel Village, vicinity of Ford Rd. and Lilac Lane (elevation 475’);
7. Salinas site, vicinity of W. Blanco Rd. within 1/2 mile of S. Main St.;
8. Carmel, located on Rio Road near east end;
9. Seaside, vicinity of Paralta and Military Aves;
10. Pacific Grove site, vicinity of Sunset and Congress Streets;
11. Big Sur Ranger Station, Highway 1, Big Sur.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Avg. Max.</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Avg. Min.</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>This Month</th>
<th>01 Jul-31 Oct (rain year)</th>
<th>Normal</th>
<th>Peak Gust (dates)</th>
<th>Avg. Speed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NWSCS</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>51.1</td>
<td>44</td>
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<td>3.91</td>
<td>1.24 @</td>
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<td>44</td>
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<tr>
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<td>76</td>
<td>50.6</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>2.37 d</td>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>0.95 #</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ft. Ord</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Precipitation Year 1</td>
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<td>Precipitation Year 3</td>
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**FOOTNOTES:** Precipitation observations: 
- **a** = 5 or 6 PM PST, 
- **b** = midnight PST, 
- **c** = 3 or 4 PM local, 
- **d** = 6 to 8 AM local time. 

(NOTE: for **d**: 24-h rainfall measured 8 AM, first day of the month counts for previous month) 

- **@** = 58-year average, 
- **#** = 51-year average, 
- **+** = 26-year average, 
- **&** = 24-year average.

NWS Climate Station, Monterey, CA

October 2009

**Graph:**
- **Temperature (degree F):**
  - Minimum Temperature
  - Maximum Temperature
  - Total = 3.41
  - Average = 51.1
  - Average = 66.7

**Precipitation:**
- Total = 3.41
- Average = 51.1
- Average = 66.7