SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 1979 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA, CALIFORNIA

General: October was mild with heavy rainfall amounts; winds were above average while fog was less than expected.

Temperature: October 1979 was one of the warmer Octobers on record – only three were warmer in the past 28 years. It was the eighth straight month of above normal temperatures. The average maximum of 71.2°F was 0.7°F above normal while the 53.0°F average nite-time minimum was 2.3°F above normal. Only three years in the past 28 years recorded warmer nite-time readings. The overall average, 62.1°F, was warmer by 1.5°F than normal, mostly due to the warm nights in the first two-thirds of the month and consistently mild, though not excessive, maxima. The high for the month, 79°F, occurred on 3 Oct, while the low, 47°F, was measured on 21, 22 and 30 Oct. The 79°F absolute maximum was the second “coolest” such temperature on record for Oct (absolute max was 78°F in Oct 1975).

Precipitation: The Monterey area was under the threat of rain for the first half of Oct by a sluggish low pressure system over the eastern Pacific. Once it moved westward on the weekend of 13-14 Oct, giving moderate/heavy showers in some surrounding communities (over 0.40” in Salinas; showers in Prunedale, Castroville, others) a winter-like pattern followed, yielding two periods of moderate/heavy rain and one of light showers. The month’s total, 1.80”, was topped by only two other Octobers (2.46” in 1972 and 2.20” in 1973; both months were followed by wet winters). This year’s rain total (since Jul 1) now stands at 2.26” compared to an Oct 31 normal of 1.17”.

Winds: Winds managed to gust in the mid-twenties or higher most days with a gust of 36 miles per hour on 28 October. The average speed of 7.0 mph is 2.4 mph above the 20-year airport normal of 4.6 mph.

Fog: Fog was less than usual, with only 9 days of fog compared to a norm of 14. It was the least foggy October since Oct 1972.

Other Phenomena: Heavy swell, especially on 1 & 2 October, from storm activity in the mid-Pacific, caused damage to boats in the North Bay area near Santa Cruz and to a near shore structure in Cannery Row, Monterey.