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

General: October 1985 was a cool, wet, foggy month with light winds, although there was considerable variation in temperature and most days were dry.

Temperature: The behavior of the daily maxima/minima in October is probably a better indicator of the October temperatures behavior than the average of these variables. The temperatures did range widely during the month of October, from 96°F on 3 October (a record high for the date; beat 89°F in 1953) to 44°F of 9 and 30 October. The 9 October minimum is a record low for the date (beat 45°F in 1955). Two other dates turned in records, in these cases low daily maximums namely 57°F on 17 October (beat 59°F in 1984) and 59°F on 20 October (beat 61°F in 1984). There were some warm days in October – nine days to be exact – when the maximum temperature equaled average or above (six of which were in the 80’s and one 90+). Otherwise, coolness prevailed, with five days having maxima in the 50’s (only three other Octobers in the last 34 years have a record like that: 1984 and 1970 with five such days and 1952 with six days in the 50’s).

The net for the month of October 1985 was an average of 59°F (normal is 60.6°F). Many days with cloudy daytime conditions contributed to the coolness – an average maximum = 68.9°F compared to 70.4°F, which is the 34-year normal, while the average minimum is 50°F, which is 0.8°F below normal.

Precipitation: October 1985 was generally dry except for the five and one-half hour storm early AM 21 October which produced 1.32", tying the record amount for any one 24-hour period in October (34-year record) set on 27-28 October 1981. However, the 1981 storm was 12 hours long, thus considering amount and intensity, 1985 holds the record. Two other days (6-7 October) provided measurable rainfall as well. Total for the month, 1.61", is not a record although it clearly exceeds the normal of 0.86" for October. In 1984, 2.08" was recorded. Normal rainfall from 1 July to 1 November is 1.38"; thus far 1.87" has fallen since 1 July 1985.

Rainfall amounts from the 21 October storm appeared to be less in all directions from the Monterey area, except for certain locations in the Cascades and Northern Sierra Mountains. The short-lived storm gave a hint of things to come with a brief Highway 1 closure, and widespread and short-lived power outages on the Peninsula.

Fog: Most folks will remember October 1985 as cold and foggy because fog persisted, often most of the day, for seven of the last nine days of the month. Sixteen days with one or more hours of fog in October 1985 compares to a 23-year normal of 13 days.

Wind: Winds were seasonal, with an average airport wind (6 AM to 11 PM) of 5.5 miles per hour (mph) and a maximum daily gust average of 18 mph at the National Weather Service Climate Station. Absolute maximum gust for the month is 31 mph on 4 October.

Earthquake: A slight earth tremor was recorded in the area on 26 October at 0730. No damage was reported.