SUMMARY of the SEPTEMBER 2002 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA

General: September continued the long stretch of below normal temperatures while rainfall was but a trace for the month, and hence a record low amount (along with other years). Number of fog days was near normal while winds were seasonal.

Temperature: In spite of six days in the 80’s (maximum of 87° F on the 2nd), the most since 1984 (along with September 1996), September 2002 temperatures continued the very unusual long period of below normal readings. There have been 14 months with below normal temperatures in the last 15 (only exception is February 2002). The average daily high of 71.2° F in September 2002 is 0.6° F below the 50-year normal while the 52.1° F average daily low is 0.8° F below normal. The high of 87° F on September 2nd is the only daily record to report for the September just past. Previous record: 83° F in 1955. Low for September 2002 is 48° F on the 8th and 21st. Compare Monterey to Carmel Valley, which had a range from 102° F to 42° F in September 2002.

Precipitation: Rainfall, that is the lack of it, is arising as the big weather news locally! Only a trace in September 2002! That is a record low for September but it is matched by years 1995, 1987 and 1955. The rain-year total at the NWSCS is holding at 0.07", which is 0.37" below the 50-year normal. In 1995 there was only 0.05" by the end of September and the rain-year still ended up above normal with 20.94". While it is too early to predict the rain-year total with confidence, a weak-to-moderate El Niño phenomenon appears to be the "best guess" through this rain-year. On that basis, prediction models are leaning toward above normal rainfall late in the wet season for the Central Coast. Stay tuned!

Wind: Most wind averages dropped the order of a mile/hour from August, with maximum wind gusts generally 30 mph or less – all near expectation for late summer, early fall.

Fog: Number of fog days has been staying close to normal for several months now. Sixteen fog-days in September 1001 is close to seventeen normal. Some fourteen fog-days is still the climatological expectation for October.

90-Day Average Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for the Central Coast: The National Weather Service 90-day outlook for October through December indicates near normal rainfall for the period. Temperatures are expected to average near normal close to the Central Coast, but remain above normal southeast of the Central Coast at least through October.
Comparative Weather Data for Stations on/near the Monterey Peninsula & Salinas

September 2002

Following are comparative figures from ten 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 Fritzshe 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’) new this month;
7. Salinas site, vicinity of W. Blanco Rd. within 1/2 mile of S. Main St.;
8. Carmel site, 1/10 mile from Highway 1 and Rio Road;
9. Seaside site, NE end of Seaside, about 1 1/2 mi. east of Fremont St., near the Military Ave. boundary of Ft. Ord Village (elevation: 250’).
10. Pacific Grove, vicinity of David and Forrest Avenues (elevation: 390’).
### Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature (°F)</th>
<th>Lowest Temperature (°F)</th>
<th>Highest Temperature (°F)</th>
<th>Precipitation (inches)</th>
<th>5-Year Average</th>
<th>10-Year Average</th>
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<tbody>
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**FOOTNOTES:**

Observations for precipitation: a = 5 or 6 PM PST, b = midnight PST, c = 4 PM local, d = 7 or 8 AM local (NOTE: for d: 24-h rainfall measured 8 AM, first day of the month counts for previous month) 
@ = 51-year average, # = 45-year average, + = 17-year average, & = 19-year average.

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**Diagram:**

NWS Climate Station, Monterey, CA

September 2002

- Temperature (degree F)
- Precipitation (inches)
- Minimum Temperature
- Maximum Temperature

**Legend:**

- Total = 0.00
- Average = 52.1
- Average = 71.2