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

General: September was warm, dry and windy with about normal fog conditions.

Temperature: September continued the warm spell that started on 19 August. By the afternoon of 19 September, an all-time record of 32 straight days with daytime maxima 71°F or more had been registered. This nearly doubled the previous records – 19 such days from 14 Sep to 2 Oct 1957, 18 similar days from 4 to 21 Sep 1958 and 17 days with such temperatures from 20 Aug to 5 Sep 1971. Moreover, a new record (for any month) for days with 74°F or more was set from 5 Sep through 19 Sep – 15 days total. The nearest competitor was an 11-day stretch from 21 Sep to 1 Oct 1970.

The month’s temperatures averaged 65.8°F, some 3.4°F above the 28-year normal, beat only by Sep 1958 with 66.8°F. The average daily maximum of 76.3°F (4.1°F above normal) was likewise beat by Sep 1958 with 79.5°F. The average early morning minimum of 55.2°F (2.6°F above average) played second to Sep 1967. New daily heat records were also set: 89°F on 10 Sep and 97°F on 11 Sep (also the warmest day of Sep 1979), while 86°F on 12 Sep tied the record. Warm nite-time temperature records were set on 11 Sep with a 65°F minimum and on 12 Sep with 61°F. The nearest competitor on both dates was 58°F. Also, the 60°F on 2 Sep and 58°F on 3 Sep are records for the dates.

During the whole month of Sep 79 the temperature never fell below 51°F, matching a similar record in 1967. The 97°F reading on 11 Sep was the highest Monterey temperature since a 98°F reading on 29 Sep 1978. And finally, worthy of note, Sep 79 is the seventh straight month of above normal temperatures, the recent month being the most anomalous of the seven.

Precipitation: Little of anything significant occurred in the rainfall category. Only 0.02” fell, all of it in drizzle during the late nite hours of 1 Sep and early morning hours of 2 Sep. 0.28” is the 28-year normal for Sep. The rain season total (July 1 – Sep 30) now stands at 0.44” compared to a normal of 0.47”. Historically, there have been as many wet as dry Octobers following a dry September.

Wind: Winds were gusty on occasion in September, reaching 46 miles per hour (mph) on 8 Sep and 43 mph on 5 Sep. Average for the month, 6.5 mph, topped the 20-year September Airport average of 5.1 mph.

Fog: Fog again closely paralleled the average with 18 such days compared to an expectation of 16.

Special Phenomena: Very heavy swell generated by unusually strong winds more than 1500 miles northwest of Monterey rolled onto local beaches on Sunday 30 Sep and the two days following. This will be covered in more detail in the October report.