SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 1987 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA, CALIFORNIA

General: September 1987 goes into the record as very dry and very foggy, along with near to below normal in temperature and wind.

Temperatures: On spite of the fogginess this month temperatures were not far from normal: 61.9°F in September 1987 vs 62.5°F (36-year normal) for the overall average; 70.5°F vs 72.1°F (normal) for the average daily maximum; and 53.2°F vs 52.9°F (normal) for the average daily minimum. It all adds up to foggy nights slightly on the warm side more than compensated by (too many) foggy days on the cool side. One temperature record was set: a maximum of 60°F on 23 Sep is the coolest maximum for the date in 37 years (beat 61°F in 1982). The coolness of most of the last half of the month overshadowed early month warmth during which period the absolute maximum for the month (85°F, on 8 Sep) was recorded. The advent of the cooler season to come showed up late month with an absolute minimum of 49°F on several days (21, 21, 27, 28 Sep) – the first 40’s since 31 July 1987.

Precipitation: Sep 1987 is notable for the lack of any measureable rainfall. A trace only on 13 Sept made this the driest Sep since 1955, the only other equally dry Sep in 37 years! Average Sep rainfall is 0.33”. Normal rainfall (based on 37 years) from 1 July to 30 Sep is 0.52” – we have received only 0.10” this year!

The El Nino phenomenon of the Equatorial Pacific, prevalent throughout the past rain year, is still in existence and shows little sign of dissipation. This fact, by itself, is not a good indicator for the West Coast U.S. rainfall later this rain year. However, the National Weather Service’s 90-day outlook, Oct thru Dec, indicates near to below normal rainfall for this area, along with near to above normal temperature. . . .not the type of outlook we want to hear, especially just after a rain year (1 Jul 86 to 30 Jun 87) with only two-thirds of normal!

Fog / Smoke: Sep 1987, with 23 fog days (16 is normal), is the foggiest month since Aug 1986 and the third most foggy Sep (along with 1969 and 1982) since 1975. If duration of fog is counted it could be even more significant. Fog was observed every day from 15 through 30 Sep 1987, and on 10 of those 23 days fog and haze existed throughout most of the 24-hour period. In addition, there were five days with partial to complete obscuration of the sun due to forest fire smoke over the area, especially on 5 Sep.

Wind: September’s winds were down considerably from most of the 1987 calendar year: an average (6 am – 11 pm) of 7.6 miles per hour at the airport and maximum daily gustiness at the Nat’l Weather Service Climate Station that averaged 19.5 miles per hour.