SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 1989 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA, CALIFORNIA

General: September 1989 was unusually cool, wet and foggy, with light winds for the most part.

Temperatures: Sep 1989 (along with Sep 1986 and 1975) is the third coolest September in 38 years, with an average of 60.1°F (59.3°F in Sep 1955 and 58.5°F in Sep 1962). 62.4°F is normal! Both days and nights contributed to the significant negative anomaly: 68.4°F average maximum (compared to 72.0°F expected) and 51.8°F average minimum (compared to 52.8°F expected). High for the month was 76°F on 21 Sep. This is the lowest September absolute maximum record in 38 years (closest competitor is 78°F in Sep 1959). One record cool temperature data was recorded. The 61°F on 16 Sep beat the cool 62°F reading in 1960.

Precipitation: September turned in a welcome (to most) wet record. 0.96” fell in six days with measurable rain mostly in two rainy periods. (16-18 Sep and 28-29 Sep) that involved remnants of tropical weather systems in the eastern North Pacific and early season cold fronts out of the Gulf of Alaska. 0.34” is normal for Sept! Only three other Septembers in 38 years topped this record: 1.23” in Sep 1983, 1.45” in Sep 1982 and 3.14” in Sep 1959. The rain year total (1 Jul to 30 Sep) now stands at 0.99” compared to 0.53” average (based on a 38-year record).

The thunderstorms on 16 Sep were the first since June 1988. The 14 month “dry” period, along with Oct 1969 through Nov 1970, represents the longest period in 26 years with no recorded thunderstorm activity.

Fog: 27 days with one or more hours of fog in Sep 1989 is not a record, but it is only exceeded by both Sep 1974 and 1975 with 28 such days. Normal for Sep is 17 fog days. Every month, starting with Sep 1988 (except for Jun 1989), has observed above normal fog, although in Jul 1989 the number of fog days was exactly normal.

Wind: The average airport wind (based on hourly observations 6 AM to 11 PM each day) for Sep 1989 is 8.1 miles per hour (mph), the least since April of this year. The maximum daily wind gust at the National Weather Service Climate Station averaged 19 mph, which is 3 mph under the 18-year average for this weather element.