SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 1992 WEATHER ON THE MONTEREY PENINSULA, CALIFORNIA

General: September weather on the Monterey Peninsula was lackluster, but temperatures did continue above normal. The rainfall was light, with well above-average number of fog days. Winds were on the light side.

Temperature: Except for December 1991, the September just past completes a full year of above normal temperatures! The overall September 1992 average of 63.0°F is 0.6°F above normal. Both maximum and minimum temperatures contributed equally to the positive anomaly, 72.4°F vs. 71.9°F normal for the maximum, and 53.6°F vs. 52.9°F normal for the minimum. These average temperatures are not record setting, unlike those from February through July of this year. The high for the month, 87°F, was observed in the afternoon on 25 September, while the month's low was a mild 50°F on 08 and 15 September 1992. The warm nighttime low of 61°F on 26 September matched the record for the date, set in 1963. On 28 of the nights in September, temperatures stayed above 50°F -- only three other Septembers in 42 years of record exceeded that number of warm nights.

Precipitation: With only 0.07" of rainfall in September 1992, the month's total qualifies as light, at best. Normal is 0.32". The rain year total (from 01 July 1992) is at 0.20" through 30 September, short of the 0.33" this time last year, and 0.31" under the 0.51" normal by the end of September. All of the moisture fell as drizzle, with 0.04" o it on the evening of 09 September and morning of 10 September. With a "rainy season" weather pattern off the coast late month, there was optimism on raising the rainfall figures in early October.

Fog: The number of days with one or more hours of fog on the Monterey Peninsula was well above normal: 22 vs. 17, which is higher than 70% of the last thirty Septembers. There is still one more month to the six-month local fog season, during which 14 or more days with some fog is normal.

Wind: Winds were mostly light in September 1992: 7.1 miles per hour (mph) average at the Monterey Airport (6 AM to 11 PM) and high daily wind gust averaging 18.9 mph at the NWS Climate Station, a value more like late November/early December, when the sea breeze becomes effectively inoperative. High gust for the month was 31 mph on 24 September.

Final Comments: The well publicized 1991-92 El Nino ocean/atmospheric event, popularly identified by the warmer than normal equatorial temperatures in the Eastern Pacific region, appears at an end. What does this mean for the upcoming wet season (normally November through mid-April) rainfall? Five of the last six years easily qualify as drought years, with last year's rain (01 July 1991 through 30 June 1992) close to 18" and above the median value. However, the effects of five years of true drought were not erased by close to (but below) normal rain for one year. The National Weather Service outlook for the three-month period (October through December 1992) does not offer much hope since the forecast is for less than the median amount in this area and for the US West Coast, in general. It should be noted that these 90-day forecasts, for our rainy season, become more reliable later in autumn, starting with the November through January forecast.