APRIL 2008 WEATHER SUMMARY

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The storm that moved east of the region on March 31st was followed by another in early April. This storm dropped along the California coast, rather than moving inland over central California. As a result, light rain fell in Bakersfield north to Hanford, and on the Tehachapi Mountains, but (except for 0.01 inch of rain at Los Banos, and a trace of snow at Tuolumne Meadows) the central San Joaquin Valley from Fresno north and the Southern Sierra Nevada remained dry. One strong shower did develop in the Tehachapi Mountains near Bear Valley Springs the night of April 2nd, dropping 1.54 inch of rain; elsewhere, rainfall reports were a quarter inch or less.

The trace of rain that fell at Meadows Field on April 2nd was the only precipitation recorded for Bakersfield during the month, and marked the second consecutive month that no measurable rain fell at Meadows Field. By April 30th, Bakersfield had gone 66 days without measurable rain.

Temperatures in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley warmed into the mid to upper 70s on April 4th as weak high pressure moved over California, then plunged as much as 9 degrees the next day as a mostly dry upper-level trough moved into the state. The trough remained over the state through the 9th, with gusty winds developing over the Kern County mountains and deserts during the night of April 8th-9th, as the upper-level jet on the back side of the trough moved through the region. Winds gusted to around 60 mph over the mountains, and to 65 mph at the base of the Tehachapi Pass near Mojave. Precipitation over the high country of the Southern Sierra Nevada also was reported on the night of the 8th-9th, ranging from an inch of new snow at Tuolumne Meadows to a trace at Lodgepole. This was the only precipitation reported from this system.

A stronger upper-level ridge moved into California beginning April 10th, bringing the warmest temperatures of the month to most of the central and southern San Joaquin Valley. Bakersfield warmed from a high of 66 degrees on April 9th to a record-tying high of 94 degrees on the 13th (last set in 1985). Fresno went from a high of 69 on April 9th to a high of 94 on the 13th. Fresno had its first 80-degree day of 2008 on April 11th (with a high of 83), followed by the first 90-degree day of the year at both Bakersfield and Fresno the next day when both cities had highs of 90 degrees.

Another dry upper-level trough moved into California on April 14th, dropping central and southern San Joaquin Valley high temperatures as much as 18 degrees, from the lower to mid 90s on the 13th to only the mid 70s to mid 80s the next day. The trough also brought another round of gusty winds to the Kern County mountains and deserts, with gusts in the 45-55 mph range reported on the 15th.

Central and southern San Joaquin Valley high temperatures were only in the mid to upper 60s on April 15th, then warmed back into the 80s by the 17th and 18th, as another upper-

level ridge moved into California. Again, the warming was short-lived, as an upper-level trough moved into the state on the 19th, and plunged high temperatures to their coldest values of the month on the 20th. This cold airmass brought isolated freezing to sub-freezing temperatures to the east side of the San Joaquin Valley on the morning of April 21st, with one report of a low of 27 degrees near the Sierra foothills.

In contrast to the trough at the beginning of April, this trough brought precipitation to the northern half of the WFO Hanford's warning/forecast area. Tuolumne Meadows received 3 inches of new snow on April 22nd, while light rain spread as far south as Hanford and Lemon Cove. Although the ASOS at Fresno-Yosemite International Airport recorded only a trace of rain from the storm on the 22nd-23rd, the Fresno Air National Guard's rain gauge had 0.02 inch, evidence of the spotty nature of the precipitation.

Winds in the Kern County mountains and deserts gusted to 45-55 mph on April 19th-20th, as the surface cold front moved through the area, but upper-level support for gusty winds was limited and the winds diminished during the day on the 20th.

Weak high pressure returned to California on April 25th, as temperatures climbed to near normal, and continued to warm on the 26th, when Valley temperatures were in the 80s. Temperatures continued to climb on the 27th, with central and southern San Joaquin Valley highs in the lower to mid 90s. Bakersfield warmed to 94 degrees, tying its warmest day of the month (and year to date); Fresno was only a degree cooler. Temperatures were slightly cooler the next day, but highs in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley on the 28th, as well as most of the Kern County deserts (except Mojave) remained in the 90-93-degree range.

A dry cold front moved into California on April 29th, plunging San Joaquin Valley high temperatures as much as 17 degrees from the previous day. Bakersfield's high of 79 degrees, while 14 degrees cooler than the 93 on the 28th, matched the normal high temperature at Meadows Field for the day.

Gusty winds accompanied the cold front as it moved through California. Gusts to 60 mph were reported in the Kern County mountains and deserts, and a few gusts between 35-40 mph occurred in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley. High temperatures in the central and south Valley continued to cool, falling several degrees below normal on the last day of April with readings in the upper 60s to mid 70s

April was an exceptionally dry month for the central and southern San Joaquin Valley, with neither Bakersfield nor Fresno reporting measurable rain. For Bakersfield, it has been an extremely dry rain season so far, the third driest July-April in 119 years of records. As April historically marks the end of the wettest months of the rain season, Bakersfield could end with this season as one of the five driest on record; if no more measurable rain were to fall, only the 1933-34 rain season would be drier.

April rain statistics for Bakersfield and Fresno are listed below:

THE DRIEST APRIL/S ON RECORD

	BAKERSFIELD		FRESNO
1.	1966...0.00 INCH	1.	1898...0.00 INCH
	1934...0.00 INCH	2.	*2008...TRACE *
	1910...0.00 INCH		1997...TRACE
	1909...0.00 INCH		1934...TRACE
	1894...0.00 INCH		1918...TRACE
	1890...0.00 INCH		1909...TRACE
2.	*2008...TRACE *	3.	1949...0.01 INCH
	1997...TRACE	4.	1991...0.02 INCH
	1993...TRACE		1962...0.02 INCH
	1992...TRACE		1916...0.02 INCH
	1989...TRACE	5.	2004...0.03 INCH
	1985...TRACE		1946...0.03 INCH
	1979...TRACE	6.	1977...0.04 INCH
	1977...TRACE	7.	1989...0.05 INCH
	1913...TRACE	8.	1919...0.06 INCH
	1902...TRACE	9.	1987...0.07 INCH
	1892...TRACE		1979...0.07 INCH
3.	1933...0.01 INCH	10.	1922...0.10 INCH

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THE DRIEST MARCH-APRIL AGGREGATES ON RECORD

	BAKERSFIELD		FRESNO
1.	1934...0.00 INCH	1.	1934...TRACE
2.	*2008...TRACE *	2.	*2008...0.02 INCH *
3.	1992...0.08 INCH	3.	1997...0.10 INCH
4.	1933...0.18 INCH	4.	1966...0.16 INCH
5.	1997...0.21 INCH	5.	1972...0.27 INCH
	NORMAL.....1.86 INCH		NORMAL.....2.96 INCHES

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ALTHOUGH FRESNO HAS HAD NUMEROUS DRY SEASONS TO DATE...THE JULY 2007-APRIL 2008 RAIN SEASON IS THE THIRD DRIEST SINCE RECORDS BEGAN FOR BAKERSFIELD. THE FIVE DRIEST SEASONS TO DATE FOR BAKERSFIELD ARE...

1.	JULY 1971-APRIL 1972	1.87 INCH	TOTAL...3.00 INCHES
2.	JULY 1933-APRIL 1934	1.96 INCH	TOTAL...2.21 INCHES
3.	JULY 2007-APRIL 2008	2.31 INCHES	TOTAL...
4.	JULY 1958-APRIL 1959	2.42 INCHES	TOTAL...2.45 INCHES
5.	JULY 1892-APRIL 1893	2.58 INCHES	TOTAL...2.77 INCHES