

APRIL 2019 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INTERIOR

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The first day was relatively warm with generally dry conditions. However, a storm system brought showers and scattered thunderstorms on the 2nd to much of the region. Rainfall amounts were generally light, although some locally heavy amounts fell with some of the stronger thunderstorms, especially in the Sierra Nevada. Several inches of snow fell at elevations above 7,000 feet.

Cooler temperatures occurred on the 3rd through the 5th, although another system brought light precipitation on the 5th. Another ridge of high pressure soon followed and brought another round of above average temperatures, with daytime highs reaching around 10 degrees above average, on the 6th through the 8th.

A fairly strong low pressure system brought light showers to mainly the Sierra Nevada and Kern County mountains on the morning of the 9th. However, gusty winds were the main weather concern with this particular system. Wind gusts around 35 to near 45 mph were reported in quite a few San Joaquin Valley locations during the early morning hours, as well as during the afternoon into the early evening hours. In addition, wind gusts reached around 60 to 70 mph over some ridges in the Kern County mountain areas and around 45 to 55 mph into the desert, although some locally stronger gusts briefly occurred in a few spots.

On the 10th and 11th, some breezy conditions with cool mornings continued with otherwise mainly seasonal or slightly below average daytime highs. Another upper-level disturbance brought some low clouds and a few showers in the Sierra Nevada and into the foothills during the overnight of the 11th through the morning of the 12th. Afterward, a brief warm period with mainly quiet weather occurred over the next two days. Daytime high temperatures reached around 7-10 degrees above average, while mornings remained relatively cool or near average.

Another storm brought precipitation to the region during the 15th-16th. Quite a few Central Valley locations reported amounts above 0.25 inch of rain, and around 3-6 inches of snow fell on the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada, mainly above 6,000 feet (including a reading of 3 inches at Lodgepole in Sequoia National Park and 6 inches at Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park). In northeastern Kern County, some thunderstorms developed and brought a brief weak tornado with a strength of EF-0 (or the weakest Enhanced Fujita scale reading with estimated gusts between 65 and 85 miles per hour) to the east side of Ridgecrest on the afternoon

of the 16th, as the upper-level low was just to the east of this location, while strong upper-level winds passed overhead at the time.

On the 19th, the first widespread readings of 90 degrees or warmer occurred throughout much of the region, including in the San Joaquin Valley and Kern County desert areas, as a strong upper-level high pressure ridge built overhead. However, the warmth was temporary, as the ridge shifted eastward by the 20th, while another low pressure system replaced it. Highs only reached into the 70s for the next couple of days in the Central Valley and the desert regions of eastern Kern County. Some showers were even reported in the southern Sierra Nevada, along with some gusty winds over the crest, ridgetops, and below the passes and canyons of the Tehachapi Mountains. Gusts reached around 50-60 mile per hour in these areas and even as high as 80 miles per hour at an isolated location to the northeast of Tehachapi (Bird Springs Pass at an elevation of 6,360 feet) during the early morning of the 21st.

On the 22nd through the 25th, temperatures trended significantly warmer. Well above average temperatures returned on the 23rd and continued for the next several days due to an even stronger ridge of high pressure. Near record highs were reached in parts of the San Joaquin Valley on the 25th, and isolated showers and thunderstorms developed over the higher terrain on the 25th. Otherwise, the warmest temperatures of the year thus far were reported on the 25th and into the 26th. This period of heat combined with abundant melting snowpack were enough to cause high flows along some of the rivers (for example, the Merced River in Yosemite Valley). Temperatures remained warmer than average until the 28th, although gradually lowered by a few degrees.

Mainly seasonal temperatures occurred on the 29th as an upper-level low pressure system moved inland over Southern California. Showers and thunderstorms developed over portions of the Sierra Nevada and over much of Kern County, as subtropical moisture wrapped northward into these areas from Southern California. Rainfall amounts were generally light; for instance, Bakersfield reported 0.06 inch. Another upper-level low moved over northern California into the Great Basin on the 30th, so temperatures cooled by a few degrees, or to below average in many locations. A few spots reported wind gusts around 50 mph in the Kern County mountain and desert areas on the evening of the 29th and again on the afternoon and evening of the 30th. There were even gusts around 45 mph at times along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley due to the presence of the upper-level lows.

Overall, the month was above average in terms of temperatures (Fig 1), and below average precipitation accumulated this month (Fig 2).

Table 1 – April 2019 Summary Statistics for ASOS locations

Location	Monthly Average Temp (deg F)	Departure From Average (deg F)	Total Monthly Precipitation (inches)	Departure From Normal (inches)
Bakersfield	67.8	+5.2	0.11	-0.41
Fresno	67.1	+5.1	0.39	-0.56
Hanford	65.8	+5.1	0.29	-0.50
Madera	66.3	+6.7	0.19	-0.76
Merced	63.0	+4.0	0.05	-0.90

Table 2 – Seasonal Precipitation for ASOS locations (ending on April 30th)

Location	Since Jan 1st (inches)	Departure From Average (inches)	Since Jul 1st (inches)	Departure From Average (inches)	Since Oct 1st (inches)	Departure From Normal (inches)
Bakersfield	4.70	+0.57	6.00	-0.21	6.00	-0.09
Fresno	7.14	-0.06	9.47	-1.39	9.47	-1.20
Hanford	5.80	-0.39	7.67	-1.86	7.67	-1.65
Madera	6.85	-0.48	9.84	-1.51	9.84	-1.22
Merced	8.00	+0.03	11.87	+0.08	11.87	+0.39

Table 3 – Warmest High Temperatures and Coolest Low Temperatures of the Month for ASOS locations

Location	High	Date(s)	Low	Date(s)
Bakersfield	96	25 th , 26 th	45	10 th
Fresno	96	25 th	46	12 th
Hanford	98	25 th	42	11 th , 12 th
Madera	98	25 th	42	11 th
Merced	95	25 th	41	21 st

Temperature/Precipitation Rankings for April 2019

Bakersfield – Tied 7th warmest April on record (with 1931); 30th lowest total precipitation on record for April.

Fresno – Tied for 4th warmest April on record (with 1985); 48th lowest total precipitation on record for April.

Daily Records Set During April 2019 at Bakersfield and Fresno

Bakersfield

Record high minimum temperature of 65 degrees tied for the 25th, which was the also set for the date in 1910.

Record high minimum temperature of 68 degrees set on the 26th, which broke the old record of 67 degrees that was last set for the date in 1926.

Fresno

Record high minimum temperature of 60 degrees tied on the 8th, which was last set for the date in 1939.

Record high minimum temperature of 64 degrees set on the 24th, which broke the old record of 63 degrees set for the date in 1910.

Record high minimum temperature of 66 degrees set on the 25th, which broke the old record of 64 degrees set for the date in 1898.

Fig 1 – Departure from Average Temperature for April 2019

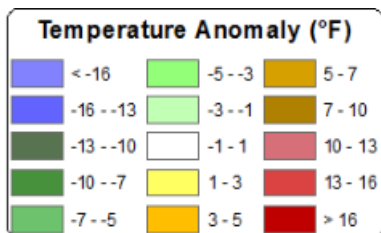
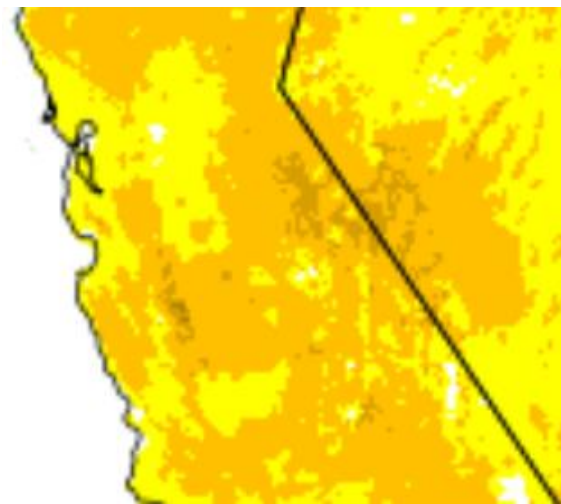
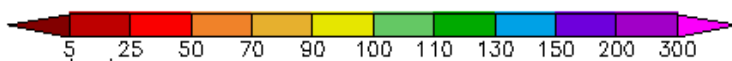
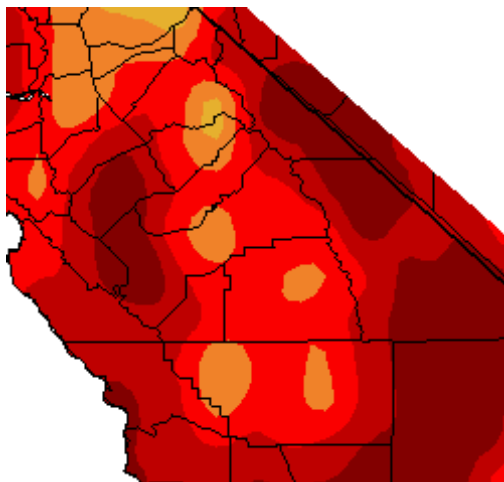


Fig 2 – Percent of Average Precipitation for April 2019



*Figure 1 courtesy of PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University & Figure 2 courtesy of Western Region Climate Center