APRIL 2022 WEATHER SUMMARY
FOR THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INTERIOR

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April 2022 began with mainly seasonal temperatures with some occasional gusty winds along the Mojave Desert slopes and into the desert floor (such as towards Inyokern and China Lake) in eastern Kern County. A strong wind event occurred on the 12th, as gusts of 70 to 100 mph were reported in numerous locations in this portion of Kern County. Record breaking heat occurred on both the 7th and 8th in much of the San Joaquin Valley. All of our ASOS sites set record high maximum temperatures on these days, except Bakersfield was three degrees shy of the record on the 8th. Cooling soon followed, and below average temperatures returned on the 11th, along with some light precipitation. Additional precipitation events were reported on the 16th, 19th, and 21st-22nd. The latest event brought more significant and widespread precipitation to the region. Overall, the month was warmer than average with mainly below average precipitation (see also Figs 1-2).

Table 1 – April 2022 Summary Statistics– NWS Hanford, CA ASOS Sites

Location	Monthly Average Temp (deg F)	Departure from Average (deg F)	Temperature Rank	Total Monthly Precipi-tation (inches)	Departure from Normal (inches)	Precipitation Rank
Bakersfield	64.5	+1.2	34th warmest	0.39	-0.21	51st lowest
Fresno	64.4	+2.1	31st warmest	0.30	-0.74	42nd lowest
Hanford	62.8	+1.0	33rd warmest	0.54	-0.18	59th lowest
Madera*	59.4	-1.3	Missing	0.46	-0.43	35th lowest
Merced	61.4	+1.6	31st warmest	0.75	-0.37	56th lowest

*Missing temperatures on April 6-10 at Madera.

This month began with mainly clear skies and afternoon high temperatures a little warmer than average. On the 3rd and 4th, an upper-level disturbance that passed over Northern California brought increased winds to the typical prone areas, including the Mojave Desert slopes in eastern Kern County. Another system brought increased winds later on the 4th into the 5th to these areas. Temperatures lowered to slightly below average from the 3rd until the 5th, but soon quickly warmed back to well above average. Further warming occurred the next couple of days, as some

record highs were broken on the 7th and 8th, as daytime highs reached well into the mid to upper-90's in the warmest spots, including in the Central Valley and Kern County desert.

Cooler temperatures returned to the region beginning on the 9th as another low pressure system approached Northern California, although daytime highs remained several degrees above average in our forecast area. Gusty winds also developed during that afternoon in portions of eastern Kern County and the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. Additional cooling continued during the 10th and 11th as the low moved closer. The system arrived to Central California by the morning of the 11th and brought precipitation to the Sierra Nevada and portions of the San Joaquin Valley through the day.

Relatively cool temperatures prevailed with an episode of strong winds in eastern Kern County during the 11th and 12th. A gust over 100 mph was reported at a remote station on an exposed ridgetop about 30 miles to the northeast of Tehachapi (Bird Springs Pass RAWS) on the 12th, while gusts exceeded 70 mph at China Lake and reached around 50 to 60 mph elsewhere in the desert areas of eastern Kern County.

Seasonal temperatures prevailed from the 13th until the 15th, with occasional gusty winds during the afternoons and evenings along the Mojave Desert slopes in Kern County. Gusts of 45 to 55 mph were common during these times, as this area is typically windy at this time of year.

Another storm system arrived early in the morning on the 16th and brought over 0.50 inch to areas in the Sierra Nevada foothills, mainly in Madera and Mariposa Counties. Merced reported 0.34 inch of rain that day. Lighter amounts of rain fell to the south, including Fresno and Hanford; amounts were mainly less than 0.10 inch. Gusty winds redeveloped in eastern Kern County. Snow occurred at elevations above 6,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada, and the highest amounts were around one foot.

Significant precipitation occurred on the 21st into the 22nd in quite a few areas, due to a colder and stronger storm system. This storm produced moderate to heavy showers with isolated afternoon and evening thunderstorms, as well as significant snow in the Sierra Nevada. During that afternoon, one thunderstorm to the west of Fresno (near Kerman) developed a wall cloud with a brief funnel, but no tornado occurred, as the funnel did not touch the ground. Precipitation amounts in the San Joaquin Valley generally ranged from 0.10 to 0.25 inch, with some isolated higher amounts around 0.50 inch. Rain and mountain snow, or at elevations above 4.500 feet, continued until the 22nd, mainly during the morning and early afternoon. Snow amounts in the Sierra Nevada reached above a foot, including 14 inches at Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park. The 22nd was the cooler of the two days, as the colder air and cloud cover lasted for much of the day. Gusty winds were reported in the Mojave Desert Slopes and the adjacent desert floor in eastern Kern County, with gusts around 45 to 50 mph at times during the

evenings. Afterward, a drying and warming trend began, or on the 23rd, though daytime high temperatures remained cooler than average.

No precipitation was reported from the 23rd until the end of the month. Warmer conditions continued on the 24th through the 25th, and above average high temperatures were reported by the 25th. Highs reached into the 80's on both days at the warmest locations, and were as high as the mid to upper-80's on the 25th, which were about 5-7 degrees warmer than those recorded on the 24th. On the 26th until the 28th, a downward trend in temperatures occurred when afternoon highs lowered to a few degrees below average, but not without an increase in winds. Gusty winds developed along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley with gusts around 35 to 40 mph in a few locations, while even stronger gusts were reported in the mountain and desert portions of eastern Kern County, or from 55 to 60 mph except for some isolated stronger gusts above 65 mph. The strongest gust that was reported was 78 mph at the aforementioned remote station about 30 miles northeast of Tehachapi on the 28th. A brief warming trend returned on the 29th and 30th. However, gusty winds redeveloped on the evening of the 30th in these areas of eastern Kern County; wind gust reports ranged from around 45 to 55 mph, except with isolated gusts above 60 mph.

April 2022 ended with mainly near average to slightly warmer than average temperatures (Fig 1) along with below average precipitation, except for a pocket of above average precipitation in far northwestern Fresno County into western Merced County (Fig 2).

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	1.85	-2.27	5.40	-0.66	5.40	-0.61
Fresno	1.08	-5.95	6.29	-3.04	6.29	-3.96
Hanford	1.74	-3.47	6.34	-1.37	6.34	-1.31
Madera *	Missing	Missing	Missing	Missing	Missing	Missing
Merced	1.65	-5.86	7.44	-3.69	7.44	-3.64

*****Precipitation missing during December 2021 and March 2022 at Madera.

Table 3 – Warmest High Temperatures and Coolest Low Temperatures of the Month for ASOS locations				
Location	**High**	**Date(s)**	**Low**	**Date(s)**
Bakersfield	97	7th	39	13th
Fresno	96	8th	40	12th
Hanford	95	8th	41	13th & 14th
Madera *	85	25th	34	12th & 13th
Merced	95	8th	37	13th

*High temperatures on the 6th-10th were missing at Madera (some of which were likely warmer than 85 degrees).

Daily Records Set During April 2022

Bakersfield

7th: Record high maximum temperature of 97 degrees reached, which broke the old record high set for the date in 1989.

Fresno

7th: Record high maximum temperature of 94 degrees tied, which was also last set for the date in 1989.

8th: Record high maximum temperature of 96 degrees set, which broke the record of 95 degrees last set for the date in 1989.

Hanford

7th: Record high maximum temperature of 92 degrees tied, which was also last set for the date in 1989.

8th: Record high maximum temperature of 95 degrees set, which broke the record of 92 degrees last set for the date in 1989.

Madera

No daily records reported.

Merced

7th: Record high maximum temperature of 92 degrees set, which broke the record of 90 degrees last set for the date in 1989.

8th: Record high maximum temperature of 95 degrees set, which broke the record of 92 degrees last set for the date in 1989.

Fig 1 – Departure from Average Temperature for April 2022

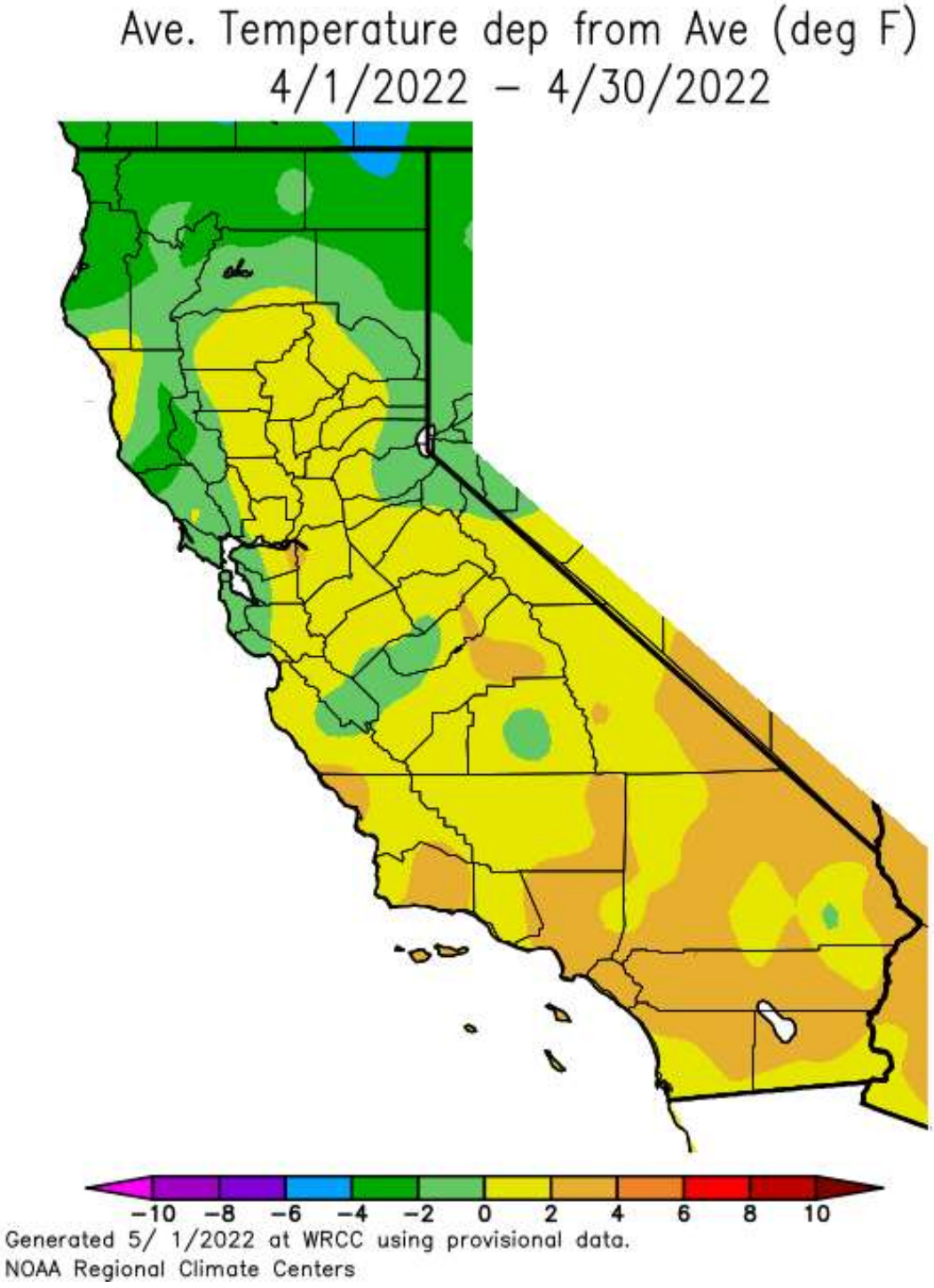
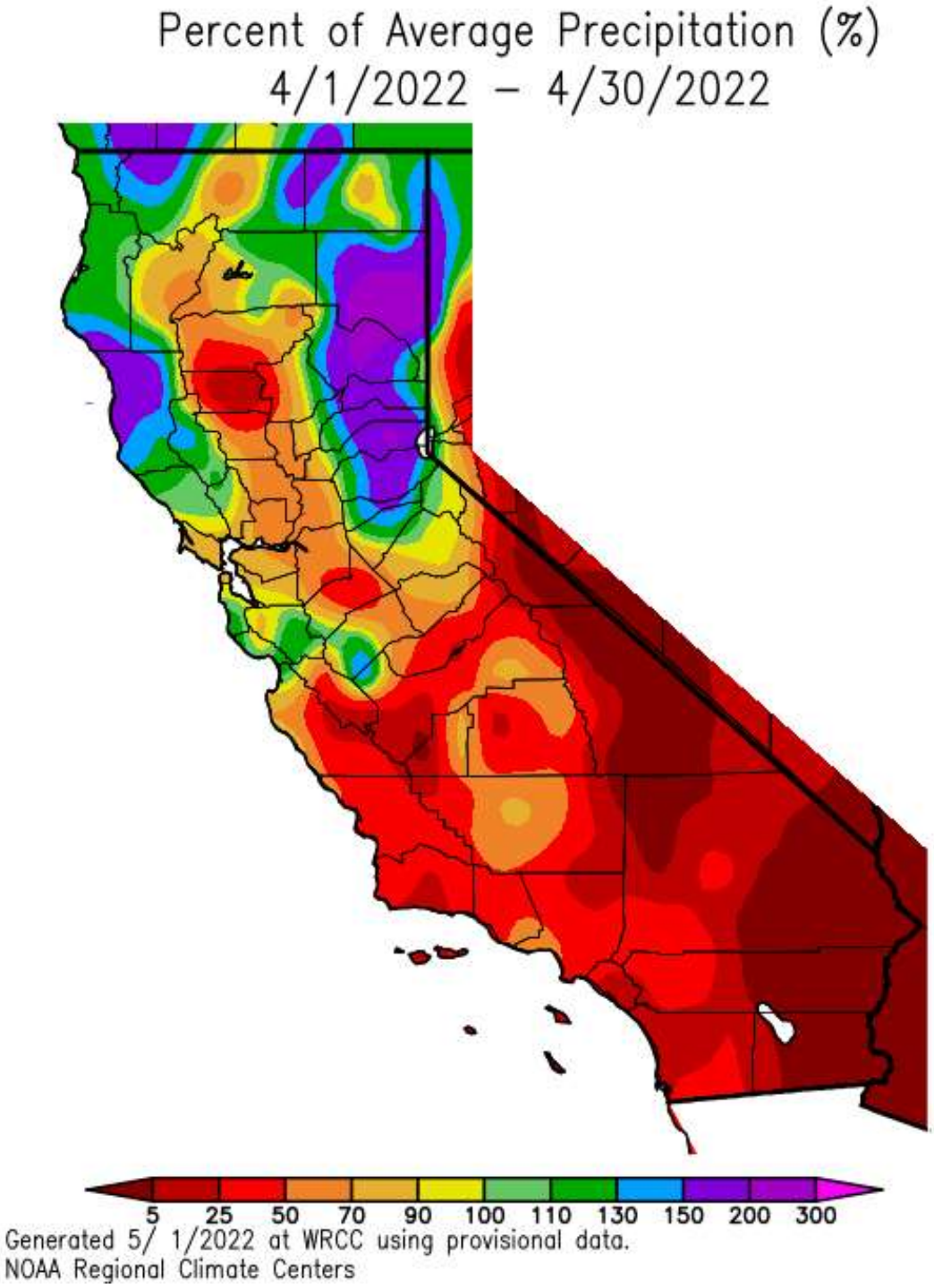


Fig 2 – Percent of Average Precipitation for April 2022



*Images above (i.e., Figs 1-2) courtesy of Western Region Climate Center