

AUGUST 2019 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INTERIOR

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This August began with typical benign weather, and seasonal temperatures prevailed for the first two days. Temperatures warmed to several degrees above average on the 3rd and 4th as high pressure shifted westward from the Desert Southwest region of the U.S.

Relatively warm temperatures continued until the 8th, before a trough of low pressure allowed an onshore flow to prevail over Central California. As a result of this cooler flow, below average temperatures prevailed (by about 5 to 8 degrees) during the 9th-11th. A few locations in the Kern County mountain and desert areas reported gusty winds, or around 45 to 50 mph, on the night of the 10th into the early morning of the 11th. Otherwise, breezy conditions with wind speeds around 20 to 30 mph prevailed that night, including in the San Joaquin Valley. Dry conditions continued until the 11th.

A warming trend commenced on the 12th as temperatures rose back to near seasonal averages. Temperatures continued to rise until the 16th as high pressure returned to the region. Highs reached around 5 to 7 degrees above average during 13th-15th and over 10 degrees above average by the 16th. Highs reached above 105 degrees in the San Joaquin Valley on both the 15th and 16th.

On the 17th, onshore flow developed along the coast and brought marine air through the passes and over the hills along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. Temperatures in the Central Valley lowered by several degrees each day until the 18th due to this marine air intrusion. Highs dropped below 100 degrees in much of the valley by the 18th, and temperatures elsewhere fell by a few degrees. The onshore flow was strong enough to bring breezy conditions each afternoon and evening on the 17th and 18th. Gusts reached as high as 42 miles per hour at Pacheco Pass on the 17th.

Near seasonal temperatures continued until the 20th before another gradual warming trend began due to rebuilding high pressure. Highs reached above 100 degrees in the San Joaquin Valley on the 23rd through at least the 28th. Daily low temperatures were well above average during this period. Dry weather continued until the 26th; isolated afternoon thunderstorms developed on the following day along the Sierra Nevada crest due to remnants of Tropical Storm Ivo that developed off the coast of Baja California during the previous week. No significant rainfall was reported due to these storms. Dry weather returned to the region on the 28th.

On the 29th and 30th, the ridge of high pressure weakened slightly and allowed temperatures to fall closer to seasonal averages. However, this was short-lived, as temperatures rose back to several degrees above average on the last day of the month when the ridge regained strength.

The month was mainly much warmer than average, except closer to average over the Sierra Nevada (Fig 1). Below average precipitation accumulated this month; no rain was recorded in much of the region (Fig 2). However, it is typical for many locations, such as those in the San Joaquin Valley, to report no rainfall during August.

Table 1 – August 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	85.3	+2.9	0.00	-0.04
Fresno	84.8	+3.1	0.00	-0.01
Hanford	82.4	+4.2	0.00	-0.02
Madera	80.1	+3.0	0.00	-0.02
Merced	79.5	+3.2	0.00	-0.01

Table 2 – Seasonal Precipitation for ASOS locations (ending on August 31st)						
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	6.50	+2.07	Trace	-0.04	7.80	+1.41
Fresno	9.52	+1.66	Trace	-0.02	11.85	+0.52
Hanford	7.63	+0.83	0.00	-0.04	9.50	+0.43
Madera	8.43	+0.39	0.00	-0.04	11.42	-0.35
Merced	9.40	+0.70	0.00	-0.02	13.27	+1.06

Table 3 – Warmest High Temperatures and Coolest Low Temperatures of the Month for ASOS locations				
Location	High	Date(s)	Low	Date(s)
Bakersfield	108	16 th	65	11 th
Fresno	108	16 th	63	9 th
Hanford	107	16 th	59	12 th
Madera	107	16 th	57	9 th , 11 th , 18 th
Merced	105	16 th	57	9 th , 21 st

Temperature/Precipitation Rankings for August 2019

Bakersfield – Tied for 9th warmest August on record (with 2016); tied for lowest precipitation on record (no rainfall reported; typically little measurable rainfall occurs in this month).

Fresno – 3rd warmest August on record; tied for lowest precipitation August on record (no rainfall reported; typically little measurable rainfall occurs in this month).

Daily Records Set During August 2019

Bakersfield – No daily records set.

Fresno – Record high minimum temperature of 75 degrees tied on the 26th which was last set for the date in 1931.

100-Degree Day Statistics for Bakersfield and Fresno

Bakersfield – 15 days in August with a high at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (average 10 days). May through August total: 35 days (average 29 days)

Fresno – 18 days in August with a high at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (average 11 days). May through August total: 40 days (average 32 days)

Fig 1 – Departure from Average Temperature for August 2019

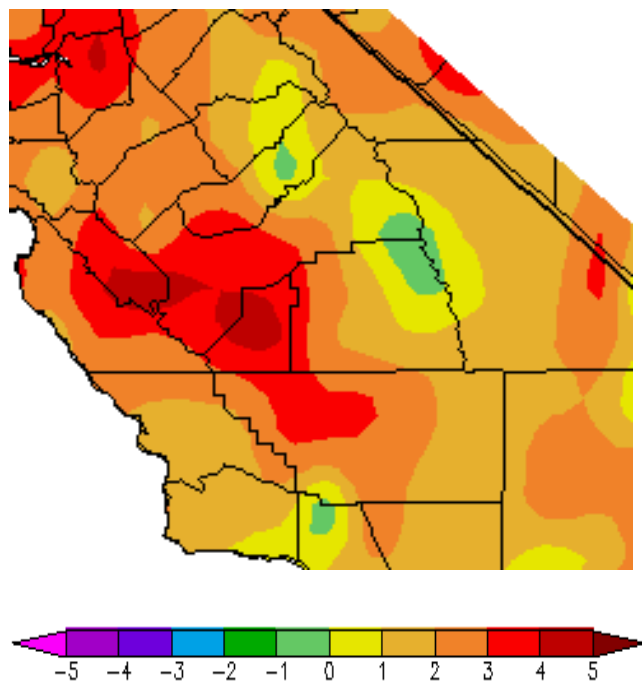
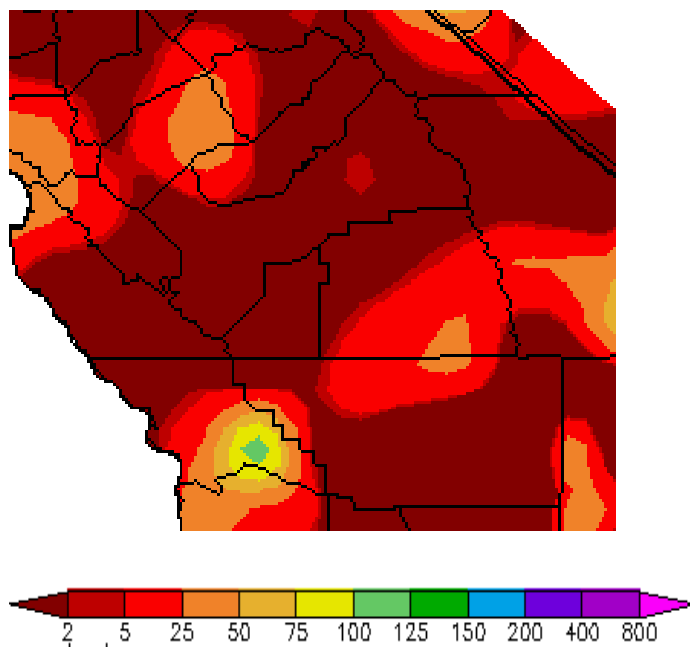


Fig 2 – Percent of Average Precipitation for August 2019



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