

FEBRUARY 2006 WEATHER SUMMARY

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In the wake of the storm that closed out January, a stable weather pattern settled over central California. With abundant low-level moisture, night and morning dense fog returned to the central and southern San Joaquin Valley, with visibilities during the morning of February 3rd down to 100 feet at times.

A dry cold front moved through central California on February 14th, bringing freezing temperatures to the San Joaquin Valley floor and gusty winds to the Kern county mountains and deserts, where gusts to 55-65 mph. Minimum temperatures on February 16th dropped to as low as 25 degrees in the rural areas of the San Joaquin Valley.

A winter storm reached California on February 17th through the 19th, bringing up to 0.40 inch of rain to the central and southern San Joaquin Valley, and up to 11 inches of snow to the higher elevations of the Southern Sierra Nevada. The snow level fell below 4000 feet on the 18th, with 1.5 inch of snow falling at Glennville (elevation, 3300 feet). Another deep pool of cold air settled over the region behind the storm, with Valley lows between 27-32 degrees on the 20th, and a couple of degrees lower on the 21st.

Another winter storm reached California on February 26th, bringing 2-day snow totals (through the 28th) of up to 30 inches in the Southern Sierra Nevada. As the cold front dropped through central California on the 27th, strong southeast winds developed ahead of it, with gusts up to 60 mph on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, and in excess of 34 kts at Bakersfield. These gusts raised areas of blowing dust over the south end of the San Joaquin Valley that reduced visibility to around 1/8 mile or less.