

JANUARY 2022 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INTERIOR

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January 2022 ended up with well below average precipitation, and quite a few stations received at least the top 3 lowest precipitation amounts on record for the month of January. In terms of temperature, the month was near to slightly warmer than average. Freezing days were not reported in either Bakersfield or Fresno; these locations typically report four days in January. A day with a temperature of 32 degrees or lower has not occurred since 2020 at each of these locations. Otherwise, the month was not unusually warm or cool, but chilly nights prevailed. Widespread dense fog formed in the San Joaquin Valley, mainly during the second week of the month.

Table 1 – January 2022 Summary Statistics– NWS Hanford, CA ASOS Sites						
Location	Monthly Average Temp (deg F)	Departure from Average (deg F)	Temperature Rank	Total Monthly Precipitation (inches)	Departure from Normal (inches)	Precipitation Rank
Bakersfield	50.1	+0.6	28 th Warmest	0.01	-1.18	2 nd Lowest
Fresno	50.1	+2.1	16 th Warmest	Trace	-2.16	Lowest
Hanford	48.0	+1.2	25 th Warmest	0.01	-1.55	3 rd Lowest
Madera	47.4	-0.4	28 th Warmest	0.06	-2.02	3 rd Lowest
Merced	47.8	+1.5	28 th Warmest	0.06	-2.31	2 nd Lowest

Number of Days with Minimum Temperatures at or below 32 degrees Fahrenheit

Bakersfield: 0 days (average of 4 for January); 0 days since November 1st (average 10 days)
Fresno: 0 days (average of 4 for January); 0 days since November 1st (average 10 days)
Hanford: 12 days (average of 8 for January); 17 days since November 1st (average 22 days)
Madera: 9 days (average of 7 for January); 12 days since November 1st (average 19 days)
Merced: 7 days (average of 8 for January); 11 days since November 1st (average 21 days)

Mainly cool temperatures prevailed for the first week of 2022. Freezing overnight lows occurred during the mornings of the 1st through the 3rd in the San Joaquin Valley outside of the largest cities, and lows dipped into the upper 20's in the coldest spots. A weak upper-level disturbance

passed over the region on the night of the 3rd into the morning of the 4th. On that morning, some low clouds developed in the south end of the San Joaquin Valley and into the Tehachapi Mountains. Valley fog development had become mainly suppressed with a relatively dry airmass in place, although patchy dense fog was observed during the mornings of the 4th through the 6th. Otherwise, low clouds lingered into the afternoon hours on these days. Daytime highs rose a bit along with nighttime lows, but typical early January temperatures prevailed during these three days.

On the 7th, a low pressure system passed over Northern California and brought some light showers north of Fresno. Precipitation amounts in Madera and Merced Counties were less than a tenth of an inch, while amounts in the Sierra Nevada, including Yosemite National Park and just to the south, reached around a tenth of an inch. Snow accumulated above 6,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada around Yosemite, though was at an inch or less.

Afterward, or during the period of the 8th through the 14th, no precipitation was reported in the region. However, dense fog made a return in the San Joaquin Valley, and advisories were issued on each day. There was one morning when widespread dense fog did not develop, or on the 13th; however, the dense fog did return by the following evening and for much of the daylight hours of the 14th. The visibility during this period was the worst observed for the season thus far, and numerous automobile collisions were reported. Visibility was as low as 50 feet in some places. There was a ten-car pileup on Highway 198 in Hanford on the morning of the 14th that caused some moderate injuries, and one fatality unfortunately occurred on the evening of the 13th to the west of Fresno.

On the 15th through the 17th, scattered light showers were reported at times mainly towards the west side of the San Joaquin Valley in Kern County, although shower activity pushed northward as far north as the Sierra Nevada foothills in Mariposa and Madera Counties at times. This was due to an upper-level low pressure system that moved northward from off the coast of Baja California, then eventually inland over Southern California. Rainfall amounts were generally light or less than a tenth of an inch at most locations, although some isolated amounts near a quarter of an inch accumulated in the Kern County mountain areas. Otherwise, mostly cloudy skies were observed throughout much of Central California, along with morning fog in the San Joaquin Valley, though it was most widespread on the morning of the 15th prior to the arrival of the clouds associated with the upper-level disturbance.

Mainly clear skies and above average temperatures (by around 5 to 10 degrees) prevailed on the 18th through the 24th. However, gusty northeast winds developed in the mountains and desert on the 21st and continued until the 22nd. Gusts as strong as 80 mph were reported in the Sierra Nevada near North Fork on the 21st and over the higher peaks in eastern Kern County on the night of the 21st into the morning of the 22nd. Otherwise, calm, clear conditions prevailed with

valley fog at times in the nights and mornings. Dense fog was most widespread in the San Joaquin Valley on the morning of the 21st during this period.

On the 25th through the 28th, warm daytime temperatures and chilly overnight lows continued throughout the forecast area. Dense fog was generally sparse and short-lived in the San Joaquin Valley during this time. Gusty southeast winds returned to the Kern County mountain areas and the south end of the San Joaquin Valley by the morning of the 28th, and gusts reached around 50 to 55 mph in quite a few locations. Some isolated gusts to 70 mph were also reported near the Grapevine during this time. Afterward, warmer than average temperatures and chilly nights continued until the end of the month with relatively little valley fog development, along with dry conditions.

No precipitation was reported in much of the region this month, except some locations only received a trace to around a quarter of an inch during the early and middle parts of the month. Locations in the San Joaquin Valley received less than a tenth of an inch, and some stations, such as Fresno, only reported a trace for the entire month. This tied for the least amount of precipitation on record in January; the last time this amount of rain was recorded in January at Fresno was in 1948. Thus, much below average precipitation occurred this month. Temperatures were overall near to slightly above average.

Table 2 – Seasonal Precipitation for ASOS locations (ending on January 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	0.01	-1.18	3.56	+0.43	3.56	+0.52
Fresno	Trace	-2.16	5.21	-0.25	5.21	-0.17
Hanford	0.01	-1.55	4.61	+0.59	4.61	+0.61
Madera *	0.06	-2.02	Missing	Missing	Missing	Missing
Merced	0.06	-2.31	5.85	-0.06	5.85	-0.09

* Missing data in December 2021 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	70	28 th	33	2 nd
Fresno	67	26 th & 30 th	33	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd
Hanford	67	28 th	30	1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd
Madera	67	26 th	28	1 st & 3 rd
Merced	66	27 th	27	3 rd

Daily Records Set During January 2022

Bakersfield – No daily records reached.

Fresno – No daily records reached.

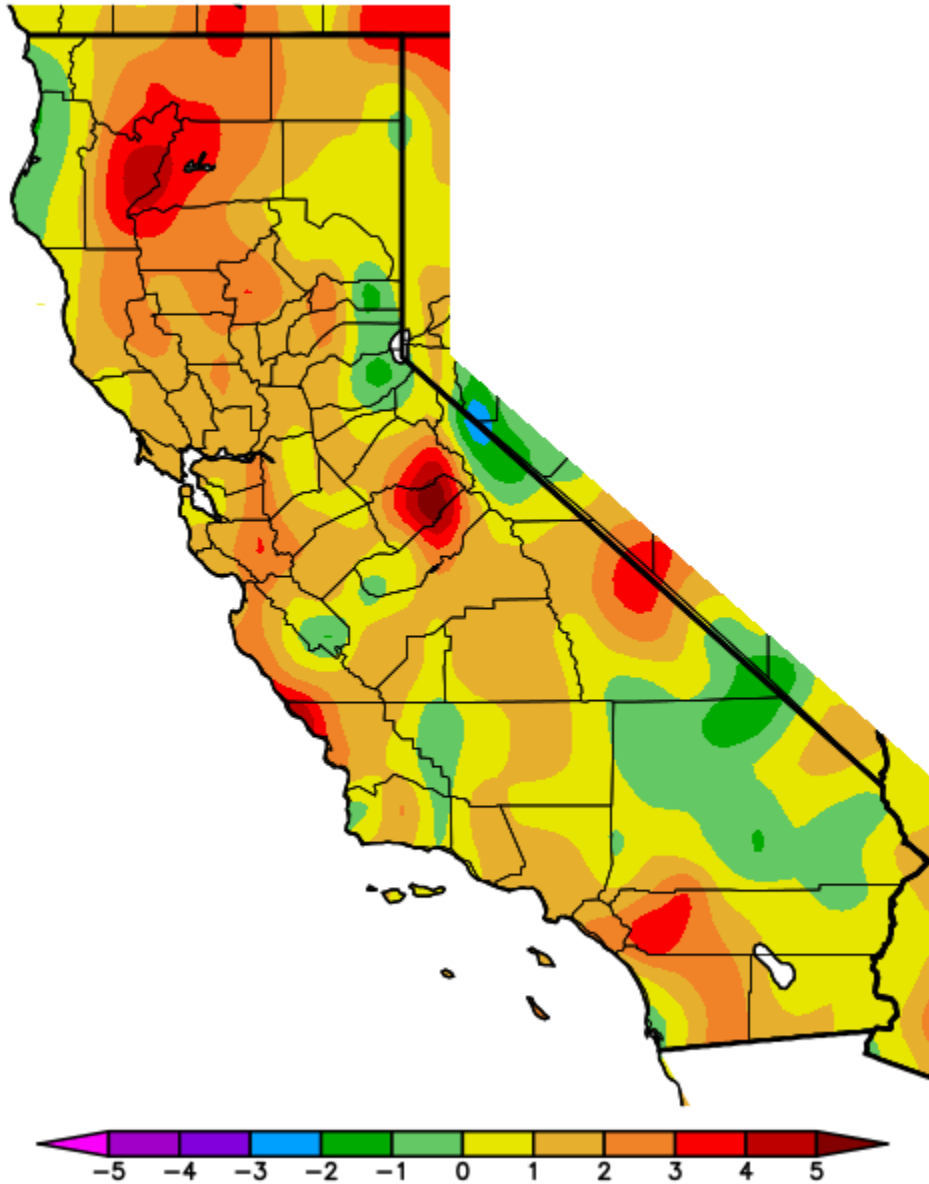
Hanford – No daily records reached.

Madera – No daily records reached.

Merced - No daily records reached.

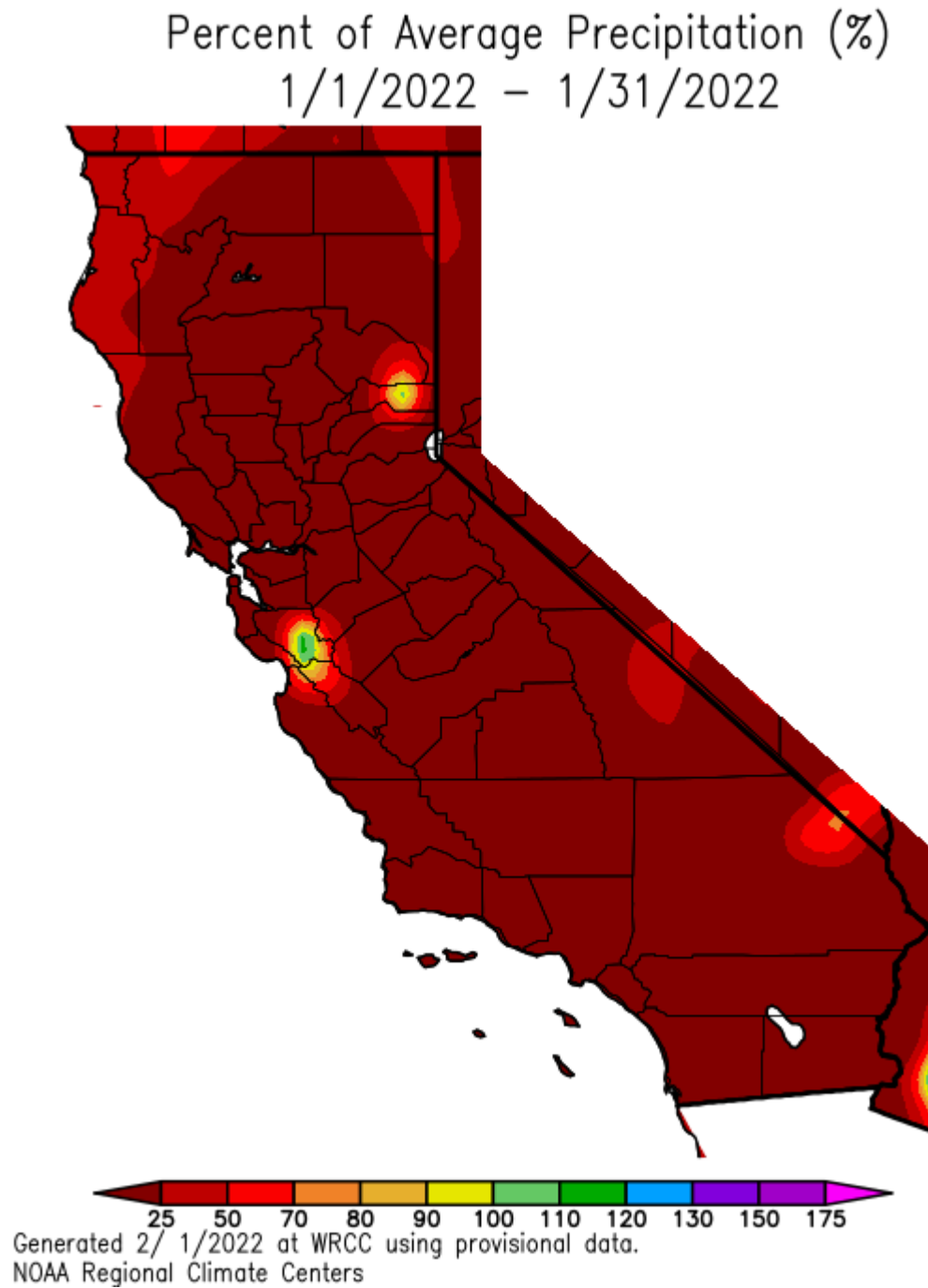
Fig 1 – Departure from Average Temperature for January 2022

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
1/1/2022 – 1/31/2022



Generated 2/ 1/2022 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Fig 2 – Percent of Average Precipitation for January 2022



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