

## **JUNE 2006 WEATHER SUMMARY**

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June 2006 was dominated by high pressure for the first and last two weeks of the month, for episodes of unseasonably warm weather; the second week of June, in contrast, saw unseasonably cold temperatures as upper-level troughs brought a strong push of marine air into the San Joaquin Valley.

The month began with high pressure aloft pushing afternoon temperatures in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley into the 90s. The warm weather was short-lived, as the first in a series of troughs reached California on June 7<sup>th</sup>, generating gusty winds in the Kern county deserts; gusts to around 50 mph were reported at Boron in eastern Kern county. A stronger trough on the 13<sup>th</sup> brought a few sprinkles or light showers to the region. Scattered sprinkles brought traces of rain across the central San Joaquin Valley, including Clovis, but the rain missed the nearby Fresno-Yosemite International Airport, which recorded no precipitation for the month. Thunderstorms dropped pea-size hail in Mariposa county, where Lush Meadow reported a 24-hour rainfall of 0.21 inch. This was the only report received of measurable rain from this event.

High pressure built back into California behind the trough, pushing temperatures in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley into triple digits. Fresno hit 101 degrees on June 17<sup>th</sup>, breaking 100 for only the second time for the year; Fresno had previously hit 101 on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The next day, Bakersfield finally recorded its first 100-degree day, with a high of 100. This marked the start of a period of very hot weather for the San Joaquin Valley, with Fresno having 12 days of triple-digit heat for the latter half of the month, while Bakersfield saw 9 days in triple digits. Heat advisories were issued for the central and southern San Joaquin Valley on June 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>, as heat indexes climbed above 100 degrees. Several stations reported heat indexes of 105 degrees or higher on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. High clouds associated with monsoonal moisture spread over the San Joaquin Valley on the 26<sup>th</sup>, bringing just enough cooling to keep heat indexes below the 105-degree threshold needed for a heat advisory.

Monsoonal moisture rotating around the center of the high—over the desert southwest—brought thunderstorms to the Southern Sierra Nevada, the Tehachapi Mountains and the Kern county deserts beginning June 25<sup>th</sup>. Thunder was reported over Balch Park on the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup>, and by that evening had spread north to Oakhurst and Coarsegold.

Thunderstorms developed over the Lake Isabella area on June 26<sup>th</sup>, with 0.02 inch of rain falling at Mountain Mesa, and thunder also reported at Glennville. Ponderosa Basin, in Mariposa county, reported 0.08 inch of rain, also from a thunderstorm.

Strong thunderstorms developed over the Southern Sierra Nevada on June 27<sup>th</sup>, especially over the Yosemite National Park area in late afternoon. One thunderstorm southeast of

Hetch Hetchy likely reached severe levels, and a Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued on the storm. Fortunately, the thunderstorm remained over unpopulated terrain, although that also meant that it could not be verified whether the storm actually reached severe criteria.

Although June was dry at both Fresno-Yosemite International Airport and Meadows Field in Bakersfield, Fresno ended the 2005-06 rain season with a total 14.56 inches, for its 17<sup>th</sup> wettest rain season on record, and well above its seasonal normal of 11.23 inches. Fresno's wettest rain season was in 1982-83, with a total of 23.57 inches. Bakersfield also ended the rain season above normal, but only just, with a season total of 6.85 inches, only a third of an inch above its seasonal normal of 6.49 inches. Bakersfield's wettest rain season was in 1997-98, with a total of 14.69 inches.

Fresno also had its third warmest June on record, with an average temperature of 80.7 degrees. This was 4.6 degrees above Fresno's normal average temperature for June of 76.1 degrees. The warmest June on record for Fresno was June 1981, with an average temperature of 82.8 degrees.

Bakersfield also had a warmer than normal June, with an average temperature of 81.2 degrees. This was 3.5 degrees above the normal average temperature for June at Meadows Field—77.7 degrees—but fell short of Bakersfield's warmest June, back in 1889 when the average temperature for the month was 88.3 degrees. This temperature was recorded at the Santa Fe Rail Depot in Bakersfield, during the first year of official weather observations for the city.