JUNE 2018 WEATHER SUMMARY
FOR THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INTERIOR

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June 2018 began relatively cool as a low pressure system brought onshore flow into Central California. However, high pressure built over the region during the 2nd-4th, and temperatures climbed back to above average. Many lower elevation locations reached above 100 degrees during this time, including in the San Joaquin Valley. The 3rd was generally the warmest day in the first week of the month; for example, Bakersfield reached 105 degrees while Fresno reached 104 degrees.

On the 5th, a low pressure system to the north brought a return of onshore flow, although temperatures lowered back to around seasonal averages or slightly below. A few showers and isolated thunderstorms developed along the Sierra Nevada crest during the afternoon. This pattern continued for the next several days, although shower and isolated thunderstorm coverage over the Sierra Nevada high country gradually decreased.

Another low pressure system arrived on the 9th and brought another round of cooler than average temperatures until the 10th. Highs reached into the lower to mid-80s on the 10th in the San Joaquin Valley and the lower Sierra Nevada foothills. Kern County desert locales were fairly warm (with highs in the 90s to 100 degrees) by the 10th, but winds were gusty at times. Gusts reached as high as 80 miles per hour at a couple of remote locations in the desert and mountain areas of eastern Kern County during the night of the 9th, while higher impact travel areas, such as near Mojave along Highway 58, reported gusts to around 55-60 mph on the evenings of the 9th and 10th. Otherwise, the pattern of fluctuating temperatures, similar to what occurred in the previous month, has continued.

On the 12th, high pressure returned and brought back another period of above average, though not atypical, temperatures that lasted until the 14th. Highs reached above 100 degrees in the warmest locations, and the hottest temperatures of this period occurred mainly on the 13th. Highs reached around 100 to 105 degrees in much of the San Joaquin Valley and Kern County desert areas. Temperatures lowered towards average on the 15th and slightly lower on the 16th due to an approaching low pressure system over northern California. Winds began to increase on the 16th, especially by the afternoon and evening hours. Gusts reached around 50 to 60 miles per hour in the Kern County mountain areas adjacent to the desert, while gusts were as high as 35 to 40 mph through the passes over the mountains along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley.

A much cooler than average period began on the 17th due to a low pressure system that moved into the Great Basin. Breezy to locally gusty winds continued each afternoon and evening at mainly the usual wind-prone areas, including along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley and the Kern County mountain/desert areas. Low clouds lingered for much of the day, and highs only reached the upper 70s in the San Joaquin Valley and into the 80s in the Kern County desert. Daytime highs only reached the 50s and 60s in the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada. This is not a typical pattern for mid-June, as daytime high temperatures approached near record lows throughout Central California. So far this month, a temperature roller coaster continued with an alternating trough (low pressure) and ridge (high pressure) pattern in the jet stream every few days, and highs once again reached warmed back to above average by the 20th.

Temperatures warmed to several degrees above average until the 24th as high pressure remained in control over the region. A low pressure system passed over northern California on the 25th and brought cooler air into the San Joaquin Valley due to deep marine air that flowed over the mountain passes into the Central Valley. Daytime high temperatures on the 25th were well below average towards Los Banos and were closer to seasonal average elsewhere; highs only reached around 80 degrees that day. Winds in this area of cooler temperatures gusted to around 35 mph throughout the day. Otherwise, locations above the marine layer, including in the Sierra Nevada, remained warmer than average. Other areas in the Central Valley remained slightly cooler than average, but temperatures lowered by around several degrees compared to the previous day. A stable airmass persisted, as only a few clouds developed during the afternoons, and no showers and thunderstorms occurred during this week, as well as the last three weeks.

High pressure briefly returned on the 26th and 27th so that temperatures warmed back to a few degrees above average in much of the interior region of Central California. Another low pressure system arrived on the 28th and brought another round of cooler air and mainly seasonal to below average temperatures through the 29th. Gusty winds developed in the favored areas along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley and the Kern County desert areas. Gusts reached as high as 40 miles per hour over Pacheco Pass and at San Luis Reservoir in western Merced County as marine air flowed into this area. High temperatures only reached into the lower to mid-80s at Los Banos and nearby areas on the 27th and 28th. Otherwise, temperatures rose into the lower 90s elsewhere in the San Joaquin Valley. In eastern Kern County, temperatures were also relatively warm, but winds were of greater significance. Gusts reached around 60 mph below Indian Wells Canyon (located just to the west of Highway 14 in northeastern Kern County, or to the west of Ridgecrest) and at the Cache Creek CHP station, about five miles to the west of Mojave along Highway 58.

The next high pressure ridge returned to just off the coast of California, and temperatures once again warmed back to a few degrees above average on the 30th. An isolated thunderstorm developed over the Sierra Nevada crest that afternoon but produced little if any precipitation.

Overall, June 2018 ended with mainly above average temperatures (Fig 1) and below average precipitation (Fig 2).

Table 1 – June 2018 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	80.5	+3.0	0.00	-0.08
Fresno	79.4	+2.2	0.00	-0.21
Hanford	77.0	+2.4	0.00	-0.15
Madera	75.5	+1.2	0.00	-0.19
Merced	74.7	+1.0	0.00	-0.13

Temperature/Precipitation Rankings for June

Bakersfield – 21st warmest June on record; tied for driest June on record with multiple Junes (Usually little or no rain falls in June here).
Fresno – 17th warmest June on record; tied for driest June on record with multiple Junes. (Usually little or no rain falls in June here).

Figure 1 – Departure from Average Temperature for June 2018

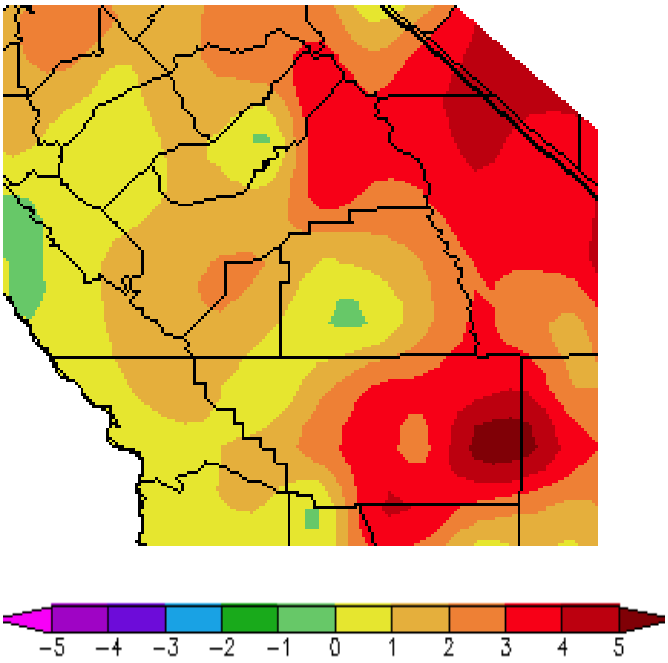
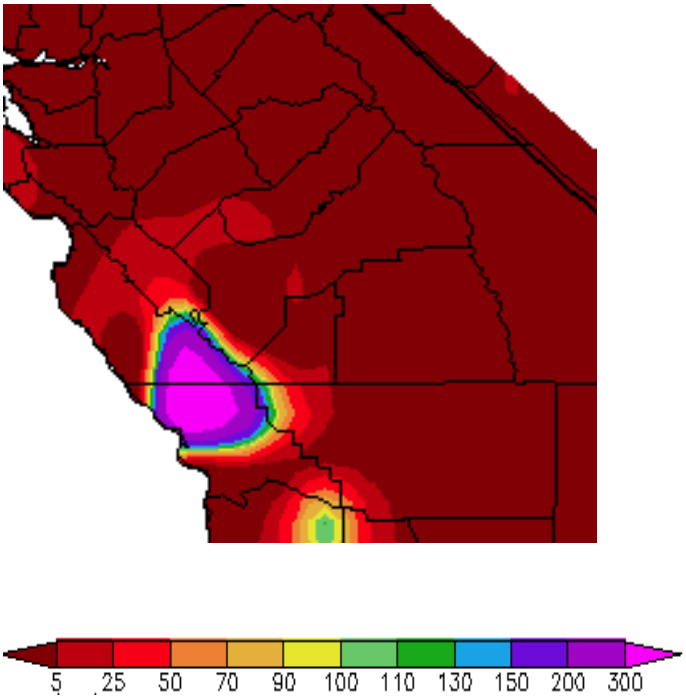


Figure 2 – Percent of Average Precipitation for June 2018



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