

## **MAY 2024 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INTERIOR**

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Near average to slightly above normal temperatures prevailed for the first three days. Cooler temperatures with rain and mountain snow arrived on the 4th and 5th, which ended up as the majority of the precipitation for the month. A gradual warming trend occurred on the 6th through the 8th. Warming continued afterward, and much warmer than average temperatures arrived on the 9th and lasted until at least the 17th. Afternoon thunderstorms also occurred in the Sierra Nevada during much of this period. Cooler temperatures arrived on the 18th and lasted until the 20th with mainly dry conditions, though windy at times in the Kern County mountains and desert. After a brief relatively warm period, another cooldown occurred on the 23rd and 24th. A warmup returned for the end of the month, except for a slight lowering in temperatures on the 28th-29th. There were a few light showers and thunderstorms in the Sierra Nevada on the 27th. The warmest temperatures of the month occurred on the 31st, though afternoon highs were around 6-10 degrees above average.

### **Number of Days with Triple Digit Temperatures** (Season from May 1-Oct 31st)

**Bakersfield:** 0 for May (May and season to date average of 1 day)

**Fresno:** 0 for May (May and season to date average of 1 day)

**Hanford:** 0 for May (May and season to date average of 1 day)

**Madera:** 0 for May (May and season to date average of 1 day)

**Merced:** 0 for May (May and season to date average of 1 day)

<b>Table 1 – May 2024 Summary Statistics– NWS Hanford, CA ASOS Sites</b>						
<b>Location</b>	<b>Monthly Average Temp (deg F)</b>	<b>Departure from Average (deg F)</b>	<b>Temperature Rank</b>	<b>Total Monthly Precipi- tation (inches)</b>	<b>Departure from Normal (inches)</b>	<b>Precipitation Rank</b>
Bakersfield	72.0	+0.9	37th highest	0.10	-0.15	60th highest
Fresno	71.6	+1.4	20th highest	0.34	-0.08	53rd highest
Hanford	70.6	+1.4	21st highest	0.33	-0.02	38th highest
Madera	68.6	+0.5	31st highest	0.43	-0.04	26th highest
Merced	68.7	+1.3	26th highest	0.56	+0.01	35th highest

Mainly seasonal temperatures prevailed on the 1st day of the month, although a warming trend occurred until the 3rd when temperatures reached several degrees above average. The warmest readings remained in the 80's through the period. Dry conditions prevailed until the 3rd.

A low pressure system and band of precipitation arrived on the 4th. Cooler temperatures and increased winds otherwise prevailed that day. Rainfall in the Central Valley was around 0.25 to 0.50 inch in many locations, except for lower amounts around 0.10 to 0.25 inch in Kern County. Sierra Nevada foothill locations received around 0.50 to 1.00 inch, and snowfall amounts were several inches to near a foot in the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada, or generally above 6,000 feet. A dusting of snow was reported at elevations just below 3,500 feet on the evening of the 4th. Much cooler than average temperatures also occurred on the 5th, along with gusty winds in the Kern County mountains and desert. The strongest gusts were around 60 to 70 mph during the 4th and 5th in the mountain areas and 45 to 55 mph on the desert floor.

Cooler than average to near seasonal temperatures lasted from the 6th until the 8th. Highs at the warmest locations were in the 70's until the 7th and rose to near 80 degrees on the 8th. Gusty winds with gusts of 45 to 60 mph along the Mojave Desert slopes in eastern Kern County persisted on the 6th and 7th during afternoons and evenings. Breezy conditions also occurred at

times in the Central Valley with local gusts near 30 mph at times as an upper-level trough of low pressure set up over the Great Basin and the upper-level ridge remained offshore.

Winds decreased on the 9th, and warmer than average temperatures began as highs were about ten degrees warmer than on the previous day as high pressure set up over the region. Highs rose to the mid to upper 80's on the 9th at the warmest spots, mainly in the San Joaquin Valley.

Warming continued until the 12th, and highs at the warmest locations in the Central Valley and the Kern County desert areas reached into the lower to mid-90's. The highs on the 12th were the warmest temperatures reported in the San Joaquin Valley so far this year. Isolated thunderstorms developed in the afternoons and evenings over the Sierra Nevada crest on the 10th, as well as on the 12th through the 16th. Temperatures remained about ten degrees above average until the 17th, and highs were nearly as warm on the 15th and 16th as they were on the 12th.

Cooler temperatures with breezy conditions arrived on the 18th. The cooler temperatures lasted until the 20th, while gusty winds, or speeds of 45 to 55 mph, once again became a daily occurrence along the Mojave Desert slopes in eastern Kern County. Daytime highs were generally near average during this period.

Warmer than normal temperatures returned on the 21st and 22nd, as highs reached at least a few degrees above seasonal averages. The hottest temperatures were mainly in the lower 90's in much of the region, including the Central Valley. Although, highs reached into the mid to upper 90's towards Ridgecrest and China Lake NAF in northeastern Kern County. However, the gusty winds continued along the Mojave Desert Slopes in Kern County during the evenings and overnight hours.

Another cooldown occurred on the 23rd and 24th. High temperatures were mainly near or slightly below average on both the 23rd and the 24th. However, much cooler temperatures were reported near Los Banos on the 24th due to a strong push of marine air through Pacheco Pass in western Merced County where temperatures remained in the 50's with gusts near 45 mph. Some of this cooler air reached Merced, as highs were in the upper 70s. The gusty winds also continued in eastern Kern County along the Mojave Desert slopes each evening.

A gradual warm up occurred from the 25th until the 30th; highs were slightly above average on the 27th and again on the 29th and 30th. Daytime highs reached mainly into the lower 90's in the Central Valley, and some highs were in the mid 90's to just over 100 degrees in the Kern County desert, with the highest readings in the Indian Wells Valley of northeastern Kern County. A few showers and thunderstorms developed in the highest elevations of the Sierra Nevada during the afternoon into the early evening of the 27th. There was a brief interruption in the warming on the 28th, as highs were a touch lower than on the 27th. Much warmer daytime highs occurred on the 31st, as highs reached the mid to upper 90's in the Central Valley and around 100 degrees in the Kern County desert.

Overall, the month was slightly warmer than average (Fig 1) with mainly below to near average precipitation (Fig 2).

<b>Table 2 – Seasonal Precipitation for ASOS Locations (ending on May 31st, 2024)</b>						
<b>Location</b>	<b>Since Jan 1st (inches)</b>	<b>Departure From Average (inches)</b>	<b>Since Jul 1st (inches)</b>	<b>Departure From Average (inches)</b>	<b>Since Oct 1st (inches)</b>	<b>Departure From Normal (inches)</b>
Bakersfield	5.87	+1.50	7.91	+1.60	6.83	+0.57
Fresno	9.10	+1.65	10.18	-0.57	9.99	-0.68
Hanford	7.38	+1.82	9.14	+1.08	8.66	+0.66
Madera	8.08	+0.67	10.10	-0.53	9.97	-0.62
Merced	12.20	+4.14	15.32	+3.64	15.20	+3.57

<b>Table 3– Warmest High Temperatures and Coolest Low Temperatures of the Month for ASOS Locations</b>				
<b>Location</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
Bakersfield	96	31st	43	6th
Fresno	96	31st	44	5th
Hanford	97	31st	43	5th
Madera	96	31st	41	6th
Merced	96	31st	41	5th

### **Daily Records Set During May 2024**

**Bakersfield** – No daily records reached.

**Fresno** – 4th: A record daily high precipitation of 0.34 inch was set, which broke the old record of 0.33 inch set for the date in 2023.

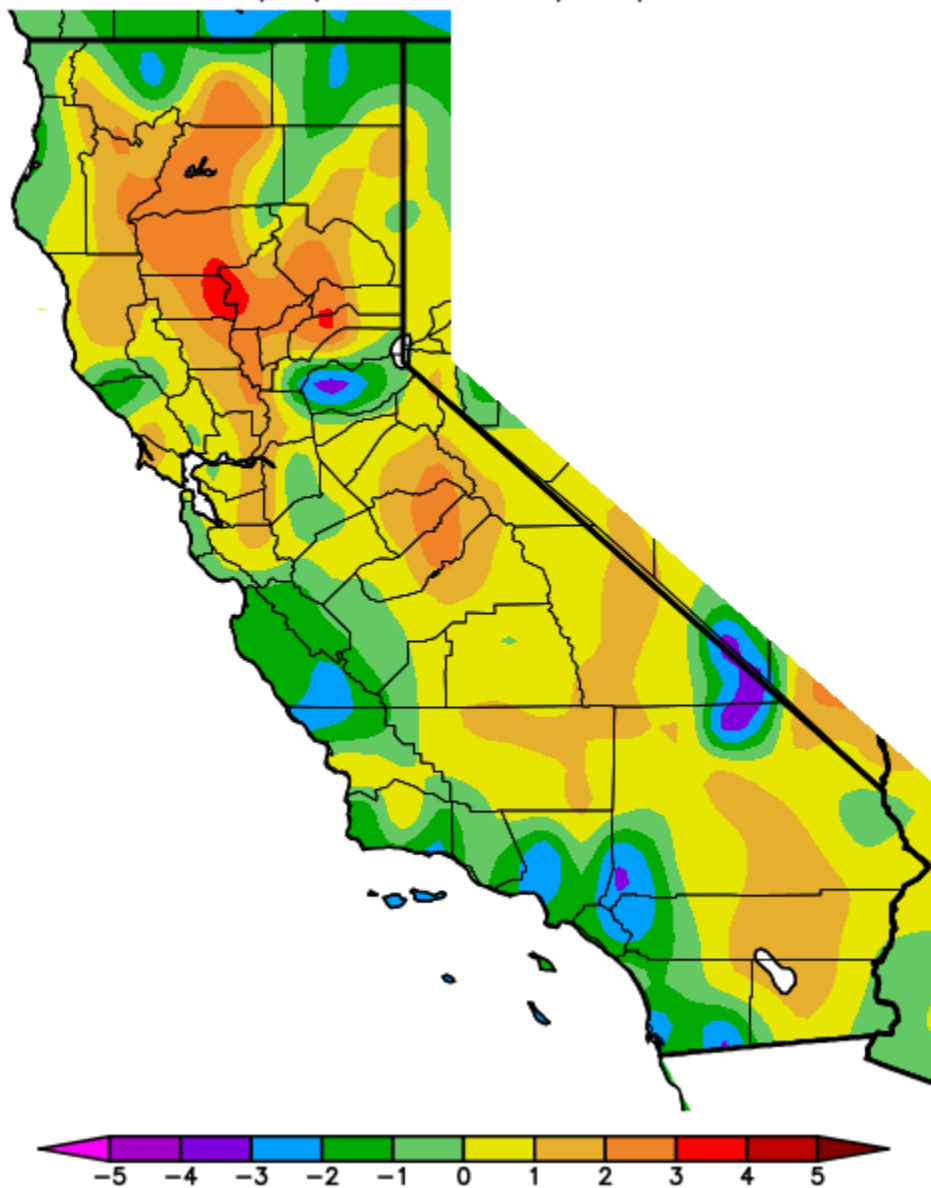
**Hanford** – 4th: A record daily high precipitation of 0.33 inch was set, which broke the old record of 0.32 inch set for the date in 1969.

**Madera** – No daily records reached.

**Merced** – No daily records reached.

**Fig 1 – Departure from Average Temperature for this month**

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)  
5/1/2024 – 5/31/2024



Generated 6/ 1/2024 at WRCC using provisional data.  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

**Fig 2 – Percent of Average Precipitation for this month**

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)  
5/1/2024 – 5/31/2024

