

OCTOBER 2017 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INTERIOR

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A quiet beginning of the month occurred, except in areas that experienced gusty winds. Gusts reached around 50 mph in the favored passes and canyons, or those leading to the desert areas of eastern Kern County. Temperatures were around average for the first day of the month and fell several degrees by the 2nd.

During the 3rd, including throughout the daytime and into the evening, a low pressure system brought weather to the region, including light snow in the higher elevations of Yosemite National Park and along the Sierra Nevada crest. Strong gusty winds also developed during the afternoon along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. Locally gusty winds also developed once again in eastern Kern County in the mountain and desert areas, as well as along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. Sunflower Valley, located south of Kettleman City along Highway 41, reported gusts at 51 mph during the morning of the 3rd. In addition, well below average temperatures occurred during this day. Area high temperatures began an upward trend over the next several days from the 4th to the 10th with near normal to above normal temperatures.

A cold front associated with a system that moved through central California on the 11th brought gusty northerly winds across the area. These winds also brought smoke from the Napa and Sonoma area wildfires streaming into the San Joaquin Valley and surrounding foothills lowering visibilities in some areas to around a mile. The air quality also suffered and prompted Air Quality Alerts across the area. Temperatures also returned to below normal from the 12th through the 14th. High pressure brought a return to above normal temperatures through the 17th. Also, on the night of the 16th into the afternoon of the 17th a weak southern stream tropical system brought an increase in clouds and mainly virga, however there were a few reports of drizzle/light rain in Kern County. Ridging kept high temperatures slightly above normal through the 19th. A gusty system moved into the area on the 20th bringing 0.09 inches of rainfall to Fresno Air Terminal and a trace to Bakersfield Meadows Field. High temperatures also dropped to below normal levels through the 21st. Ridging once again returned to the region bringing a return to dry conditions and above normal high temperatures to the area through the 30th. Bakersfield Meadows Field saw a record high temperature of 94 degrees which broke the old record of 92 on the 26th. On the 31st, a weak trough moved into the region bringing high clouds into the area and lowered high temperatures to slightly below normal.

Table 1 – October 2017 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	68.2	1.0	T	-0.30
Fresno	65.7	-0.5	0.09	-0.54
Hanford	63.4	-0.1	0.06	-0.44
Madera	63.1	-0.9	0.08	-0.80
Merced	62.8	-0.6	0.15	-0.66

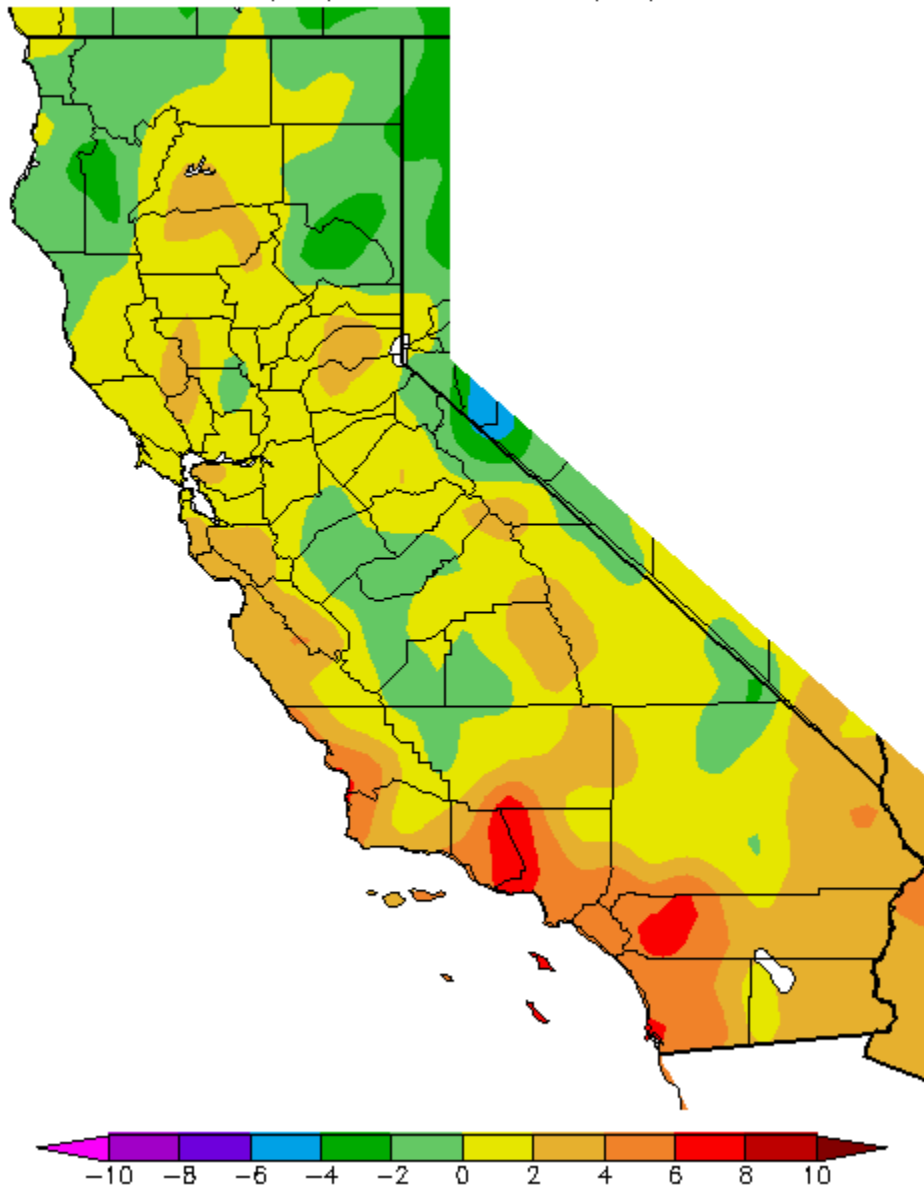
Temperature/Precipitation Rankings for June

Bakersfield – 38th warmest October on record; 17th driest October on record.

Fresno – 58th warmest October on record; 48th driest October on record.

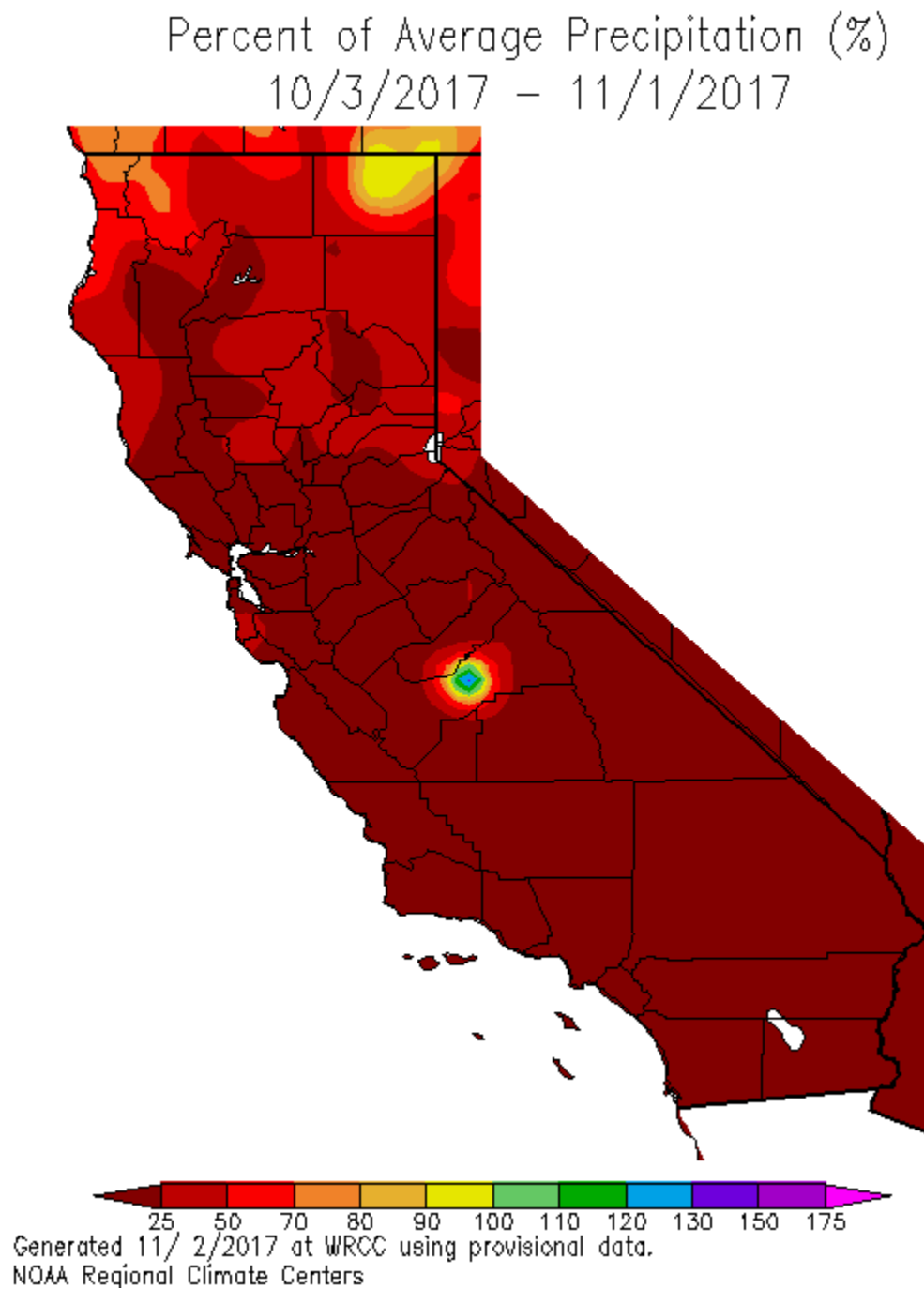
Figure 1 – Departure from Average Temperature for October 2017

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
10/3/2017 – 11/1/2017



Generated 11/ 2/2017 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Figure 2 – Percent of Average Precipitation for October 2017



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