

OCTOBER 2018 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INTERIOR

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A warm southerly flow ahead of an approaching low pressure system allowed daytime high temperatures to rise to around 10 degrees above average on the 1st. As the system approached the Central California coast, showers and thunderstorms developed in the Sierra Nevada, the adjacent foothills, and even into the San Joaquin Valley, including Fresno, during the morning hours of the 2nd.

More showers and thunderstorms developed in the Sierra Nevada during the afternoon and evening of the 2nd but weakened due to loss of daytime heating. However, a significant surge in activity ensued during the afternoon and evening of the 3rd, as the low pressure system passed inland over Central California. Flooding and mudslides were reported near a couple of recent wildfire burn scars, including the Ferguson Fire scar in the Sierra Nevada foothills to the east of Mariposa, or near the western entrance of Yosemite National Park, and the Pier Fire burn scar in Tulare County near Camp Nelson. Locally heavy rain also fell near Coalinga and Avenal, as well as in Visalia. In fact, there were several reports of over an inch of rain on the north side of Visalia in only about one hour with localized street flooding. The 3rd was definitely the most active day since April throughout Central California, including outside of the Sierra Nevada. Quite a few locations reported one to three inches of rain due to this storm system from the 2nd until the 3rd. Lingering showers continued into the 4th, although were not nearly as heavy. A few isolated showers developed during the early evening in the San Joaquin Valley from Fresno to Merced Counties, but dissipated by sunset.

The 5th through the 12th was characterized with mainly seasonably mild temperatures and cool mornings through Central California. However, the 6th was a windy day throughout the Central Valley and the Kern County desert areas. Local gusts around 50 mph were reported in Mojave and in a canyon to the west of Ridgecrest. Other locations reached around 35 to 40 mph, such as in the San Joaquin Valley. In addition, a low pressure system passed over southern California and brought clouds and light sprinkles to Kern County, including in the mountains and desert, during the 12th.

Above average temperatures returned on the 13th and 14th as a ridge of high pressure briefly set up along the California coast. Dry conditions prevailed during these days with little weather-related impacts. On the night of the 14th and into the following morning, an offshore flow pattern set up and briefly allowed winds to pick up in some locales in the Sierra Nevada and in the

Tehachapi Mountains. A few sites in the Sierra Nevada reported gusty winds up to around 50 mph. North Fork had a report of downed trees due to the gusty winds. Otherwise, winds gusted around 35-45 mph in the Kern County mountain areas and briefly lowered afternoon relative humidity to less than 5% in quite a few locations on the 15th.

High pressure continued on the 16th through the 27th. Daytime highs were relatively warm, or several degrees above average, and nighttime lows were seasonably cool throughout the region. Dry weather prevailed during this period and for the remainder of the month. Daytime high temperatures fluctuated but mainly stayed at least around average and up to around 5-10 degrees above average until the 27th. Daytime lows were chilly, though closer to average, as nights became longer through the latter half of the month. Early morning haze also developed in parts of the San Joaquin Valley as temperatures cooled towards the dew point temperature (or another indicator for relative humidity).

From the 28th until the end of the month, weak troughs moved through bringing high temperatures back closer to average, however dry weather continued.

Temperatures reached above average for the month overall, while precipitation was below average for much of the Central California interior, except where heavy rain occurred due to the thunderstorms during the first week of the month.

Table 1 – October 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	69.0	1.8	0.00	-0.30
Fresno	68.1	1.9	0.10	-0.53
Hanford	65.4	1.9	0.04	-0.46
Madera	67.1	3.1	T	-0.88
Merced	64.6	1.2	T	-0.81

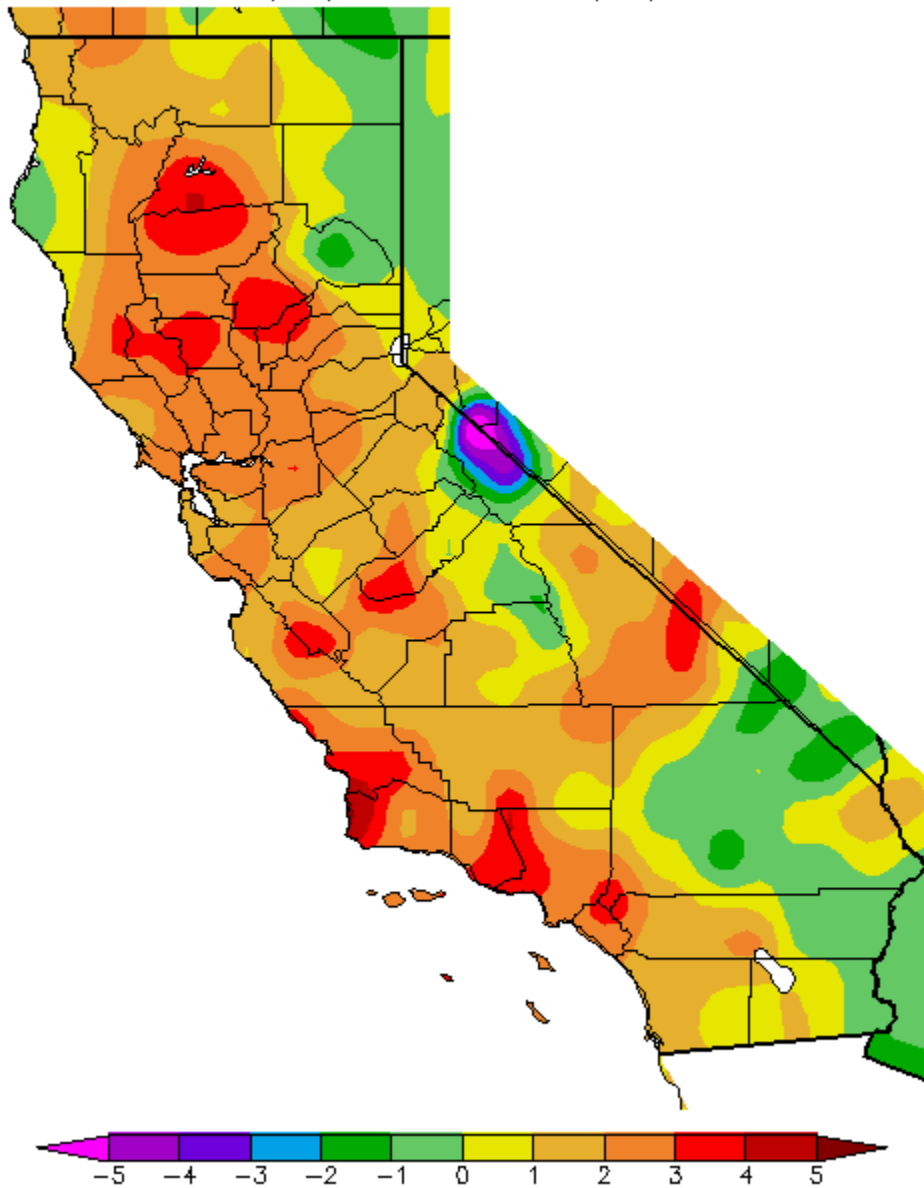
Temperature/Precipitation Rankings for October

Bakersfield – Tied for 26th warmest October (with 3 other Octobers) on record; tied for driest October (with 16 other Octobers) on record.

Fresno – 20th warmest October on record; 52nd driest October on record (quite a few Octobers reported zero or trace amounts).

Figure 1 – Departure from Average Temperature for October 2018

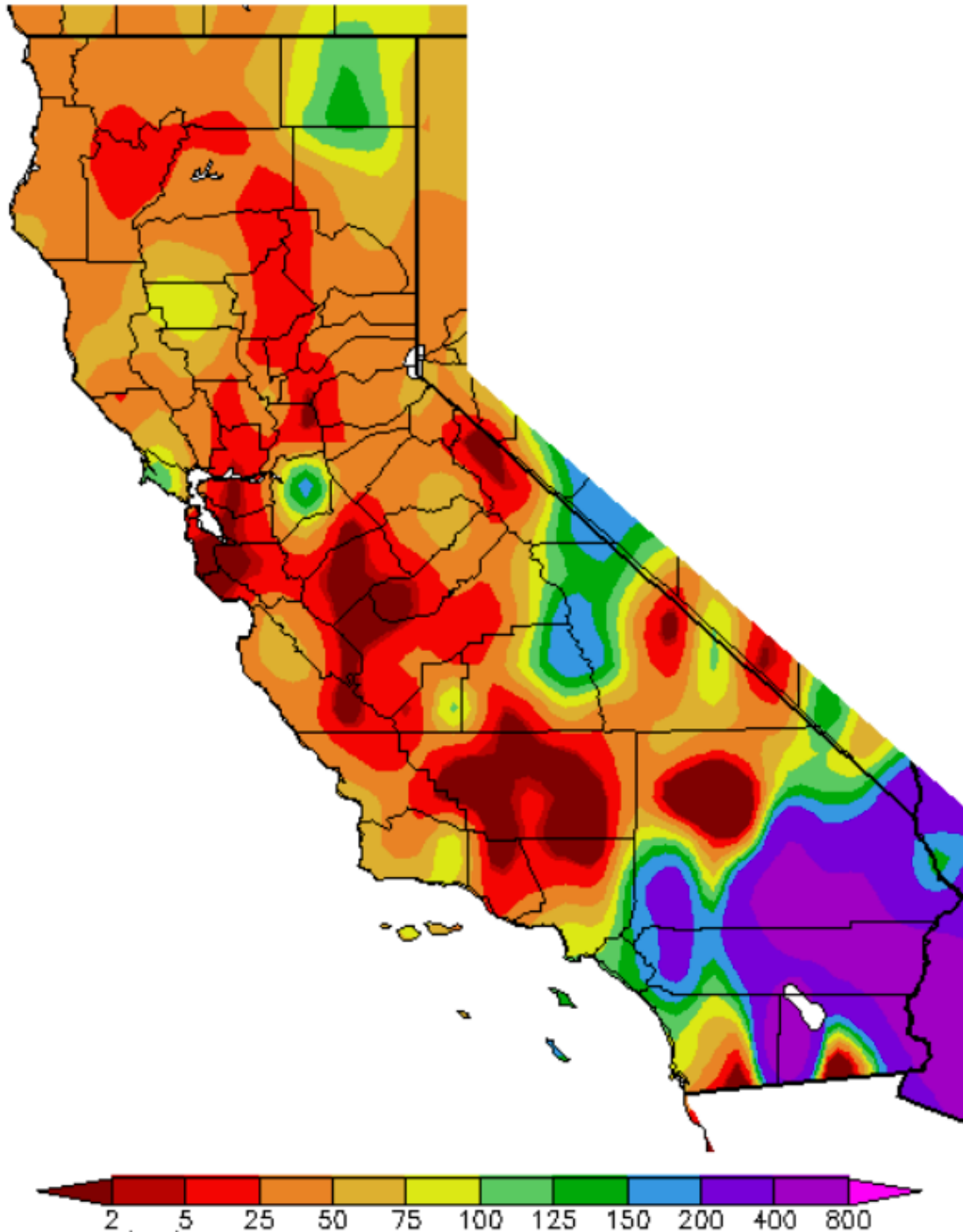
Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
10/1/2018 – 11/4/2018



Generated 11/ 5/2018 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Figure 2 – Percent of Average Precipitation for October 2018

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
10/1/2018 – 10/31/2018



Generated 11/ 1/2018 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

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