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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 18-116 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
245 PM EST Wed Feb 20 2019

To:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:       Michelle Hawkins, Chief  
              Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Changes in Public and Fire Weather Forecast Zones for  
Central California: Effective April 2, 2019

Updated to change implementation date to April 2, 2019, due to the  
Government Lapse in Appropriations.

Effective April 2, 2019, at 1000 AM Pacific Standard Time, 1800  
Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in  
Hanford, CA, (WFO HNX) will reconfigure and rename both the fire weather  
forecast zones and public forecast zones in central California. Upon  
implementation of this change, all weather forecasts and related products  
for central California will use the zone number and names shown below.

If April 2, 2019 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation  
will be postponed to April 4, 2019.

WFO Hanford, in conjunction with its partnering agencies, has revised the  
zone boundaries to better reflect the climatology, weather differences  
and administrative needs of the area.

The new zone numbers, names and description of the zone area are listed  
below:

WFO Hanford, CA, Fire Weather Forecast Zones

New Zone Code	New Zone Name
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CAZ579	West Side Hills

This zone includes the hills on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley  
from Merced County south to Kern County above 500 feet.

CAZ580	San Joaquin Valley
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This zone includes the San Joaquin Valley from Merced County to Kern  
County.

CAZ590 Central Sierra Foothills

This zone includes the Sierra Nevada Foothills 1,000 feet to 4,000 feet elevation for Mariposa, Madera and Fresno Counties.

CAZ591 Southern Sierra Foothills

This zone includes the Sierra Nevada Foothills from 1,000 to 4,000 feet elevation from the Fresno/Tulare County line to Highway 178 in Kern County.

CAZ592 Central Sierra

This zone includes the Sierra Nevada above 4,000 feet from Yosemite National Park to the South Fork of the San Joaquin River across Kaiser Ridge and Mt. Givens.

CAZ593 North Kings River

This zone includes the area between Kaiser Ridge on the north and Highway 180 on the south.

CAZ594 Sequoia Kings

This zone includes Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks south to Kennedy Meadows, Bald Mountain Ridge, Sherman Peak and Speas Ridge and north of the ridgeline of the Greenhorn Mountains.

CAZ595 Lake Isabella

This Zone includes extreme southeastern Tulare County, Greenhorn Mountains, Piute Mountains, Scodie Mountains and Lake Isabella.

CAZ596 Tehachapi Area

This zone includes the Tejon Hills, Cummings and Tehachapi valleys, the Greenhorn Mountains south of Breckenridge Mountain and Red Mountain, Piute Mountains south of Kelso Creek Drainage, and the Indian Wells Canyon.

CAZ597 Fort Tejon

This zone includes the Kern County section of the San Emigdio Mountains and the western slopes of the Tehachapi Mountains south of Cummings Mountain.

WFO Hanford, CA Public Weather Forecast Zones:

New Zone Code	New Zone Name
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CAZ179	West Side Hills
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This zone includes the hills on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley from Merced County south to Kern County above 500 feet.

CAZ180	San Joaquin Confluence
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This zone includes Western Merced County below 500 feet, extreme northern Fresno County below 500 feet and extreme western Madera County.

CAZ181	Merced and Madera
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This zone includes eastern Merced and Madera counties and the extreme Western Mariposa County.

CAZ182	Western San Joaquin Valley
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This zone includes western Fresno County below 500 feet, Naval Air Station Lemoore and Kettleman City.

CAZ183	Foggy Bottom
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This zone includes the western half of the Kings River drainage, the City of Hanford, the city of Corcoran, the city of Kerman, and the city of San Joaquin.

CAZ184	Fresno
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This zone includes the cities of Fresno, Sanger, Selma and Reedley, and eastern Fresno County below 1,000 feet.

CAZ185	Tulare County
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This zone includes central Tulare County and the cities of Visalia, Tulare and Porterville.

CAZ186	Southern Kings County
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This zone includes southeastern Kings County, extreme southwestern Tulare County, and Pixley National Wildlife Refuge.

CAZ187	Western Kern County
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This zone includes northwestern Kern County below 500 feet, the community of Lost Hills and the city of Wasco.

CAZ188 Eastern Kern County

This zone includes the cities of Delano and McFarland, and the hills east of highway 65 below 1,000 feet.

CAZ189 Bakersfield

This zone includes the city of Bakersfield and surrounding communities, Maricopa Flat, and the community of Grapevine.

CAZ190 Central Sierra Foothills

This zone includes the Sierra Nevada Foothills from 1,000 to 4,000 feet elevation for Mariposa, Madera and Fresno counties.

CAZ191 Southern Sierra Foothills

This zone includes the Sierra Nevada Foothills from 1,000 to 4,000 feet elevation from the Fresno/Tulare County line to Highway 178 in Kern County.

CAZ192 Central Sierra

This zone includes the Sierra Nevada above 4,000 feet from Yosemite National Park to the South Fork of the San Joaquin River across Kaiser Ridge and Mt. Givens.

CAZ193 North Kings River

This zone includes the area between Kaiser Ridge on the north and Highway 180 on the south.

CAZ194 Sequoia Kings

This zone includes Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks south to Kennedy Meadows, Bald Mountain Ridge, Sherman Peak, and Speas Ridge and north of the ridgeline of the Greenhorn Mountains.

CAZ195 Lake Isabella

This zone includes extreme southeastern Tulare County, Greenhorn, Piute and Scodie mountains, and Lake Isabella.

CAZ196 Tehachapi Area

This zone includes the Tejon Hills, Cummings and Tehachapi valleys, the Greenhorn Mountains south of Breckenridge Mountain and Red Mountain, Piute Mountains south of Kelso Creek Drainage, and the Indian Wells Canyon.

CAZ197 Fort Tejon

This zone includes The Kern County section of the San Emigdio Mountains and the western slopes of the Tehachapi Mountains south of Cummings Mountain.

CAZ198 Indian Wells Valley

This zone includes Kern County north of the crest of the El Paso Mountains and east of the 3,000-foot elevation of the Sierra Nevada on the Mojave Desert side.

CAZ199 Kern County Desert

This zone includes Kern County south of the crest of the El Paso Mountains and east of the 3,000-foot elevation of the Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi mountains on the Mojave Desert side.

NWS partners and users will need to make necessary changes to their communications systems to accommodate these weather forecast zone changes.

A shapefile of the new weather forecast zones for WFO HNX is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>  
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/hnx/ZoneChange>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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