

California Monthly Climate Summary November 2006

Summary

November 2006 continued a dry fall for most of the state. Contrary to September and October, November's statewide average temperatures ended above normal. There were a couple of high pressure systems that passed over the state that brought temperatures up into the 80s and 90s in inland parts of the state. Santa Ana wind events occurred in the southern part of the state as well. On the flip side, the month ended with the first hard frost for the Kern County deserts with daily low temperatures dropping into the teens in that region. Dense fog made an appearance in the Central Valley a couple of times in November and snow was observed in the Tehachapi Mountains on higher elevations of the Grapevine towards the end of the month.

High temperatures from the NWS Cooperator Network averaged 64.2° F which is one degree above the long-term average. The low temperatures yielded a statewide average of 42.1° F which is 2.7° F above the long-term average. Statewide there were 150 temperature records tied or broken for the month with most of them being new record daily maximum temperatures. This includes a new daily maximum temperature in downtown Los Angeles on November 6th of 95° F which was 3 degrees higher than the previous record set in 1898. The maximum temperature in the NWS Cooperator Network was 82.4° F at Imperial. The minimum temperature was 12.9° F recorded at Bodie. Statewide extremes from the California Data Exchange Center's network of temperature gages are shown below. Temperatures above 100° F were recorded in the state during the month.

The northwest corner of the state received the most precipitation in November. This region caught the tail edge of record-setting storms that hit the Pacific Northwest. For reference, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport recorded their wettest month ever. One of the storms set records for 24-hr rainfall totals throughout Oregon and Washington and led to extreme flooding. As for California, the largest amount of precipitation recorded for November 2006 was at Gasquet Ranger station where 23.64 inches of rain fell. This is 164% of the average November rainfall at this site. The 8-Station Index for northern California precipitation showed 20 days of precipitation for a total of 5.6 inches. This is 89% of the long-term average for November. The south part of the state received little to no precipitation. Bakersfield recorded only 0.02 inches of rain for November. For the fall so far, the state has received only 58% of the long-term average precipitation. Additional precipitation statistics for the state's hydrologic regions are shown in the table below.

The El Nino/Southern Oscillation is being classified as a weak/moderate El Nino episode. Equatorial sea surface temperature anomalies for the eastern Pacific are running between 1.0 and 1.2 degrees Celsius. El Nino conditions are expected for the rest of the year and into spring of 2007. Further discussion can be found at http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/. ENSO conditions along with current trends indicate a warmer than average winter for California. Precipitation forecasts show above normal totals for the next three months for most of the state. Long-range precipitation and temperature outlook plots can be found at: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/longrang/>. General weather information of interest can be found at <http://www.noaawatch.gov/>.

For anomaly information please see http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/anom/cal_anom.html.

On November 15th there was a magnitude 8.3 earthquake in the Kuril islands north of Japan's Hokkaido island. Tsunami surges up to 6 feet tsunami were measured in some places on the coast of California including Crescent City where the surge destroyed 2 of the city's docks, severely damaged a third and sank a fishing boat.

Early readings of the state's snow sensor network show snow water equivalent running at 58% of normal with an average of 5 inches in the north, 3 inches in the central, and 2 inches in the south parts of the Sierra.

The rice harvest finished up during the month of November as did the dried on the vine raisin crop. Winter forage crops were planted on harvested fields of corn, oats, and wheat. Vegetable harvests continued and the spinach harvest was resumed. The winter strawberry harvest continued. Livestock continued to be moved to lower elevations and the cooler weather was beneficial for dairy production. For further crop information, please see <http://www.nass.usda.gov/index.asp>

Other Climate Summaries

[California Climate Watch \(DRI\)](#)

[Golden Gate Weather Service Climate Summary](#)

[NOAA Monthly State of the Climate Report](#) (November report expected after 12/14)

Statewide Extremes

High Temperature – 100 deg F (Beverly Hills, South Coast)

Low Temperature - -8 deg F (Tuolumne Meadows, San Joaquin)

High Precipitation – 23.64 inches (Gasquet Ranger Station, North Coast)

Low Precipitation –0 inches (multiple sites)

Statewide Precipitation Statistics (as of 11/9/06)

| Hydrologic Region | Region Weight | Basins Reporting | | | Stations Reporting | | | Percent of Historic Average | |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----|---------|--------------------|-----|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| | | Basins | Nov | Oct-Nov | Stations | Nov | Oct-Nov | Nov | Oct-Nov |
| NORTH COAST | 0.27 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 19 | 10 | 9 | 126.2% | 84% |
| SAN FRANCISCO BAY | 0.03 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 113.7% | 87% |
| CENTRAL COAST | 0.06 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 45.9% | 37% |
| SOUTH COAST | 0.06 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 10 | 8 | 19.5% | 25% |
| SACRAMENTO RIVER | 0.26 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 43 | 29 | 25 | 114.5% | 63% |
| SAN JOAQUIN RIVER | 0.12 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 52.4% | 51% |
| TULARE LAKE | 0.07 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 28 | 18 | 18 | 8.2% | 19% |
| NORTH LAHONTAN | 0.04 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 10 | 65.6% | 58% |
| SOUTH LAHONTAN | 0.06 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 10 | 9 | 1.6% | 45% |
| COLORADO RIVER | 0.03 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0% | 6% |
| STATEWIDE WEIGHTED AVERAGE | 1.00 | 36 | 36 | 35 | 182 | 120 | 112 | 80.8% | 58% |

Statewide Mean Temperature Data by Hydrologic Region (degrees F)

| Hydrologic Region | No. Stations | Minimum | Average | Maximum |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| North Coast | 30 | 26.9 | 44.7 | 65.7 |
| SF Bay | 19 | 38.3 | 52.2 | 69.0 |
| Central Coast | 36 | 39.0 | 55.1 | 75.2 |
| South Coast | 68 | 37.6 | 59.7 | 87.2 |
| Sacramento | 91 | 23.7 | 44.7 | 69.5 |
| San Joaquin | 78 | 27.5 | 46.6 | 68.8 |
| Tulare Lake | 20 | 15.7 | 41.9 | 70.2 |
| North Lahontan | 27 | 10.4 | 36.9 | 60.3 |
| South Lahontan | 23 | 19.4 | 44.0 | 69.7 |
| Colorado River | 22 | 42.0 | 62.8 | 84.2 |
| Statewide Weighted Average | 414 | 26.4 | 46.7 | 69.9 |