

...MAY 2011 REGIONAL CLIMATE SUMMARY...

SUMMARY FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA AND MONTEREY BAY AREA...

...A COOL AND WET MAY...

ALTHOUGH THE MONTH AS A WHOLE WAS COOL...MAY 2011 GOT OFF TO A WARM START. A RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE ALONG THE WEST COAST PRODUCED WARMER-THAN-NORMAL CONDITIONS DURING THE FIRST FIVE DAYS OF THE MONTH. TEMPERATURES PEAKED ON THE 4TH AND 5TH. FOUR DAILY HIGH TEMPERATURE RECORDS WERE SET ON THE WEDNESDAY THE 4TH. TEMPERATURES DROPPED BELOW NORMAL ON FRIDAY MAY 6...AND THEN REMAINED BELOW NORMAL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MONTH...ONLY CLIMBING TO NEAR NORMAL LEVELS ON A FEW OCCASIONS. AVERAGE HIGH TEMPERATURES FOR THE MONTH WERE AS MUCH AS 7 TO 9 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL IN THE NORTH BAY VALLEYS...IN PORTIONS OF THE EAST BAY VALLEYS...AND AT THE HIGHER ELEVATION CLIMATE STATION LOCATIONS ON MOUNT DIABLO AND MOUNT HAMILTON. ELSEWHERE...AVERAGE HIGHS FOR THE MONTH WERE GENERALLY 3 TO 5 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL. A LOOK BACK TO LAST YEAR REVEALS SIMILAR COOLER-THAN-NORMAL CONDITIONS IN MAY 2010. ALSO...MARCH...APRIL AND MAY 2010 WAS A COOLER-THAN-NORMAL SPRING SEASON MUCH LIKE OUR CURRENT SPRING.

THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF MAY WERE DRY. BUT RAIN DEVELOPED ON SATURDAY THE 14TH AND CONTINUED OFF AND ON THROUGH THE 18TH. A COLD UPPER LOW DROPPING SOUTH ALONG THE COAST ON SUNDAY THE 15TH TRIGGERED NUMEROUS SHOWERS AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS ACROSS THE AREA. SEVERAL SHOWERS CONTAINED SMALL HAIL. A HALF INCH OF SNOW FELL AT THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT HAMILTON ON MAY 15TH. MEASURABLE SNOW HAS FALLEN ATOP MOUNT HAMILTON DURING ONLY ONE OTHER MAY SINCE THE 1950S...BACK IN 1991 WHEN A HALF INCH FELL. MOST OF MAY'S RAINFALL OCCURRED DURING THE UNSETTLED PERIOD FROM THE 14TH THROUGH THE 18TH. A FEW MORE RAIN EVENTS OCCURRED NEAR THE END OF THE MONTH...MOST NOTABLY ON THE 25TH...28TH AND 31ST. RAINFALL TOTALS FOR THE MONTH WERE WELL ABOVE NORMAL. THE AVERAGE MAY RAINFALL FOR MOST CLIMATE STATIONS IS LESS THAN AN INCH...SO EVEN THE MODEST AMOUNTS OF RAINFALL RECEIVED DURING MAY OF 2011 REPRESENTED AMOUNTS MORE THAN 200 PERCENT OF THE MAY NORMAL AT THE MAJORITY OF CLIMATE STATION LOCATIONS. BY MAY 31ST YEAR-TO-DATE RAINFALL TOTALS (BEGINNING JULY 1 2010) RANGED FROM JUST UNDER 100 PERCENT IN SAN JOSE TO 125 PERCENT IN SANTA ROSA. MOST CLIMATE STATIONS WERE ALREADY ASSURED OF A WETTER-THAN-NORMAL RAIN YEAR WITH JUST ONE MONTH TO GO.

...MAY REGIONAL TEMPERATURE SUMMARY...

LOCATION	DEPARTURE			DEPARTURE		
	AVG HIGH	NORMAL HIGH	FROM NORMAL	AVG LOW	NORMAL LOW	FROM NORMAL
NORTH BAY...						
KENTFIELD	67.6	75.9	-8.3	47.0	48.0	-1.0
NAPA	68.5	75.6	-7.1	M	48.7	M
SAN RAFAEL	65.6	72.7	-7.1	47.1	49.8	-2.7

SONOMA	68.5	77.9	-9.4	44.0	46.4	-2.4
SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA...						
REDWOOD CITY	68.8	74.9	-6.1	47.4	49.0	-1.6
SAN FRANCISCO						
AIRPORT	63.9	67.3	-3.4	49.8	50.5	-0.7
SAN FRANCISCO						
DOWNTOWN	61.7	64.9	-3.2	49.6	51.4	-1.8
EAST BAY...						
FREMONT	67.2	72.2	-5.0	49.0	51.9	-2.9
LIVERMORE	69.6	77.1	-7.5	46.6	48.5	-1.9
MARTINEZ	75.1	78.9	-3.8	45.5	49.8	-4.3
MOUNT DIABLO						
JUNCTION	61.7	70.8	-9.1	43.7	47.3	-3.6
OAKLAND	65.8	68.8	-3.0	50.9	53.4	-2.5
SOUTH BAY AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTY...						
BEN LOMOND	71.6	76.2	-4.6	42.7	45.3	-2.6
GILROY	73.4	78.1	-4.7	47.2	48.8	-1.6
MOUNT HAMILTON	56.2	63.4	-7.2	40.8	46.6	-5.8
SAN JOSE	69.7	75.1	-5.4	49.2	51.8	-2.6
SANTA CRUZ	69.3	70.6	-1.3	45.3	47.2	-1.9
MONTEREY AND SAN BENITO COUNTIES...						
HOLLISTER	69.4	73.3	-3.9	45.2	47.4	-2.2
MONTEREY	61.2	64.9	-3.7	47.0	48.2	-1.2
SALINAS	66.6	68.3	-1.7	46.3	49.3	-3.0

...MAY REGIONAL PRECIPITATION SUMMARY...

LOCATION	MAY TOTAL	AVERAGE MAY PRECIP	PERCENT OF NORMAL
NORTH BAY...			
ANGWIN	2.78	1.14	244
CALISTOGA	3.59	1.09	329
KENTFIELD	1.92	1.20	160
MUIR WOODS	1.90	1.11	171
NAPA	1.89	0.80	236
OCCIDENTAL	3.72	1.61	231
PETALUMA	1.60	0.62	258
SAINT HELENA	2.05	0.75	273
SANTA ROSA	2.41	0.88	274
SONOMA	1.66	0.84	198
SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA...			

HALF MOON BAY	1.16	0.79	147
REDWOOD CITY	0.34	0.43	79
PACIFICA	1.20	1.25	96
SAN FRANCISCO			
AIRPORT	0.47	0.38	124
SAN FRANCISCO			
DOWNTOWN	1.13	0.55	205
WOODSIDE	1.04	0.67	155

EAST BAY...

FREMONT	0.58	0.51	114
LIVERMORE	0.46	0.43	107
MARTINEZ	0.86	0.46	187
MOUNT DIABLO			
JUNCTION	1.53	0.85	180
OAKLAND	1.25	0.59	212

SOUTH BAY AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTY...

BEN LOMOND	3.25	1.04	313
GILROY	0.88	0.40	220
MOUNT HAMILTON	1.94	0.95	204
SAN JOSE	0.40	0.44	91
SANTA CRUZ	1.53	0.70	219

MONTEREY AND SAN BENITO COUNTIES...

BIG SUR STATION	2.57	0.89	289
CARMEL VALLEY	0.86	0.33	261
HOLLISTER	0.81	0.43	188
KING CITY	0.37	0.24	154
MONTEREY	1.00	0.50	200
PINNACLES NAT MON	1.03	0.49	210
SALINAS AIRPORT	0.72	0.35	206

...DAILY TEMPERATURE RECORDS FOR MAY 2010...

DATE	LOCATION	RECORD MAXIMUM TEMP	PREVIOUS RECORD
5/04	SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT	84	83 IN 1953
5/04	OAKLAND MUSEUM	85	82 IN 1987
5/04	SANTA CRUZ	86	84 IN 1985
5/04	SALINAS	87	81 IN 2001

		RECORD	
		MINIMUM	PREVIOUS
		TEMP	RECORD
5/24	OAKLAND AIRPORT	47	47 IN 1961

...MONTHLY RANKS FOR DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO...

AVERAGE HIGH TEMPERATURE....61.7....27TH COOLEST OUT OF 136 YEARS  
 AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURE.....49.6....24TH COOLEST OUT OF 136 YEARS  
 PRECIPITATION.....1.13 INCHES....27TH WETTEST OUT OF 161 YEARS

...MONTHLY EXTREMES FOR SELECT LOCATIONS...

LOCATION	WARMEST DAY(S)	COOLEST DAY(S)	WETTEST DAY(S)
SANTA ROSA AIRPORT	5/04 89 DEG	5/01 5/09 39 DEG	5/16 0.67 IN
SAN FRANCISCO	5/04 82 DEG	5/14 5/15 45 DEG	5/28 0.28 IN
SAN JOSE	5/05 89 DEG	5/09 45 DEG	5/14 0.21 IN
SALINAS AIRPORT	5/04 87 DEG	5/01 42 DEG	5/14 5/17 0.17 IN

NOTE: THIS CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA IS PRELIMINARY. FOR OFFICIAL  
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