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FROM:    Captain James Crocker
Acting Director, Surface and Upper Air Division
Office of Observations

SUBJECT: Transition of Manual Radiosonde Observations to Automated Radiosonde Observations at San Diego, CA, on or about February 29, 2020

Effective on or about February 29, 2020, radiosonde observations (RAOB) from San Diego, CA, WMO# 72293, Station ID KNKX, will be transitioned from the manually launched Lockheed Martin 1680 MHz LMS6 radiosonde to the Vaisala 403 MHz RS41-SGPA radiosonde using the Vaisala Autosonde as the launch vehicle.

During the transition period of up to 30 days, dual radiosonde flights may be performed until the Vaisala Autosonde System is declared operational for the regularly scheduled observations of 00Z and 12Z.

The RADAT and NCEI archive messages are imperfect due to improper formatting. The NWS will issue a Service Change Notice when this software update is implemented and the Autosonde RAOB products contain these components.

For additional information on the message requirements, see WMO 306 Manual on Codes (International Codes):
- Volume I.1 Part A - Alphanumeric Codes
- Volume I.2 Part B - Binary Codes
- Volume II Regional Codes and National Coding Practices (WMO Region IV)

If you have questions or feedback, please contact:
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NWS Service Change Notices are online at:
https://www.weather.gov/notification/

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