



IN THIS ISSUE, YOU'LL FIND:

[EQIP Funds Available to Help Alleviate Drought Impacts](#)
[New COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards Go Into Effect](#)
[Santa Barbara County Ag Pass Program and Training Available](#)
[GEM Observations and Recommendations from Brokaw Nursery](#)
[Foodservice Restaurants Celebrate California Avocado Season](#)
[Retail Promotions Drive California Avocado Sales During Peak Season](#)
[Market Trends](#)
[Crop Statistics](#)
[Weather Outlook](#)

Calendar

For a listing of industry events and dates for the coming year, please visit:
<http://www.californiaavocadogrowers.com/commission/industry-calendar>

Ventura County RCD Fire Preparedness and Recovery Virtual Seminars

The Ventura County Fire Resource Conservation District is offering a series of free wildfire prevention virtual workshops. The series will discuss wildfire prevention and tips, how to prepare for potential wildfires and allow participants to ask questions of a variety of wildfire personnel and professionals. Registration required. [More information here.](#)

July 6

July 6 - "Ready, Set, Go! Program"

Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Location: Webinar

Biology and Management of Avocado Lace Bug in California

As part of the University of California Ag Experts Talk series, Dr. Mark Hoddle of UC-Riverside will host the "Biology and Management of Avocado Lace Bug in California" webinar. Registration required. [More information here.](#)

July 7

July 7

Time: 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Webinar

CAC Board Web/Teleconference

July 15

July 15

Time: 10:00am – 11:30am

Location: Web/Teleconference

EQIP Funds Available to Help Alleviate Drought Impacts

In response to the current drought conditions, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service is offering nearly \$22.8 million in funding through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#). These funds are being made available through the Conservation Incentive Contracts option that blends EQIP and the Conservation Stewardship Program. This pilot program is only available to farmers in Arizona, California, Colorado and Oregon at this time.

NRCS is now [accepting EQIP applications for this pilot program](#). The application deadline is July 12. Growers also can reach out to their [local USDA service center](#) for assistance with the application.

The Conservation Incentive Contracts program addresses high-priority conservation and natural resources concerns and is designed to help producers recover from the impacts of the drought and build strategies that improve their enterprise's resiliency. Through five-year contracts, growers manage, maintain and address natural resources concerns and build on existing conservation efforts. Conservation practices include forest management plans, tree/shrub establishment, brush management, prescribed grazing, pasture and hay planting, wildlife habitat and cover crops.

New COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards Go Into Effect

On June 17, the new Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards went into effect. All California employers must comply with the ETS, with limited exceptions. Employers should be aware of these updates as the new rules lift many of the COVID restrictions for fully vaccinated employees. Fully vaccinated is defined as 14 days have passed since the employee received the final vaccination dose. Highlights of the updates are as follows.

Face Coverings

- Fully vaccinated employees do not need to wear face coverings indoors or outdoors unless there is a COVID-19 outbreak at the workplace.
- Unvaccinated employees must wear face coverings indoors and in vehicles. Masks may be removed only when the employee is alone in a room or vehicle, when eating/drinking or when an accommodation is required.
- Unvaccinated employees do not have to wear a mask outdoors.
- If face coverings are required, they must have at least two layers and be worn over the nose and mouth. Single-layer masks are not acceptable.
- Employers cannot prevent an employee from wearing a face covering (unless the covering would create a safety hazard) even if the mask is not required.

Close Contacts

- Close contacts who are fully vaccinated do not need to be excluded from work as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- Unvaccinated close contacts must be excluded from the workplace until the return-to-work criteria are met. If the unvaccinated employee remains asymptomatic, they may return 10 days after their last known close contact.
- Unvaccinated close contacts who have had COVID-19 in the preceding 90 days before exposure and who have remained asymptomatic do not need to be excluded from work.

Documenting Vaccination Status

- Employers must document and record employee’s vaccination status in order to enact the relaxed guidelines. Upon reviewing an employee’s vaccination card/documentation the employer may keep a copy of the proof of vaccination or simply record having seen the proof. Employer also can record an employee’s self-attestation to vaccination status as necessary documentation. Vaccination status must remain confidential and separate from a personnel file.

COVID Protocols

- No physical distancing is required — regardless of vaccination status — unless in the event of a COVID outbreak.
- Employers must provide information on the benefits of vaccination and how to receive the vaccine.
- Employers must provide N95 respirators upon request to all unvaccinated employees who work indoors or are in a vehicle.
- Employers must evaluate their ventilation systems and [maximize the quantity of outdoor air brought indoors](#) and use the highest compatible efficiency filter possible with their ventilation system.
- Employers must provide written notice of a potential COVID exposure in the workplace within one business day of the time the employer knew, or should have known, of a workplace COVID case.
- All employees must be screened for COVID symptoms regardless of vaccination status.
- There are no prohibitions on sharing commonly touched objects
- If all employees are vaccinated, employers are exempt from regulations for employer-provided housing and transportation.

COVID Testing

- Employers must offer at no cost COVID testing during paid time to:
- Symptomatic unvaccinated employees regardless of a known exposure
- Unvaccinated employees after COVID exposure
- Symptomatic fully vaccinated employees after COVID exposure
- All employees during a COVID outbreak
- Outbreak testing must take place when three or more employees have COVID in the workplace. Workplace outbreak testing has been narrowed to those with close exposure to the affected persons.
- “Paid time” means the employer must make testing available during paid time. While the employee must be compensated for time and travel expenses incurred by getting tested, the employer is not obligated to provide the test during an employee’s normal working hours.

Exclusion Pay Exemptions

- The only exemptions for providing exclusion pay are for employees receiving disability or workers’ compensation or if the employer can demonstrate the COVID exposure was not work related.

For more information, visit the [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards Frequently Asked Questions](#) webpage. The [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Guidance and Resources webpage](#) provides numerous valuable resources for employers including:

- Direct links to subsections of the ETS
- Industry-specific COVID guidance
- Educational materials
- COVID-19 webinars

Santa Barbara County Ag Pass Program and Training Available

Santa Barbara County's [Ag Pass program](#) provides firefighters, California Highway Patrol officers, Sheriff's deputies and law enforcement officers with a means of identifying vetted commercial growers and their employees during wildfires or similar disasters.

Agriculturalists who possess an Ag Pass may potentially be given limited emergency access to their farm/ranch in order to protect or care for agricultural assets and/or to help provide emergency personnel with information such as identifying access roads or water points. The Ag Pass is not meant to give personnel access to the agricultural property to conduct normal agricultural operations during a wildfire or emergency. It is important to note that cardholders are not permitted to fight fires or act as a first responder during a disaster. It also does not necessarily mean a card holder will be able to pass through road closures to get to their farm unless emergency personnel determine there is no imminent risk.

No more than three individuals from an agricultural operation are eligible to obtain an Ag Pass. In order to be eligible, the following criteria must be met:

- Property must be located in the State Responsibility Area of Santa Barbara County. [A map is available here.](#)
- Operation must be a commercial agricultural enterprise or property used for conducting agricultural research or instruction by an educational institution.
- Property must be zoned agricultural and comprise a minimum of 40 acres.
- Applicants must be key personnel who have a working knowledge of the agricultural property (irrigation systems, farm equipment, essential infrastructure).
- Applicant and employer must sign a waiver and release

In order to obtain an Ag Pass, the interested party must complete a training session that focuses on emergency procedures and their role as an Ag Pass cardholder. The next Santa Barbara County Ag Pass training session will take place on July 7 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the SBC Office of Emergency Management located at 4408 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara.

For general questions and inquiries contact Mel Graham, Santa Barbara County Ag Commissioner's Office, at mgraham@agcommissioner.com or 805.934.6200. [Complete information can be found online as well.](#)



Santa Barbara County
Ag Pass Program

July Training
Wednesday, July 7th
8-Noon

SBC Office of Emergency Management
 4408 Cathedral Oaks Rd, Santa Barbara

For More Information:
Eligibility Requirements & Forms
(by clicking the link or scan the QR Code with your mobile device)

www.AGCOMMISSIONER.com



In order to obtain an Ag Pass, the interested party must complete a training session that focuses on emergency procedures and their role as an Ag Pass cardholder.

GEM Observations and Recommendations from Brokaw Nursery

In response to California avocado growers' questions concerning the GEM variety of avocado, the Brokaw Nursery, LLC has shared some observations and recommendations based on their experience with the GEM tree. They are summarized below.

- **GEM is distinct from Haas.** The GEM tree is a compact, column-like tree that grows more slowly than Haas. Because it has non-spreading branches and the fruit remains tucked under the protection of the canopy, the fruit tends to be better protected from wind, heat and cold than Haas.
- **GEM trees need more Nitrogen than Haas.** Brokaw suggests leaf tissue may need to be at 3% Nitrogen, but notes consideration needs to be given to how this will impact fruit quality and postharvest performance.
- **When it comes to fertilization, GEM isn't "small."** Brokaw notes the small, dense growth of the tree can fool growers into thinking the trees require less water and fertilizer. Instead, Brokaw has found the trees have a considerable biomass that, in their words, makes it a "hungry and thirsty tree."
- **Young GEM trees should not be pruned.** Brokaw recommends avoiding pruning GEM trees until they become crowded in order to avoid reducing the trees' productivity.
- **Young GEM trees can flower heavily and therefore defoliate.** When this happens, growers should be aware that the trees often look like they will die. Proper care will help the trees recover from a heavy flowering and is aided by using whitewash. This flowering-and-defoliation tendency seems to diminish by year three.
- **Stake young trees.** Young trees should be staked in order to help them carry the heavy fruit load and avoid branches snapping off in high winds.
- **Drip tubing irrigation is recommended.** Brokaw has found that using two rows of drip tubing with .5 gph emitters at 18" intervals is ideal. This system helps achieve uniform application of water while reducing the amount of water needed for high density plantings.

Foodservice Restaurants Celebrate California Avocado Season

Throughout the summer, Wahoo's Fish Tacos and Nordstrom Restaurant Group are celebrating the California avocado season with new menu items and messaging showcasing the California difference.

Wahoo's Fish Tacos, a Tustin, California-based chain with 43 units in Arizona, California and Nevada will offer seasonal limited-time-offer menu items featuring California avocados from May 15 – July 31. The chain launched a new menu item featuring the fruit in June and promoted a popular California avocado favorite with patrons. The Ceviche is served with California avocados and chips while the Sunset Chicken Salad is topped with fresh slices of the fruit. Patrons also have the option to upgrade any bowl, entrée or burrito "Kahuna-style" with freshly made guacamole.

From May 30 – July 2, the Nordstrom Restaurant Group is putting the focus on California growers and the California avocado difference to pique the interest of and educate their diners. The LTO promotions will run in restaurant outlets located in Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington. Several California avocado dishes are featured throughout California Avocado Month in June. Customers also can easily enjoy a short vignette about the California avocado season, how the terroir makes California avocados unique and the nutritional benefits of the fruit by scanning a menu QR code.

By celebrating the limited seasonality of California avocados, foodservice restaurants drive diners' interest in the fruit while it is at its peak and inspire them to enjoy the fruit in meals away from home.



Wahoo's Fish Tacos promoted a Ceviche served with fresh slices of California avocado and a side of chips.

Retail Promotions Drive California Avocado Sales During Peak Season

As the California avocado season moves into full swing, retail promotions with targeted retailers pique consumers' interest in the fruit as harvesting volumes swell during the height of the season. The following are examples of California avocado promotions that took place from April into mid-June.

Mollie Stone's nine stores in the San Francisco Bay area participated in a Cinco de Mayo sales contest featuring California avocados and guacamole freshly made in-store. Each of the retail locations showcased the fresh fruit in California avocado display bins and cross-merchandised with guacamole, salsa, tomatoes, onions and chiles. This season's California avocado-branded contest displays, helped increase volume movement of the fruit during the April 21 – May 10 promotional period.

At 162 Sam's Clubs units located in regions west of the Mississippi, digital demos including a dedicated fixture on the floor with a QR code linking to a custom video drove incremental volume during a transitional period for the retail chain. Promotions included signage featuring the California Avocados brand logo and messaging with ample space dedicated to

the more than 100 pounds of California avocados on the display fixture. This event, which was held from April 24 – April 30, was instrumental in driving California avocado distribution in areas that have not traditionally merchandised California fruit for Cinco de Mayo timing. More than 18 million Sam’s Club members trafficked the participating locations during this timeframe with sales results indicating 22.4% of purchasers were first-time avocado buyers at Sam’s Club. The promotion helped solidify early harvest volumes leading into Cinco de Mayo and began the process of sharing California avocado messaging with the retailer’s customers.

From May 5 – May 12, Schnucks locations shared \$1.00 off digital coupons on bagged California avocados via the Schnucks’ website and mobile app. The coupons helped kick off the season with a hot item — bags of smaller sized fruit — showcased during a high consumption period.

From mid-May to mid-June, Walmart locations and social media channels featured California avocado spotlight videos. In tandem with this promotion, three of the chain’s dedicated influencers showcased California avocado-inspired recipes on their social media channels. By securing a commitment to sell 60’s and smaller California avocados in more than 800 locations, the Commission helped drive awareness of the fruit’s seasonality in stores and on the chain’s expansive digital sphere.

This season California avocado growers and shippers requested GEM avocado-specific promotions and determine whether the new variety would be accepted and supported by retailers, and to determine if merchandising GEM avocados in the same produce departments as Hass avocados would contribute to sales successes. The Commission offered GEM-specific point-of-sale materials to support this activity. As an example, from May 9 – June 4, Holiday Market stores located in Northern California (Redding, Placerville, Chico and Lake Tahoe) and one store in southern Oregon sponsored a GEM sales contest — the first of its kind for the Commission. The retail chain — which is a combination of upscale markets and large format grocery stores — featured the GEM fruit in the Commission’s display bins. The Commission produced custom signs outlining GEM characteristics (firm skin for ease of peeling, larger size and creamy delicious texture) and a nutrition sheet to accompany the displays. Holiday Market stores have averaged a more than 20% increase in sales during Hass avocado sales contests, so the Commission challenged them to hit 25% to spotlight GEM. The GEM avocado contest generated excitement for a new California variety in stores. Fifteen of the 22 stores won awards for increased sales comparing April to May. Overall sales increase was 33.9% and the top two stores had sales lifts over 70%!

Justin Schumann, Director of Produce, Northstate Grocery Company and Holiday Market Stores said, "I really enjoyed the GEM Avocado contest with the California Avocado Commission. All the stores got behind the program and used the Commission’s display bins to drive sales. Every store was up on avocado sales versus the prior month and prior year."

Promotions like the one noted above indicate retailers are willing to promote a new variety and are eager to showcase a “special offering” to their customers. GEM avocado promotions may help growers obtain a good return on investment on the acreage devoted to this new variety.



Mollie Stone's locations in the San Francisco Bay area hosted Cinco de Mayo sales contests featuring California avocados.

California Market Trends

To view all market trend graphs, including "Weekly Volume Summary," "Weekly Avocado Prices" and "U.S. Avocado Supply," please visit: <http://www.californiaavocadogrowers.com/industry/market-statistics>.

California Avocado Society Weekly Newsline* Avocado Prices – June 23, 2021

	Conventional #1	Organic #1
California Hass	(Field Price Per Lb)	(Field Price Per Lb)
#32's	\$1.22 - \$1.38	\$1.70 - \$1.98
36's	\$1.22 - \$1.38	\$1.70 - \$1.98
40's	\$1.26 - \$1.36	\$1.94 - \$2.10
48's	\$1.26 - \$1.36	\$2.16 - \$2.40
60's	\$0.96 - \$1.20	\$1.88 - \$2.02
70's	\$0.68 - \$0.78	\$1.56 - \$1.66
84's	\$0.46 - \$0.55	\$0.56 - \$0.66

*To subscribe to the Weekly Newsline, please contact the California Avocado Society at (949) 940-8869 or www.CaliforniaAvocadoSociety.org.

California Avocado Commission Weekly Volume Summary (Pounds)

	Week Ending 6/27/2021	Season-to-Date (since 11/01/2020)	2021 Year to Date
Hass	8,931,612	174,484,431	166,517,292
Lamb	13,189	143,844	141,760
Other (Greens)	46,750	500,764	443,043
California Total	8,991,551	175,129,039	167,102,095
Florida	1,079,815	7,528,400	3,625,160
Chile	0	0	0
Mexico	36,204,431	1,717,261,469	1,328,416,251
Peru	15,692,293	56,244,463	56,244,463
Other (Imports)	1,610,000	49,590,000	41,890,000
Import Total	53,506,724	1,823,095,932	1,426,550,714
USA Total	63,578,090	2,005,753,371	1,597,277,969

Sources:

California = CAC (AMRIC)

Florida = Florida Avocado Admin Committee

Chile = Comite de Paltas, Chile

Mexico = APEAM

Peru = ProHass

Other Imports = USDA AMS website

Crop Statistics

The California harvest has come up short of projections three of the last four weeks and looks poised to do the same this week. While some of this variance can be attributed to softening of the market due to increased inventory leading into the 4th of July holiday, there are still some in the industry who feel the crop may be a bit smaller than the current 265 million pound estimate. The Commission will be sending out late-season crop surveys to handlers in the coming week to better estimate the volume of fruit that is remaining for the season, and the timing of when that volume will be harvested. Discussions with industry stakeholders continue to support the notion that California should continue to see promotable volumes leading up to Labor Day. Through June we have seen approximately 175 million pounds of California fruit harvested, leaving about 35% of the crop remaining for the last three months of the season. As we mentioned earlier this month, the U.S. is currently seeing supply from multiple sources of origin, which has led to some market instability. To stay abreast of the current U.S. supply and demand dynamics the Commission recommends that growers continue to communicate with their handlers and grove managers on a regular basis to plan and update their harvest strategy to maximize opportunities in the market.

2021 California Crop Weekly Harvest Projection					
Weekly Crop Movement vs. Distribution Projections					
All Varieties					
	4-Year Historical Forecast	AMRIC Handler Forecast	Industry Adjusted		Crop Size Indicator
Week Ending (CAC Week)	May 2021 Update		AMRIC Harvest	AMRIC Shipments	
1st QTR Subtotal	28,098,500	35,493,400	25,915,478	16,367,912	
Apr 4 - (22)	5,513,400	5,766,800	9,303,883	5,835,962	
Apr 11 - (23)	7,493,500	7,837,700	10,220,550	8,891,378	
Apr 18 - (24)	9,484,500	9,914,200	12,881,848	10,255,023	
Apr 25 - (25)	9,341,100	9,762,500	12,325,387	11,769,502	
May 2 - (26)	12,676,100	13,250,100	11,802,696	13,434,630	
May 9 - (27)	12,873,900	12,412,900	11,858,747	10,913,046	
May 16 - (28)	12,077,400	11,645,400	11,917,577	10,691,543	265,357,640
May 23 - (29)	12,411,700	11,975,800	11,815,810	11,553,797	264,962,240
May 30 - (30)	12,246,200	11,806,100	12,612,529	12,609,012	266,611,257
Jun 6 - (31)	12,373,100	13,690,100	8,425,675	11,048,386	256,739,564
Jun 13 - (32)	10,134,000	11,207,700	11,674,962	12,623,282	258,137,866
Jun 20 - (33)	10,545,600	11,678,300	9,768,860	11,855,676	255,579,220
Jun 27 - (34)	11,375,100	12,569,300	8,991,550	10,724,275	250,944,341
2nd QTR Subtotal	138,545,600	143,516,900	143,600,074	142,205,510	
Jul 4 - (35)	11,164,300	9,510,700	-	-	
Jul 11 - (36)	11,483,600	9,309,700	-	-	
Jul 18 - (37)	10,809,200	8,793,500	-	-	
Jul 25 - (38)	10,210,300	8,297,700	-	-	
Aug 1 - (39)	7,703,500	8,140,600	-	-	
Aug 8 - (40)	6,104,900	7,198,600	-	-	
Aug 15 - (41)	5,402,100	7,050,400	-	-	
Aug 22 - (42)	5,411,800	7,090,800	-	-	
Aug 29 - (43)	5,153,200	6,540,300	-	-	
Sep 5 - (44)	4,494,900	3,420,800	-	-	
Sep 12 - (45)	3,627,400	2,761,000	-	-	
Sep 19 - (46)	2,904,100	2,226,200	-	-	
Sep 26 - (47)	2,393,500	1,801,300	-	-	
3rd QTR Subtotal	86,862,800	82,141,600	-	-	
4th QTR Subtotal	11,493,100	3,848,100	-	-	
Season-to-Date	166,938,600	179,010,300	169,515,554	158,705,793	
% of Crop	63%	68%	64%	60%	
Crop Size	265,000,000	265,000,000	Left to Harvest	Left to Ship	
Crop Variance	2,576,954	(9,494,746)	95,484,446	106,294,207	

Weather: 30-Day Outlook For California's Coastal & Valley Areas

(June 29 – July 15)

PURPOSE OF THIS OUTLOOK:

This extended weather outlook is intended to provide a general scenario for conditions to be expected over the next three months. This provides a general summary of trends in weather. Therefore, we use such expressions as above or below “normal.” “Normal” in a changing climate scenario is a changing quantity, given the warming and trend towards a longer dry season that has occurred in California. Although the discussion of climate change is beyond the scope of this weekly summary, we mention it so that you know it is a consideration to keep in mind. As a reference, the PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State University issues their update of the PRISM climate 30 year normals every 10 years. The latest version in general use is for the period 1981-2010. Later this year, the PRISM Climate Group will be issuing the newly computed 30 year normals of temperature and precipitation valid 1991-2020. Although the 30 year updates are prepared each decade, it is important to monitor changes in the normals. Bottom line, “normal” is not a constant, it is linked to a moment (albeit comprising 30 years). Reference: The PRISM Climate Group (prism.oregonstate.edu).

BASIC PATTERN:

Summary- There still is not much change to the basic pattern. The *La Niña* remains through summer but it seems to continue to weaken with some warming of water temperatures off the coast of Peru. Still cooler than normal water temperatures off California but slight warming has taken place. While still classified as “*La Niña*”, this SSTA pattern has some differences from a true *La Niña* pattern.

Some salient characteristics are:

- a) Warm SSTA's are along the midlatitude Chilean west coast extend westward along 30-40S to the Dateline (across the South Pacific).
- b) Water temperatures off Ecuador and Peru are warmer than normal from the coast to 130W. This represents a significant short term warming at the equator.
- c) Sea surface temperatures off the coast of Northcentral to Southern California continue below normal. Sea surface temperatures NORCAL and Pacific Northwest are warmer than normal.
- d) The NMME forecast model suggests a strengthening of La Nina, reaching to near maximum intensity and areal coverage in Dec 2021 – Feb 2022. *La Niña* seasons are typically dry in central and southern California, but are historically wet for the NW California coast northward to Washington State.
- e) The tendency for troughing just west of California this week is related to a still active Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) pattern at our longitude...near 120W.
- f) Fox Weather's IVTinit(tm) analyses over the past week continues to show the active IVTinit™ pattern, and support for cyclogenetic activity in the central N Pacific. Troughing continues to focus NW of Hawaii at 38-47N, 150-170W. Cyclogenesis in this region favors some downstream troughing, albeit dry, over N and central California coast and just west from the coast.
- g) High pressure still remain the dominant weather feature with some start to the monsoonal season starting into Arizona. Some of these showers are possible into SE California at times through the middle of July with better showers as the monsoonal pattern strengthens from the middle of July through the rest of the month.
- h) The monsoonal season is starting about 2 weeks early and the SE moist flow that brings the moisture into Arizona and at times into California appears to be stronger than normal. Bottom line...a wetter monsoon seasonal is likely for Arizona with near normal or slightly wetter than normal across SOCAL and possible the rest of the state.

GENERAL FORECAST FOR CALIFORNIA

Above normal sea surface temperatures continue through the Gulf of California. This supports more moisture and risk of thunderstorms (TSTMS) as the airmass over and west of western Mexico becomes more moist. The summer monsoon is setting up with an upper high pressure building across eastern Mexico and the western Caribbean. This is an early than normal start to the monsoon season and appears to be stronger than normal this year. Above normal showers and thunderstorms are likely across much of Arizona with some of these showers and thunderstorms likely bringing a wetter monsoon season to SOCAL this season (July through early September). Models show the SE monsoonal flow will increase around July 1 with better showers reaching westward into western Arizona and possibly SE California and the southern and central SierraNV.

Precipitation Trend – June 29-July 28 - The CFSDaily product that Fox Weather prepares from the CFSv2 short term climate model is suggesting light showers into SE areas of SOCAL with some thunderstorms mainly east of the Colorado River on Jun 29-30. Showers and thunderstorms are possible across the central and southern Sierra on the same dates. Another

surge of monsoonal showers are expected Jul 13-14 with (SOCAL & the SierraNV). Other surges of monsoonal showers/TSTMS: Jul 18-21 (SOCAL & SierraNV) and Jul 25-28 (SOCAL, CENCAL & Sierra mountains). Showers and thunderstorms will move farther northward into central California and even NORCAL late in July. Frontal rain is not expected as the storm track is well north near the Canadian border with high pressure dominating the weather pattern.

In S California – June 29-July 28 - SOCAL Warm Spells, from models GFS and CFSv2 through CFSDailyAI: Warm to very warm air will continue Jun 29-30 as high pressure will dominate the weather pattern. Hotter Jul 9-12 with a stronger ridge/high pressure over the region. Other hot days Jul 17-20, 24-27. No cool spells are expected.

Sierra Nevada: June 29-July 28 - Precipitation Trend: Dry through most of the end of June though a few showers into the SierraNV are possible Jun 29-30. Other surges of monsoonal showers and thunderstorms are possible Jul 13-15, 18-21 and 25-28. A gradual increase in showers with some TSTMS will increase with better chances of showers/TSTMS from the middle through the end of the July.

Colder dates during June 29-July 28: Little or no cold air is expected. Temperatures will remain well above normal including warmer than normal nights through most of the forecast period. As some clouds increase towards the middle of July with occasional showers and possible TSTMS, there will be slight cooling but still above normal temperatures.

Fire risk June 29-July 28: Best chances for enhanced fire risk would be from high atmospheric instability in dry air (Haines Index). Higher risk of fire increases July 13-15 as monsoonal showers and TSTMS with lightning, and above normal temperatures are expected. Other surges of monsoonal moisture will bring higher fire risk later in the month.

The listing of dates normally included for hot and cold spells, and precipitation are based on our CFSDaily and CFSDailyAI forecast products, and present generally expected trends in precipitation (both products) and temperature (CFSDailyAI) to 4km. Our system gives some consideration of terrain and coastal influence. We consider the CFSv2 as one of the better ways to represent basic weather down in the sub-monthly time scale beyond the 15 day GFS or monthly maps from CFSv2 or NMME.

..Southern California Deserts Outlook for June 29-July 28:

Highlights: Very warm to hot through much of the period as high pressure will remain near or over the region. Little change to this pattern is expected through the end of July. Some pre-monsoonal showers could creep into the southern desert region early in July with better and more active surges of moisture from the middle through the end of July. An active monsoonal season is expected this season from July through August and likely into September.

*****Looking Ahead – Long Range Outlook Jul 29 - Sep 26*****

N and Central California. *La Niña* will continue weak, but starts to redevelop in late September. We are seeing some weakening of *La Niña* just this last week. High pressure will continue near the west coast and across much of northern Mexico and Arizona. This will bring an early start to the monsoon season with a weak monsoonal surge into SOCAL Jun 29-30 and an increase in monsoonal moisture into Arizona and SOCAL Jul 13-15. Better and more frequent surges of monsoonal showers and thunderstorms late July through the middle of August. We are now into the hurricane season with upper lows in the tropics worth watching as many will develop into tropical systems. Hurricane Enrique developed but has weakened to a tropical storm as it moves towards Cabo San Lucas today reaching land near the southern tip of Baja likely Wednesday. Higher than average tropical systems are expected in the eastern Pacific this year as some warmer than normal SSTs are across the region, especially in Gulf of California.

High pressure near the west coast of the U.S. and California continues as the dominant weather feature with very warm to hot temperatures across the state. Showers and TSTMS from tropical cyclone remnants become more likely from mid Aug through mid Sep. Subsequent development of a stronger *La Niña* is indicated by the NMME model during Oct-Dec. The start of the monsoon into southern portions of California appears to be starting early but wetter conditions usually start

late in July and peak in mid Aug. Showers and thunderstorms are more likely around Aug 1. August should see showers and thunderstorms reach a peak about mid-month. In August-September, monsoonal moisture becomes more likely to reach north in the flow around upper lows and troughs. Showers and TSTMS appear to be about 10 days to 2 weeks early into Arizona this year with some early start into SE parts of SOCAL. This provides opportunity for more lightning and also showers into Northern California mountains as well as the Sierras especially later in July into Aug. A normal or stronger than normal monsoonal pattern may also produce heavier showers and TSTMS in the southern and central SierraNV in mid to late July – mid to late August, with tropical cyclone remnant moisture during about 20 August through mid September. As we know, dry fuels and lightning are the most likely contributors to fires in mid to late summer.

For SOCAL Jul 29-Sep 26: A weak but early surge of monsoonal showers Jun 29-30. Better surges of moisture Jul 13-15 with an increase in showers and thunderstorms likely late July peaking by mid Aug. The monsoonal season appears to be stronger than normal and a bit wetter than normal, especially for Arizona with some increase in showers and TSTMS are possible for SOCAL. The monsoonal season for SOCAL will likely continue but decrease late Aug thru early Sep with the end of the seasonal usually by the middle of Sep.

Jul 29-Sep 26...: Fire risk and potential for fire spread will be very high this summer in the SierraNV due to below normal rainfall and higher than normal temperatures. A more active monsoonal pattern is appearing to set up and could bring higher than normal lightning and an increase in the fire risk mid-July – Aug. High fire risk is most likely in mid-July through Aug with some lightning-induced fire starts. From mid-August to mid-September we are more likely to see precipitation events from tropical cyclone remnants arriving from southern Baja or the Gulf of California.

Alan Fox & Zane Stephens...Fox Weather, LLC

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