Like November 2000, rainfall amounts for Interior Central California were much below normal for the month of December. Only 0.07” of rain fell in Fresno during November (normal of 1.42”). Bakersfield received only a trace (normal of 0.63”). Proportionally little fell in the neighboring mountain areas. Dominant high pressure along the California Coast minimized significant, rain-producing frontal passages during the months of November and December 2000.

During the period from December 2nd-6th, a dense late night and early morning fog regime established itself in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley. Visibilities during the hours between midnight and 0900 PST were often below 1/4-mile in dense fog with California Highway Patrol “pacing” traffic on major highways.

A series of relatively dry frontal passages occurred through Interior Central California from the 11th to 17th of December. On the 12th gusty post-frontal wind speeds reached 54 MPH at Indian Wells Canyon in the Kern Mountains with gusts on the Kern Desert floor of 39 Knots at China Lake NWTC and 56 Knots at Edward AFB Rocket Lab.

During the very early hours of the morning from the 24th through the 27th, dense fog formed in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley. Visibilities dropped to less than 1/4 mile by dawn during this time period even if the night hours were typically clear and ultimately reaching even freezing before the fog formed, especially on the morning of the 25th.

Beneath high pressure with residual cold air at the surface, overnight low temperatures for the last days of the month dropped to sub-freezing readings consistently. The coldest morning was that of the 28th when temperatures dropped to the mid to upper 20s. The lowest readings were in the Southeast San Joaquin Valley with readings of 26F at Delano, 28F at Porterville, and 27F at Wasco.

### December 2000

#### Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time Local/Standard</th>
<th>Path Length (Miles)</th>
<th>Path Width (Yards)</th>
<th>Number of Persons Killed</th>
<th>Number of Persons Injured</th>
<th>Estimated Damage Property</th>
<th>Estimated Damage Crops</th>
<th>Character of Storm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAZ090-092-096-097</td>
<td>E Central Sj Valley - Se Sj Valley - S Sierra Mtns - Tulare Cty Mtns</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>0010PST</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>2359PST</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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During this period of late evening and early morning fog, numerous reports of visibilities limited to less than 1/4 mile were received as well as Highway Patrol pacing cars on area highways.

The mornings of the 19th and 20th had temperatures just below freezing in several areas of the agricultural Southern and Central San Joaquin Valley. However the morning of the 21st was much colder for the SW San Joaquin Valley as temperatures fell to 25F at Wasco and 26F at Lemoore.

Although Lemoore was the coldest on this morning with 25F as a minimum temperature, typical readings in the West and South San Joaquin Valley this Christmas morning were in the low 30s.

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Besides low temperatures in the freezing range, dense fog formed in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley during the last part of the month. Both fog and low overnight low temperatures continued into the month of January.