A gusty wind episode occurred in the Kern County area on the 3rd and 4th of the month with winds reported as follows: Edwards AFB wind towers showing gusts 45-60 MPH by 1852 PST; Indian Wells Canyon RAWs reaching 47 MPH; and, Jawbone RAWs with gusts to 60 MPH. While elevated, these wind speeds did not reach the localized requirements for wind warning although causing concerns for vehicle movement.

Wind advisory status for the Mojave area needed to be upgraded to Wind Warning as winds reached 68 knots at the Mojave Airport at 1920 PST. Wind advisories had been posted at 1200 PST earlier in the day.

Winds gusted at the Mojave Airport between 50 to 70 knots from 1346 to 1900 PST on the 12th thereby leading to a wind warning for that zone. Gusty winds were observed elsewhere in the Kern County area from the 11th through the 13th: Jawbone had gusts to 66 MPH on 12/1653 PST and Indian Wells Canyon reached 56 MPH on 11/2213 PST.

The 165-Los Banos/SNF562 Wildfire ignited by an unknown cause burned approximately 1500 acres in the Kesterson Wildlife Refuge. No structures were lost with no fatalities occurring. Cost to combat unknown.

The Merced Falls Wildfire was caused by a metal-bladed weed eater. It burned approximately 400 acres but no fatalities or structures were lost. The cost to combat is unknown.

The Democrat Wildfire was ignited by unknown cause and burned 550 acres before being contained with no fatalities or structures lost. The cost to contain was $565K.

Despite Fresno and Bakersfield (in the San Joaquin Valley) having water years (July 1st to June 30th) apparently reflecting near normal conditions, below normal snowpack occurred throughout the state. This was especially true in Interior Central California as 2.23” of rain had fallen early in September and October and did not significantly contribute to the snowpack. State Water Project allocations were only at 30% which is the result of the 8-Station NorCal Precipitation Index being approximately 65% of average and snow water content at 60% of average.