



Special Weather Statement

Coldest Temperatures in over a Decade

Wednesday December 9, 2009 issued 4:00pm

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So much for "Global Warming" and "El Niño"... An unusually cold air mass dropped down over Northern California in the wake of strong cold front Monday morning, December 7th. The front, which was initially rather dry coming from the Arctic, pulled in some moisture from the Pacific through the Bay Area and up the I80 corridor into Sacramento and the Lake Tahoe area enhancing the front after it had passed quietly without much precip at all north of Marysville. Snow fell down to the valley floor in the Sacramento area for the first time since 1976. The Sierra foothills, from Grass Valley down through Placerville, received impressive snowfall totals of 8-12" at elevations around 2000ft. Up to 3ft of snow was reported at many Tahoe ski resorts.

Low temperatures both Tuesday morning the 8th and this morning were some of the coldest temperatures we've seen in Northern California since December 1998. In some areas, temperatures were the coldest recorded since December 1990.

A change in the weather pattern starting tomorrow will bring an end to the cold temperatures (although it could still be cold tonight). Westerly flow from the Pacific will usher in a milder, wetter Pacific air mass over California... shoving the modified Arctic air mass well to our east. A series of storms are lined up out over the Eastern Pacific poised to move inland across California through the weekend. The first one due in tomorrow appears rather weak and headed mainly across the southern half of the state. System #2 on Friday appears wetter and directed more toward the North State. System #3 is stronger still and should impact the entire state. Models suggest around an inch or so of rain across the valley this weekend, along with moderate to strong south winds. Snow levels over NorCal should start out around 3000-4000ft tomorrow night into Friday and then rise to 4000-5000 feet on Saturday.

The following are some of the extremely cold low temperatures recorded across the North State:

<u>Sierra</u>	<u>12/8</u>	<u>12/9</u>	<u>Lake County</u>	<u>12/8</u>	<u>12/9</u>
Susanville	-8	-10	Upper Lake	15	15
Truckee	-16	-15	Scotts Valley	11	11
South Lake Tahoe	-13	-12	Kelseyville	13	14
			Middletown	17	18
<u>Sacramento Valley</u>			<u>Northern San Joaquin Valley</u>		
Red Bluff	19	20	Sloughouse	19	19
Chico WWG	19	18	Stockton	24	26
Marysville	20	20	Lodi	20	21
Artois	17	19	Farmington	22	20
Dunnigan Hills	14	19	Modesto	25	28
Lincoln	21	18	Merced	24	25
Sac Int'l	23	22			
Travis AFB	20	22			

