



Special Weather Statement

Cold Airmass (Surface & Aloft) Nearing CA

Friday May 21, 2010 issued 12:00pm

phone 530-342-1700

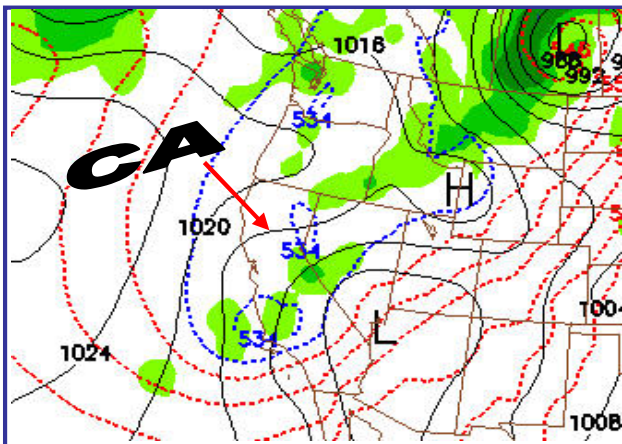
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By Matt Wanink & Chris Link

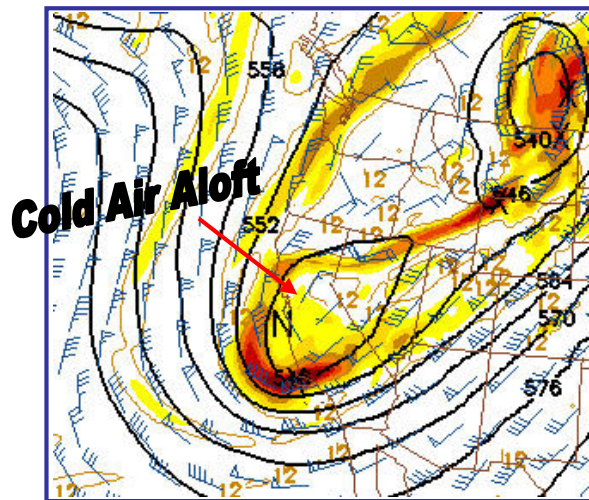
An unusually cold Gulf of Alaska trough will drop southward over California this weekend ushering in a cold airmass all across the region as temperatures run 10-20 degrees below normal. The unseasonably cool temperatures we have seen this May have not been seen since 1998 (the last moderate-strong El Nino). Saturday, Sunday and Monday mornings will have the chance of seeing **record low temperatures** with the coldest temperatures likely Sunday morning as the coldest air *aloft and at the surface* is present. Forecast models are indicating that temperatures may remain warm enough to thwart a frost risk due to partial cloud cover and winds. Due to the unusually cold airmass, if there are some breaks in the clouds and winds die off, we feel that the forecast models may be under forecasting this potentially record breaking cold air mass. It is possible that a few locations (Lake County, Sonoma County, Napa County, Paso Robles area, and Hames/San Antonio Valleys) could reach or even dip several degrees below freezing over the next three mornings if conditions are ideal. There is also the chance that temperatures could approach freezing with lows in the middle 30's for the Sacramento and Northern San Joaquin Valleys. Please stay tuned to the Western Weather Group weather forecasts for the latest information.

Friday morning's model runs continue to show a large pool of cold air over California (Blue Lines) Sunday morning. Sky conditions & winds will factor on how cold it becomes.

<<5AM Sunday Morning>>



12Z GFS Model (Surface)



12Z GFS Model (~18,000ft)