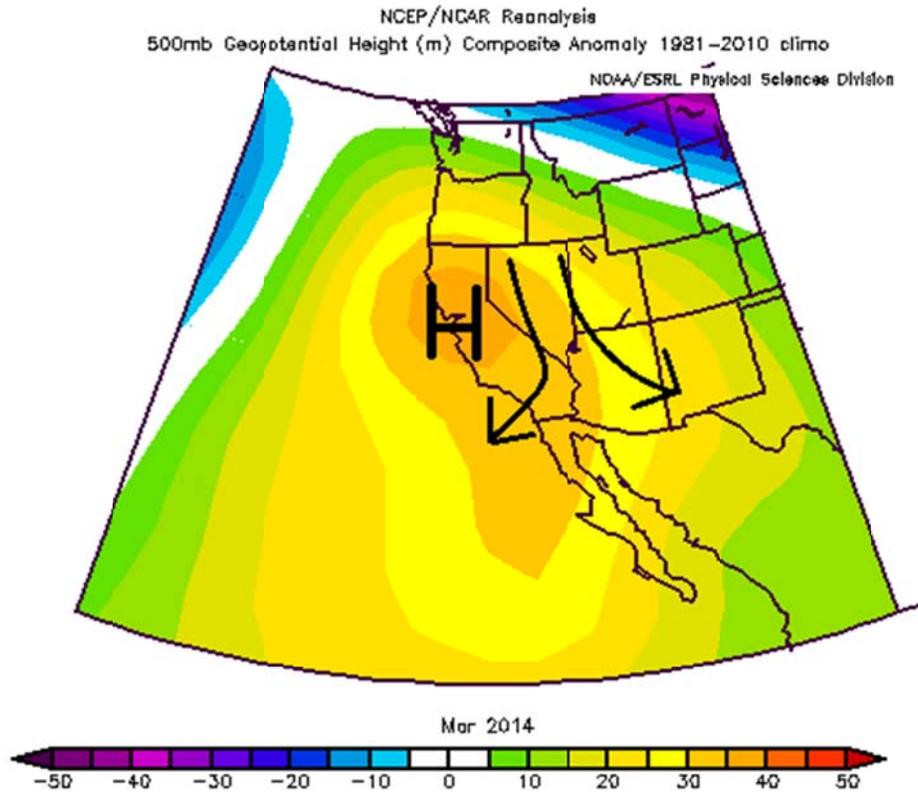


# March 2014 Climate Summary



Anomalous high pressure location for March depicted by 500 mb anomalies. Courtesy: NOAA/ESRL

The persistent weather pattern that resulted in warm and dry conditions in the Southwest this past winter continued into March. High pressure deflected the storm track well north of the area. The pattern finally shifted at the end of the month which allowed several Pacific systems to impact the area.

The month started off with cool conditions due to a trough that was briefly over the west. The trough was replaced on the 4<sup>th</sup> as high pressure redeveloped over the West. This allowed afternoon temperatures to rise into the 70's at the warmest locations. The high remained over the West Coast until the end of the month. Several dry cold fronts passed through as they dropped down the backside of the ridge. The main affects were some gusty winds and cooler temperatures. The strongest was on the 17<sup>th</sup> when the first hazardous weather advisory for the month was issued. The cooler air behind these fronts moderated quickly with highs rebounding to the upper 70's and low 80's at the lower elevations. Most locations saw their warmest readings on the afternoons of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

The month ended on an active note as the high was displaced which allowed the jet stream to bring several Pacific systems through the area. A vigorous area of low pressure crossed the Sierra Nevada on the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> destabilizing the atmosphere. Scattered thunderstorms developed by late morning and affected the area into the early evening. Precipitation amounts were generally light but several sites received over 0.10". A stronger thunderstorm dropped 0.32" in 30 minutes at the RWMC. A second system impacted the area on the 30<sup>th</sup> and was preceded by strong southwest winds. Measurable precipitation was recorded at most locations.

On an interesting note, The Climate Prediction Center issued an El Nino Watch for the Pacific Basin on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Although the development of El Nino is not certain, it could have significant effects on our weather beginning this fall. We will keep you updated on this potential development.

Below is data for some select locations...

<u>Station</u>	<u>Highest (°F)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lowest (°F)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Precipitation (in.)</u>
Meda 23 (Mercury)	76	25	38	18	0.05
Desert Rock Airport	80	25	38	18	0.04
Meda 05 (W5B)	79	25	23	19	0.08
Meda 40 (Rainer Mesa)	59	16	22	11	0.30
Meda 43 (Yucca Dry Lake)	77	24	26	20	0.17

**Hazardous Weather Notifications:**

A Wind Advisory was issued for March 17<sup>th</sup> from 1200 to 2000 PDT.  
A Lightning Alert was issued for March 26<sup>th</sup> from 1115 to 1700 PDT.  
A Wind Advisory was issued for March 29<sup>th</sup> from 1200 to March 30<sup>th</sup> to 0600 PDT.  
A Wind Advisory was issued for March 31<sup>st</sup> from 1200 to 2200 PDT.

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