



# The Outlook

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## Outlook

Warm temperatures with possible record highs and strong winds will continue through the weekend in Southern California and the Southwestern growing regions. A change in the weather pattern however is expected next week. Forecast guidance models have been consistent in bringing a cut-off low from the tropics into Baja and Southern California on Monday. This system is expected to linger off the coast into mid-week and has the potential to incorporate plenty of moisture from the ocean. This is a very difficult system to forecast not only because of its rarity but also the amount of moisture contained and track the system may take is very tricky even for seasoned forecasters. One potential bright spot is that this cut-off system will push out the high pressure ridge opening the storm track for much needed winter storms to reach California. We have been void of winter type storm systems since December which provide snow pack and water for the state and growers. At this point we will have to watch this system move in and wait to see which areas are impacted. That being said it does look like the strawberry crop (Valentine's day supplies) in Southern California are in the line of fire. This storm also looks to hit the area during the time frame when loading will be heavy. This could severely impact strawberry supplies for this time frame. As this system approaches and the high is pushed out strong winds (20-35mph) will impact the entire Southwestern region. The impact from this system in the desert region remains to be seen, with forecasts calling for a chance of rain next week. These desert stands have seen extremes all season (warm and cold) especially lately impacting growth cycles and rates in these fields. Overall texture and shelf life will be severely challenged in upcoming supplies. This has impacted all commodities and shippers in the region. Growers will be reaching for product leading to supply shortages and gaps moving forward. We will be following this system closely as it moves in and its impact on the various regions and crops.