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AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LAS VEGAS NV
932 AM PDT SAT JUL 2 2011

.SYNOPSIS...TODAY WILL BE VERY HOT UNDER MOSTLY CLEAR SKIES AS HIGH PRESSURE BUILDS OVER THE AREA. A CHANGE IS IN STORE BEGINNING SUNDAY AS SUBTROPICAL MOISTURE PUSHES INTO THE DESERT SOUTHWEST...BRINGING CHANCES FOR THUNDERSTORMS THROUGH MUCH OF NEXT WEEK. TEMPERATURES WILL COME DOWN SEVERAL DEGREES...BUT INCREASED HUMIDITY WILL MAKE IT FEEL MORE UNCOMFORTABLE.

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.UPDATE...SATELLITE LOOP SHOWS A PATCH OF MID LEVEL CLOUDS OVER SOUTH CENTRAL ARIZONA RIDING EAST SOUTHEAST FLOW ALOFT TOWARDS OUR CWFA. THIS IS ACCOUNTED FOR IN THE AFTERNOON SKY GRIDS...AND ALL ELSE LOOKS ON TRACK. NO UPDATE PLANNED THIS MORNING.

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.PREV DISCUSSION...
340 AM PDT SAT JUL 2 2011

.SHORT TERM...MODELS SIMILAR DEVELOPING H5 HIGH CENTER NEAR THE FOUR CORNERS TODAY...THEN CIRCULATION REMAINS NEAR THE FOUR CORNERS THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND. CONCERN TODAY WILL BE THE HOT TEMPERATURES AS HEIGHTS RISE UNDER EXPANDING RIDGE. H85/H7 TEMPERATURES BASED ON LOCAL STUDY AND BIAS CORRECTED GUIDANCE GIVES 111F FOR LAS VEGAS TODAY...WHICH FALLS ONE DEGREE SHY OF LOCAL EXCESSIVE HEAT CRITERIA. SINCE MORE PEOPLE WILL BE OUT AND ABOUT ON THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND...PLEASE TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID HEAT EXHAUSTION OR EVEN WORSE HEAT STROKE. FOR SUNDAY AND THE 4TH...CONCERN IS HOW QUICKLY AND HOW MUCH MOISTURE WILL ADVECT NORTHWARD INTO THE AREA FOR THUNDERSTORMS. GFS REMAINS MORE AGGRESSIVE THEN OTHER MODELS INDICATING A DEEPER MOISTURE SURGE WHICH BRINGS THE 1.5 INCH PRECIP WATER LINE AS FAR NORTH AS LAUGHLIN-BULLHEAD CITY MONDAY. 06Z NAM WAS DEFINITELY WETTER THEN THE 00Z RUN SO LEANED THIS PACKAGE TOWARD THE GFS. DEPENDING ON HOW FAST MOISTURE RAMPS UP...TIME HEIGHT SECTIONS FROM LAS VEGAS NORTHWARD INDICATE WEDGE OF DRIER AIR /INVERTED-V SOUNDINGS/ FOR POTENTIAL OF DRY LIGHTNING AND GUSTY WINDS WITH ANY STORMS SUNDAY. SOUTH OF LAS VEGAS STORMS WOULD BE WETTER DUE TO THE DEEPER MOISTURE. DID NOT CHANGE POPS ON MONDAY BUT DID LOWER THE HIGH TEMPERATURES DUE TO THE INCREASE IN CLOUD COVER AND MOISTURE.

.LONG TERM...OVERALL THE MODELS ARE IN DECENT AGREEMENT THROUGH NEXT WEEKEND WITH RESPECT TO THE BIG PICTURE. HIGH PRESSURE REMAINS SET UP NEAR THE FOUR CORNERS FOR THE PERIOD FROM LATE TUESDAY MORNING INTO WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. MAINLY MID-LEVEL MOISTURE IS EXPECTED TO BE IN PLACE ACROSS OUR AREA AND WITH THE HEATING OF THE DAY THIS SHOULD TRIGGER HIT AND MISS THUNDERSTORMS ACROSS THE AREA. AT THIS POINT WE LOOK TO BE WORKING WITH WHATEVER MOISTURE GETS ADVECTED IN EARLIER IN THE WEEK AND WITH NO REAL FOCUS SHOWING UP FOR NOW...I HAVE GENERALLY KEPT IN HIGHER POPS OVER THE MOUNTAINS WITH LOWER POPS IN THE VALLEYS.

BY THURSDAY INTO NEXT WEEKEND THE MAIN FEATURE TO WATCH WILL BE AN UPPER LEVEL TROUGH FORECAST TO MOVE THROUGH THE PAC NW. THIS FEATURE MAY HELP TO ORGANIZE OR BETTER FOCUS CONVECTION ESPECIALLY ACROSS THE NORTHERN CWFA AS IT MOVES BY. AS A RESULT...ACTIVITY MAY HAVE A HARDER TIME WINDING DOWN AT NIGHT...ESPECIALLY ON THURSDAY. ALTHOUGH

SOME DRYING MAY TRY TO TAKE PLACE ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST CWFA BY FRIDAY IT APPEARS THAT ANY REAL DOWNWARD TREND IN CONVECTION LOOKS TO HOLD OFF UNTIL NEXT SATURDAY WHEN THE TROUGH MOVES INLAND AND WESTERLY FLOW BECOMES MORE PRONOUNCED ACROSS OUR AREA BRINGING IN DRIER AND MORE STABLE AIR. WITH THE STEERING FLOW TURNING MORE SOUTHWEST IN THIS PERIOD...CONVECTION THAT DOES DEVELOP OVER THE SOUTHERN SIERRA AND WHITE MTNS WOULD GET PUSHED EASTWARD ACROSS OUR AREA.

OVERALL TEMPS WERE KEPT CLOSE TO NORMAL...WITH VARIATIONS UP AND DOWN DRIVEN BY CLOUD COVER AND THE AMOUNT OF MOISTURE AROUND FROM DAY TO DAY. THE MAIN THREATS WITH STORMS WILL INCLUDE GUSTY WINDS AS WELL AS LOCALLY HEAVY DOWNPOURS.

.AVIATION...FOR MCCARRAN...MAINLY LIGHT WINDS THROUGH SATURDAY EVENING WITH A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE LATE AFTERNOON AND EVENING FROM THE SOUTHEAST AND EVENTUALLY FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTHWEST. LITTLE IN THE WAY OF CLOUD COVER EXPECTED THROUGH SATURDAY EVENING. SUNDAY WILL SEE CUMULUS CLOUDS FORM AS MONSOON MOISTURE MAKES ITS WAY INTO THE AREA. THERE WILL BE A SLIGHT CHANCE FOR HIGH BASED THUNDERSTORMS IN THE VALLEY SUNDAY WITH A BETTER CHANCE OVER LOCAL MOUNTAINS. THE PEACH SPRINGS AND MORMON MESA CORRIDORS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THUNDERSTORMS SUNDAY.

FOR THE REST OF SOUTHERN NEVADA...NORTHWEST ARIZONA...AND SOUTHEAST CALIFORNIA...LIGHT WINDS FOLLOWING LOCAL DIURNAL PATTERNS TO OCCUR AREA WIDE THROUGH THROUGH SATURDAY AFTERNOON ALONG WITH MOSTLY CLEAR SKIES. SUNDAY WILL SEE CUMULUS CLOUDS FORM AS MONSOON MOISTURE MAKES ITS WAY INTO THE AREA. AREAS EAST OF THE COLORADO RIVER WILL SEE A DECENT CHANCE FOR AFTERNOON THUNDERSTORMS SUNDAY WHILE AREAS WEST OF IT IN CLARK AND LINCOLN COUNTIES WILL SEE A LOWER CHANCE OF THUNDERSTORMS AND THOSE THAT DO FORM WILL BE HIGH BASED AND LIKELY TO PRODUCE STRONGER OUTFLOW WINDS.

.FIRE WEATHER...THERE WILL BE A SLIGHT CHANCE OF DRY LIGHTNING OVER SOUTHERN PORTIONS OF AZ ZONE 102 EARLY SUNDAY MORNING...WITH CHANCES SPREADING NORTH AND WEST TO CA ZONES 228...NV ZONES 461 465 AND 466 SUNDAY AND SUNDAY NIGHT. THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HOW MUCH COVERAGE OF DRY LIGHTNING MAY BE SEEN...WITH THE HIGHER ELEVATIONS BIASED TOWARD WET STORMS AND THE LOWER ELEVATIONS BIASED TOWARD DRY STORMS. WILL HOLD OFF ON THE ISSUANCE OF A FIRE WEATHER WATCH FOR NOW...BUT THIS NEEDS TO BE MONITORED CLOSELY.

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.VEF WATCHES/WARNINGS/ADVISORIES...

NV...NONE.

AZ...NONE.

CA...NONE.

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MORGAN/PIERCE/STACHELSKI

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