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AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LAS VEGAS NV

234 AM PST SAT DEC 31 2011

.SYNOPSIS...DRY CONDITIONS WILL CONTINUE THIS WEEKEND AND THROUGH AT LEAST THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK WITH TEMPERATURES REMAINING ABOVE NORMAL. A WEAK COLD FRONT CROSSING THROUGH THE REGION TODAY WILL BRING GUSTY NORTH WINDS TO THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER VALLEY THROUGH SUNDAY.

.SHORT TERM...A RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE WILL BUILD OVER THE AREA DURING THE WEEKEND RESULTING IN DRY CONDITIONS WITH ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES. A NORTHERLY SURFACE GRADIENT WILL ALSO DEVELOP BEHIND A WEAK COLD FRONT...LEADING TO GUSTY WINDS DOWN THE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY. LOCAL GUSTS AROUND 30 MPH CAN BE EXPECTED AT TIMES TODAY AND SUNDAY FROM THE LAUGHLIN/BULLHEAD CITY AREA DOWN TO NEEDLES. ALTHOUGH WINDS WILL TEMPORARILY SUBSIDE THIS EVENING...THERE COULD STILL BE SOME GUSTS TO 20 MPH OVERNIGHT. THE RIDGE WILL FLATTEN MONDAY AS A SHORTWAVE TROUGH PASSES THROUGH THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. NOT MUCH WILL CHANGE OVER OUR AREA HOWEVER WITH DRY CONDITIONS AND ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES CONTINUING. THE MAIN DIFFERENCE WILL BE LIGHTER WINDS DOWN THE COLORADO RIVER.

.LONG TERM...TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY...TUESDAY WILL SEE RIDGING REBUILDING OVER THE WESTERN STATES IN THE WAKE OF THE TROUGH THAT HAD FLATTENED IT EARLIER. THE RIDGE WILL HOLD SWAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY. THIS WILL CONTINUE THE DRY CONDITIONS AND THE WARMER THAN NORMAL TEMPERATURES. COME THURSDAY CHANGE COMES INTO THE PICTURE. MODELS AGREE ON A TROUGH DROPPING INTO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND FLATTENING THE RIDGE. MODELS DIFFER IN THE DEPTH OF THE TROUGH. THE GFS STILL SLIDES THE TROUGH/Front INTO UTAH AND DRAGS THE FRONT THROUGH OUR AREA FRIDAY. THE ECMWF MEANWHILE HAS A DEEPER SYSTEM THAT DESCENDS INTO THE WESTERN GREAT BASIN FROM THE NORTH AND FORMS A LOW OVER OUR AREA. SO FAR NEITHER MODELS SCENARIO DEPICTS MUCH MOISTURE OR PRECIPITATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE SYSTEM. IT APPEARS THE MAIN CONCERN WILL BE WITH THE WINDS AND THE TEMPERATURE DROP FRIDAY ASSOCIATED WITH THE SURFACE FRONT. HAVE KEPT IN THE STRONGER NORTH WINDS BEHIND THE FRONT. ALSO JUST TWEAKED THE TEMPERATURES THAT SHOULD DROP 8 DEGREES OR MORE FROM THURSDAY TO SATURDAY TO BRING TEMPERATURES TO AT OR BELOW NORMAL BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK. &&

.AVIATION...FOR MCCARRAN...LIGHT WINDS ARE EXPECTED THROUGH SUNDAY THAT WILL FOLLOW THE USUAL FAIR WEATHER PATTERN OF SOUTH TO SOUTHWEST AT NIGHT FOLLOWED BY LIGHT AND VARIABLE LATE MORNING THROUGH LATE AFTERNOON. CLOUD COVER WILL BE VARYING AMOUNTS OF HIGH LEVEL CIRRUS AOA 25K FEET.

FOR THE REST OF SOUTHERN NEVADA...NORTHWEST ARIZONA...AND SOUTHEAST CALIFORNIA...WINDS WILL STAY BELOW 10KT AND FOLLOW LOCAL DIURNAL PATTERNS THROUGH SUNDAY. STRONGER NORTH WINDS WILL OCCUR IN THE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY THIS AFTERNOON. CLOUD COVER WILL BE VARYING AMOUNTS OF HIGH LEVEL CIRRUS AOA 25K FEET.

HARRISON/JACQUES