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AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LAS VEGAS NV  
243 AM PST SUN JAN 1 2012

.SYNOPSIS...HIGH PRESSURE WILL REMAIN IN CONTROL OF THE WEATHER THROUGH AT LEAST MID WEEK LEADING TO MOSTLY CLEAR SKIES AND ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES.

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.SHORT TERM...TODAY THROUGH TUESDAY NIGHT...THE AREA WILL BE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE WITH MOSTLY CLEAR SKIES AND ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES. A WEAK SHORTWAVE TROUGH MOVING THROUGH THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LATE MONDAY AND MONDAY NIGHT WILL FLATTEN THE RIDGE SOME BUT THIS WILL HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON THE SENSIBLE WEATHER. WITH SURFACE HIGH PRESSURE PERSISTING OVER NORTHERN UTAH...LOCALLY BREEZY NORTH WINDS CAN BE EXPECTED ONCE AGAIN TODAY IN THE LAUGHLIN/BULLHEAD CITY AREA.

.LONG TERM...WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY...RIDGING WILL BE OVER THE AREA AT THE START OF THE EXTENDED PERIOD WEDNESDAY. THIS WILL CONTINUE THE DRY AND ABOVE NORMAL TEMPERATURES. THE RIDGE GETS FLATTENED ON THURSDAY AS A SHORTWAVE PASSES THROUGH THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANOTHER WAVE FURTHER SOUTH. THIS WILL HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON OUR SENSIBLE WEATHER EXCEPT FOR INCREASED CLOUD COVER. THE NEXT SYSTEM HAS DIVERGENT SOLUTIONS AMONG THE MODELS. THE GFS HAS THE TROUGH FROM THE PASSING WELL TO THE NORTHEAST OF THE AREA LEAVING US IN NORTHWEST FLOW. HOWEVER THE GFS ENSEMBLE MEAN LOOKS MORE LIKE THE ECMWF AND IN HAVING A DEEPER TROUGH PASSING THROUGH. THE ECMWF HAS TRENDED TOWARDS HAVING THE DEEPER AND STRONGER DEPICTION AND LATEST RUN HAS BEEN SHIFTING IT TRACK MORE EASTWARD. LEANED THE FORECAST MORE TOWARDS THE MORE RELIABLE ECMWF IN HANDLING THE LONG RANGE. HAVE KEPT IN THE STRONGER NORTH WINDS FOR SATURDAY WHEN THE FRONT PASSES THROUGH. WHAT LITTLE CHANCES FOR PRECIPITATION WE WILL HAVE WITH THIS SYSTEMS FROM THE NORTHWEST WILL OCCUR IN LINCOLN AND MAYBE MOHAVE COUNTIES. THE MAIN IMPACTS WILL BE A NEAR 10 DEGREE DROP IN TEMPERATURES FROM THURSDAY TO SATURDAY...AND THE POTENTIAL FOR BREEZY OR STRONGER WINDS. THERE IS STILL UNCERTAINTY IN THE FORECAST DUE TO MODEL DIFFERENCES AND CHANGING OUTLOOKS.

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.AVIATION...FOR MCCARRAN...LIGHT WINDS FOLLOWING FAIR WEATHER PATTERN OF SOUTHWEST AT NIGHT AND LIGHT AND VARIABLE DURING THE 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 MONDAY MORNING. LOCALIZED NORTH WINDS DOWN THE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY FROM LAUGHLIN TO NEAR NEEDLES WILL REMAIN AT 15-25 KTS. CLOUD COVER WILL BE VARYING AMOUNTS OF HIGH LEVEL CIRRUS AOA 25K FEET.

HARRISON/JACQUES