

# **The Effects of Agriculture and Snow Impurities on Climate and Air Pollution in California**

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## **Abstract.**

This paper discusses the effects of irrigation and albedo change due to agriculture on California climate and air pollution and the effects of black carbon and soildust impurities within snow on California climate and snowmelt. High-resolution irrigation, landuse, soil, albedo, and emissions data were used with the nested global-through-urban GATOR-GCMOM model to examine these issues. With respect to agriculture, results suggest that irrigation alone increased nighttime temperatures but decreased daytime temperatures to a greater extent causing a net decrease in near-surface air temperatures averaged over irrigated and nonirrigated land in California and parts of Nevada by about 0.03 K during August 2006. The conversion of native land in the 1800s to agriculture was found to increase the surface albedo of the northern and middle San Joaquin Valley and to decrease the albedo of the southernmost valley, resulting in a net cooling over land due to irrigation plus agriculture of 0.04 K. Maximum local decreases in August-averaged temperatures were about 0.7 K, occurring in the San Joaquin Valley. Since agriculture alone caused a net summer cooling of the San Joaquin Valley, observed historic warming of the valley may be due to other factors, such as anthropogenic greenhouse gas and particle buildup. Irrigation from agriculture also increased land-averaged soil moisture by about 5%, the relative humidity by about 0.4%, cloud optical depth by about 5.5%, cloud fraction by about 2.9%, drizzle by about 5.5%, and downward thermal-infrared radiation by about 0.16%. Irrigation reduced primary pollutant concentrations when precipitation or drizzle was imminent or present but increased such pollution when precipitation was absent. Thus, in polluted, irrigated regions with low rainfall, such as eastern Los Angeles, daytime and spray irrigation should be replaced with nighttime and subterranean or drip irrigation to the extent that this is not already done, to minimize evaporation and the positive feedback of evaporative cooling to air pollution. Reducing evaporation has the collateral benefit of increasing water available for a growing population. Absorption of solar radiation by black carbon and soildust in snow during February reduced land (snow plus nonsnow) albedo by about 0.3%, reduced land-averaged snow depth by about 0.5%, increased ground temperatures over land by about 0.11 K, increased soil moisture by about 0.07%, and increased the relative humidity by about 0.04% over land. These results imply that impurities in snow decrease water supply by increasing sublimation and hasten meltwater release. Although the effects of impurities on snow melting should be greater in April than in February due to warmer temperatures and greater solar radiation in April, snow area is much lower in April than in February, so newly-deposited impurities from Asia may have a lesser aggregate impact on snowmelt by the time they arrive in April, than local impurities, which are deposited over a larger snow area and over a longer

period. This study implies that efforts to reduce both local and Asian particle emissions will slightly alleviate the effect of climate change on early release of meltwater. Such particle reductions will have the additional benefit of improving human health.

## **Executive Summary**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project was to examine the effects of agriculture and impurities in snow on California climate and air quality. These issues are important because observed global warming to date (approximately 0.75-0.8 K in the global average since 1850) is attributable primarily to warming by greenhouse gases and absorbing aerosol particles offset by cooling due to reflective aerosol particles. Regional changes in temperature, though, are also influenced by landuse change, such as conversion to agriculture, and by pollutants depositing to snow. Agriculture and pollutants in snow may also affect local weather, air pollution, and water supply. The purpose of this project was to quantify the short-term effects of agriculture and snow impurities on climate and other properties.

**Project Objectives:** The objectives of this project were to carry out baseline and sensitivity numerical experiments to quantify the effects of agriculture and snow impurities. Simulations were run for August 2006 to examine the effects of agriculture and February 1999 to examine the effects of impurities in snow. The model used was GATOR-GCMOM, a nested, global-through-urban-scale gas, aerosol, transport, radiation, general circulation, mesoscale, and ocean model. Emission data used for the model were highly resolved. The model treated the evolution of aerosol particles into clouds and precipitation from physical principles and radiative transfer through clouds, aerosol particles, gases, and snow.

To study the effects of agriculture, separate simulations examining the effects of irrigation alone and irrigation plus albedo change due to agriculture were run. To study the effects of impurities, absorption and scattering by black carbon and soildust inclusions in snow were accounted for. These impurities entered snow by wet and dry deposition following long-range and local transport. However, the long-range versus local contributions of the effects in California were not isolated.

**Project Outcomes:** Results from the simulations helped to clarify some previously unanswered questions about the effects of agriculture on California climate and air quality. First, conversion to agriculture since the 1800s may have resulted in an albedo increase of the northern and middle San Joaquin Valley but an albedo decrease of the southern valley. This result makes sense considering that, in the 1800s, the northern and middle valley was mostly low-albedo rangeland and marshland and the southern valley below Lake Tulare was mostly high-albedo mostly desert. The result also suggests that, when only albedo is considered, agriculture should slightly cool near-surface air temperatures during the day. Irrigation should also cool air during the day but warm it at night.

From the simulations, it was found that, indeed, irrigation alone decreased near-surface air temperatures by about 0.03 K and irrigation plus albedo changes decreased temperatures by about 0.04 K in the monthly average over all irrigated plus nonirrigated land. Nighttime temperatures increased while daytime temperatures decreased to a greater extent. Maximum local decreases in August temperatures were about 0.7 K, occurring in the San Joaquin Valley. Irrigation increased soil moisture by an average over land of about 5%, the relative humidity by about 0.4%, cloud optical depth by about

5.5%, cloud fraction by about 2.9%, drizzle by about 5.5%, and downward thermal-infrared radiation by about 0.16%.

Irrigation reduced primary pollutant concentrations when precipitation or drizzle was imminent or present but increased such pollution when precipitation was absent. This latter result is consistent with a previous study that found that an increase in soil moisture in Los Angeles increased air pollution there in the absence of rain.

With respect to the snow simulations, absorption of solar radiation by black carbon and soildust in snow reduced snow- plus nonsnow-covered land albedo during February by about 0.3%, reduced land-averaged snow depth by about 0.5%, increased ground temperatures over land by about 0.11 K, increased soil moisture by about 0.07%, and increased the relative humidity by about 0.04%. Impurities in snow were found to decrease available water by increasing sublimation and to hasten meltwater release by increasing soil moisture.

**Conclusions:** Since agriculture may have caused a net increase in albedo and a net cooling of the San Joaquin Valley, the valley's observed historic warming may be due to anthropogenic pollutants rather than albedo change. Recently, the net effect of scattering plus absorbing aerosol particles was shown to cool the valley. As such, observed warming may be attributable to greenhouse gases less the net cooling effect of aerosol particles.

Irrigation from agriculture also affected clouds and moisture, reducing the intensity of total and ultraviolet sunlight reaching the ground.

Feedbacks of irrigation to air pollution depend on whether irrigation enhances rainfall. When it does, pollution decreases due to enhanced pollution removal by wet deposition. When irrigation does not enhance rainfall, irrigation's main effect is to stabilize the air by cooling the ground. Enhanced stability reduces vertical turbulence and horizontal wind speeds, thereby inhibiting air pollutants from mixing vertically and horizontally, respectively, increasing pollution concentrations.

The addition of absorbing impurities to snow warms the snow, hastening meltwater release and increasing sublimation (decreasing water available for runoff). Although the effects of impurities on snow melting and sublimation should be greater in April than in February due to warmer temperatures and greater solar radiation in April, snow area in April is much lower than in February, so newly-deposited impurities from Asia may have a lesser aggregate impact on snowmelt by the time they arrive in April, than local impurities, which are deposited over a larger snow area and for period starting long before April.

**Recommendations:** The numerical model results here are a step in the long process of trying to understand better the effects of landuse and pollution changes on climate and air quality. Whereas, the signs of the changes due to agriculture and impurities in snow found here appear robust, the magnitudes are more uncertain. Such uncertainty can be reduced by improving model resolution, initialization, treatment of physical, chemical, and dynamical processes, and input datasets. Understanding the effects examined here would also benefit from additional measurements of impurities in snow and meteorology at different distances from irrigated fields.

The results of this study imply that irrigation from agriculture can enhance air pollution in locations, such as Los Angeles, where drizzle and other forms of precipitation are rare during the summer. Since Riverside County, for example, is a

heavily-polluted airshed that also has substantial agriculture, one recommendation from this study would be to replace daytime and spray irrigation with nighttime and subterranean or drip irrigation to the extent that this is not already done, to minimize evaporation and the positive feedback of evaporative cooling on air pollution buildup.

This study also demonstrated that absorbing air pollution particles impact snowmelt, snow albedo, and ground temperatures, even in February. As such, efforts to reduce particle emissions, including both local and Asian emissions, will help to alleviate slightly the effect of climate change on early release of meltwater.

**Benefits to California:** This study examined effects in California and parts of Nevada. It provided answers to several previously unanswered questions about the effects of agriculture and snow impurities on California climate and air pollution and provided recommendations of methods to ameliorate the effects. If taken, the recommendations could have collateral benefits. For example, reducing absorbing particle (e.g., soot) emissions, improves human health as well as reducing impacts on snowmelt. Similarly, reducing evaporation during irrigation not only reduces air pollution in rain-free areas but also increases water available for a growing population.

## 1. Introduction

Climate and air quality in California are undergoing changes that are expected to increase in the future. In order to focus regulation correctly, it is important to attribute accurately the changes to their causes. Whereas data analysis shows correlation between a hypothesized cause and an effect, only numerical modeling can attribute an effect to a specific cause. The purpose of this study is to use a numerical model to examine the effects of agriculture (irrigation and albedo change) and of pollutants in snow on California climate and air quality. First, previous work on these two topics is discussed.

### 1.A. *Effects of Agriculture*

The replacement of virgin landscape with agriculture results in several sources of climate change: an increase in irrigation, a change in surface albedo, a change in the storage of carbon in the land, and the emissions of climate- and air-pollution-relevant gases and particles. Such emissions occur during the production and use of fertilizers and during cultivation, harvesting, and transport of agricultural food products. In this paper, only the effects of irrigation and albedo change on regional climate and air quality are examined.

Irrigation affects soil moisture, which affects ground temperatures, vertical temperature profiles, and evaporation rates. Temperature profiles affect boundary layer depths, air pressures, wind speed, and wind direction. Evaporation affects the relative humidity, cloud formation, and precipitation. The effects of soil moisture on planetary boundary layer depth circulation patterns, and/or clouds have been studied by *Zhang and Anthes* [1982], *Ookouchi et al.* [1984], *Mahfouf et al.* [1987], *Lanicci et al.* [1987], *Cuenca et al.* [1996], *Emori* [1998], *Jacobson* [1999], *Fennessy and Shukla* [1999], and *Martilli* [2002], among others. The sensitivity of global meteorology to soil moisture variations has been studied by *Walker and Rowntree* [1977], *Rind* [1982], *Mintz* [1984], and *Schar et al.* [1999], among others.

On an urban scale, *Jacobson* [1999] examined the effect of soil moisture on air pollution particles and gases, temperatures, and winds in Los Angeles. The study did not consider feedbacks of soil moisture to clouds and precipitation. In the absence of cloud feedbacks, decreasing soil moisture increased temperatures between the surface and 600 hPa, increased near-surface wind speeds, but decreased near-surface pollutant concentrations over two days. Increasing soil moisture had the opposite effect. Slower wind speeds, associated with high soil moisture contents, delayed times of peak ozone

mixing ratios in the eastern Los Angeles basin. Faster wind speeds, associated with low soil moisture contents, advanced times of peak mixing ratios. High soil moisture resulted in thinner boundary layer depths, increasing average near-surface primary pollutant concentrations. Low soil moisture resulted in thicker boundary layer depths, decreasing average concentrations.

*Barnston and Schickedanz* [1984] concluded from data that irrigation from 1931-1970 over the southern Great Plains of the United States was correlated with a decrease in surface temperature and an increase in precipitation. In a modeling study, *Segal et al.* [1997] found a continental-averaged increase in average rainfall due to irrigation in North America over the last 100 years. *Moore and Rojstaczer* [2001], however, suggested through data analysis that irrigation-induced rainfall over the Great Plains of the United States between 1950 and 1997 was minor in comparison with natural factors affecting rainfall. They attributed the difference between results of *Barnston and Schickedanz* [1984] and their own study in part to general climate change, rather than irrigation change.

*Christy et al.* [2006] analyzed data and suggested that temperatures in the San Joaquin Valley of California increased at a rate of  $0.07^{\circ}\text{C}$  per decade from 1910-2003 whereas temperatures in the Sierra Nevada Mountains decreased at  $-0.02^{\circ}\text{C}$  per decade. They attributed the difference to a decrease in the albedo of the valley relative to the mountains caused by irrigation during that period that resulted in greener vegetation. *Snyder et al.* [2006], on the other hand, who compared results from four regional climate models applied to the western United States, found that irrigation combined with landcover change decreased surface temperature in three out of four models tested. Similarly, *Adegoke et al.* [2003] found that combining increases in irrigation with land-use changes cooled the ground. *Lobell et al.* [2006] examined the effect of changes in irrigation, tillage, and crop productivity on global temperatures. They found that irrigation resulted in a global cooling, whereas increasing tillage caused a decrease in surface albedo and a slight global warming. The decrease in temperature due to greater irrigation outweighed the increase in temperature due to higher albedo. *Boucher et al.* [2004] found that increasing irrigation without a change in landuse cooled the ground.

In this study, the effects of irrigation and albedo change due to agriculture on California climate and air quality are examined.

### *1.B. Effects of Soot and Soildust*

Fossil-fuel soot consists primarily of black carbon (BC), organic matter (OM), and lesser amounts of sulfate and other material. Black carbon warms the air directly by absorbing solar radiation, converting the solar radiation into internal energy (raising the temperature of the soot), and emitting, at the higher temperature, thermal-infrared radiation, which is absorbed selectively by air molecules. The energized air molecules, which have long lifetimes, are transported to the large scale, including to the global scale. The soot particles, which are removed within days to weeks by rainout, washout, and dry deposition, do not travel so far as do the air molecules, but can travel hemispherically or globally under the right conditions.

Since soot particles absorb solar radiation, they prevent that radiation from reaching the ground, thereby cooling the ground immediately below them during the day. During the day and night, BC absorbs the Earth's thermal-infrared radiation, a portion of which is redirected back to the ground, warming the ground. In sum, soot particles create three major types of vertical temperature gradients (a) a daytime gradient in the immediate presence of soot where the atmosphere warms and the ground cools, (b) a nighttime gradient in the immediate presence of soot where the atmosphere warms and

the ground warms, (c) a large-scale day- and nighttime gradient in the absence of soot but presence of advected air heated by soot where the atmosphere warms and the ground temperature does not change. In only one of these cases, which covers only a portion of the globe and only during the day, does soot cool the ground. These three types of vertical temperature gradients set in motion feedbacks to meteorology, clouds, other aerosol components, and radiation that affect temperatures further.

When BC deposits to a surface, such as snow, it warms the surface by absorbing solar radiation. The heating melts snow, reducing snow depth and reflectivity. Soildust is a weaker solar absorber but is often present in greater concentrations than is black carbon. When soildust deposits to snow, it also absorbs sunlight, melting snow, reducing snow depth and reflectivity.

Several studies have reported measurements of black carbon in snow [e.g., Warren, 1982; 1984; Clarke and Noone, 1985; Chylek *et al.*, 1987; Noone and Clarke, 1988; Warren and Clarke, 1990; Grenfell *et al.*, 1994; 2002]. Other studies have modeled the albedo of snow containing BC inclusions [e.g., Warren and Wiscombe, 1980; 1985; Chylek *et al.*, 1983; Warren, 1984; Aoki *et al.*, 2000], the albedo of sea ice containing BC inclusions [Light *et al.*, 1998], and the optical properties of ice or snow containing other inclusions [e.g., Higuchi and Nagoshi, 1977; Gribbon, 1979; Clark and Lucey, 1984; Woo and Dubreuil, 1985; Podgorny and Grenfell, 1996]. Warren and Wiscombe [1980], for example, found that a concentration of 15 ng/g of soot in snow might reduce the albedo of snow by about 1 percent.

A third, recent set of studies has examined the effect on global climate of albedo changes due to soot in snow. Hansen and Nazarenko [2003] calculated, by prescribing changes in surface albedos, that BC absorption in snow and sea ice, alone, might cause 0.17 K of the observed global warming to date. Jacobson [2004] performed global simulations in which the time-dependent spectral albedos and emissivities over snow and sea ice were predicted with a radiative transfer solution, rather than prescribed. The model treated the cycling of size-resolved BC+OM between emission and removal by dry deposition and precipitation to snow, sea ice, and other surfaces. Particles entered size-resolved clouds and precipitation by nucleation scavenging and aerosol-hydrometeor coagulation. Precipitation brought BC to the surface, where internally- and externally-mixed BC in snow and sea ice affected albedo and emissivity through radiative transfer. The 10-year averaged incremental warming due to absorption of fossil-fuel plus biofuel soot in snow and sea ice was +0.06 K with a modeled range of +0.03 to +0.11 K. BC was calculated to reduce snow and sea ice albedo by about 0.4% in the global average and 1% in the Northern Hemisphere. The globally-averaged modeled BC concentration in snow and sea ice from all sources was about 5 ng/g; that in rainfall was about 22 ng/g. About 98% of BC removal from the atmosphere was due to precipitation; the rest, to dry deposition. Hansen *et al.* [2005] re-estimated the effect of snow albedo changes due to BC on surface temperatures as +0.065 K. Flanner *et al.* [2006] estimate the climate response of biomass plus biofuel plus fossil-fuel BC as +0.1 K (with low forest fire emissions) to +0.15 K (high forest fire emissions), With 80% of the BC in the low-fire case being due to fossil-plus biofuels, the resulting warming due to these sources was about +0.08 K.

Black carbon and soildust in snow in the Sierra Nevada Mountains can originate locally or from Asia. Some measurement and modeling studies have shown that pollution outflow from Asia is maximum around April [e.g., Goldstein *et al.*, 2004; Park *et al.*, 2005]. Asian aerosol particles appear at sea level in the U.S. primarily during April but aerosol mass at elevated mountain sites in the western U.S. may be present all year around [VanCuren *et al.*, 2005]. VanCuren and Cahill [2002] similarly found that Asian

pollution in North America peaked in spring at 500-3000 m above sea level in concentrations between 0.2 and 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  and *Roberts et al.* [2006] found Asian aerosols in stratified layers between 500 and 7500 m above sea level. The composition of Asian particle pollution has been estimated in one study as 30% mineral, 28% organic compounds, 4% black carbon, 10% sulfate, <5% nitrate and <1% sea salt [*Van Curen, 2003*]. Asian dust is thought to comprise about 10-15% of fine particle mass at elevated sites in the Western U.S. [*Liu et al., 2003*].

In this study, the effects of black carbon and soildust absorption in snow on ground temperatures, soil moisture, snow depth, reflectivity, the relative humidity and other parameters are examined. The study accounts for the long-range and local transport of soildust and black carbon but does not isolate the long ranges versus local contributions. The simulations were carried out for February 1999. Although, more black carbon and soildust travel from Asia to North America in April than in February, snow depths and snow areas in California are greater in February than in April. For example, the climatological mean snow depth at Mammoth Lakes is 30 inches in February and 9 inches in April. That at Sagehen Creek is 41 inches in February and 21 inches in April. That at Yosemite is 9 inches in February and 2 inches in April. That at Sierra City is 21.3 inches in February and 7.6 inches in April [*Western Regional Climate Center, 2006*]. As such, soildust and black carbon coming from Asia in April fall over a smaller surface area of snow than does local soildust and black carbon in February. On the other hand, incident solar radiation and temperatures are greater in April than in February, so the same level of impurities in snow should cause more melting per unit area of snow in April than in February. Because the simulations here were carried out in February, they may underestimate the effect of impurities on the melt rate.

## **2. Description of the Model**

The model used for this study was GATOR-GCMOM, a parallelized and one-way-nested global-through-urban scale Gas, Aerosol, Transport, Radiation, General Circulation, Mesoscale, and Ocean Model [*Jacobson, 1997a,b; 2001a,b; 2002a; 2004, 2006*]. The model treated time-dependent gas, aerosol, cloud, radiative, dynamical, ocean, and transport processes.

### *2.A. Atmospheric Dynamical and Transport Processes*

On the global scale, the model solved the hydrostatic momentum equation and the thermodynamic energy equation with the potential-entrophy, mass, and energy-conserving scheme of *Arakawa and Lamb* [1981]. In nested regional domains, the solution scheme conserved entrophy, mass, and kinetic energy [*Lu and Turco, 1995*]. Dynamical schemes on all domains used spherical and sigma-pressure coordinates in the horizontal and vertical, respectively. Transport of gases (including water vapor) and aerosol particles was solved with the scheme of *Walcek and Aleksic* [1998] using modeled online winds and vertical diffusion coefficients, determined by the 2.5 order turbulence closure of *Mellor and Yamada* [1982].

### *2.B. Gas processes*

Gas processes included emission, photochemistry, advection, turbulence, cloud convection of gases, nucleation, washout, dry deposition, and condensation onto and dissolution into aerosol particles, clouds, and precipitation. Gases affected solar and thermal-IR radiation, aerosol formation, and cloud evolution, all of which fed back to meteorology. Gas photochemistry was solved with SMVGEAR II [*Jacobson, 1998b*]. The chemical mechanism for this study included 143 gases, 282 kinetic reactions, and 36 photolysis reactions.

### 2.C. Aerosol Processes

For the present application, aerosol processes were treated with a single size distribution consisting of 12 size bins ranging from 0.002 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter, and 16 aerosol components per bin (Table 1). The model is generalized though, so that any number of discrete, interacting aerosol size distributions can be treated and used for cloud development [Jacobson, 2003]. The aerosol size bin structure was the moving-center structure, whereby bin edges were fixed but bin centers moved in diameter space due to changes in particle size [Jacobson, 1997a]. Parameters treated prognostically in each size bin included particle number concentration and individual component mole concentration. Single-particle volume was calculated assuming particles contained a solution and nonsolution component, as in Jacobson [2002b], which also describes most numerical techniques used for solving aerosol physical and chemical processes.

**Table 1.** Aerosol and hydrometeor size distributions treated in the model and the chemical constituents present in each size bin of each size distribution.

Aerosol	Cloud / Precipitation Liquid	Cloud / Precipitation Ice	Cloud / Precipitation Graupel
Internally Mixed (IM)			
BC	BC	BC	BC
POM	POM	POM	POM
SOM	SOM	SOM	SOM
H <sub>2</sub> O(aq)-hydrated	H <sub>2</sub> O(aq)-hydrated	H <sub>2</sub> O(aq)-hydrated	H <sub>2</sub> O(aq)-hydrated
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (aq)	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (aq)	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (aq)	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (aq)
HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>
SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>
NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>
Cl <sup>-</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>
H <sup>+</sup>	H <sup>+</sup>	H <sup>+</sup>	H <sup>+</sup>
NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>
NH <sub>4</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> (s)	NH <sub>4</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> (s)	NH <sub>4</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> (s)	NH <sub>4</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> (s)
(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (s)	(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (s)	(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (s)	(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (s)
Na <sup>+</sup> (K <sup>+</sup> ,Mg <sup>2+</sup> ,Ca <sup>2+</sup> )	Na <sup>+</sup> (K <sup>+</sup> ,Mg <sup>2+</sup> ,Ca <sup>2+</sup> )	Na <sup>+</sup> (K <sup>+</sup> ,Mg <sup>2+</sup> ,Ca <sup>2+</sup> )	Na <sup>+</sup> (K <sup>+</sup> ,Mg <sup>2+</sup> ,Ca <sup>2+</sup> )
Soildust	Soildust	Soildust	Soildust
Pollen/spores/bact.	Pollen/spores/bact.	Pollen/spores/bact.	Pollen/spores/bact.
	H <sub>2</sub> O(aq)-condensed	H <sub>2</sub> O(s)	H <sub>2</sub> O(s)

The number concentration of particles in each size bin of each size distribution was also tracked. POM=primary organic matter; SOM=secondary organic matter. H<sub>2</sub>O(aq)-hydrated is liquid water hydrated to dissolved ions and undissociated molecules in solution. H<sub>2</sub>O(aq)-condensed in water that had condensed to form liquid hydrometeors. Condensed and hydrated water existed in the same particles so that, if condensed water evaporated, the core material, including its hydrated water, remained. H<sub>2</sub>O(s) was either water that froze from the liquid phase or that directly deposited from the gas phase as ice. Emitted particles included fossil-fuel soot (BC, POM, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>(aq), HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>), sea spray (H<sub>2</sub>O, Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>(aq), HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>), biomass and biofuel burning (same chemicals as sea spray plus BC, POM), soildust, pollen, spores, and bacteria. For sea spray and biomass/biofuel burning, K<sup>+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup> were treated as equivalent Na<sup>+</sup>. Homogenously nucleated species (H<sub>2</sub>O, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>(aq), HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) entered the internally-mixed distribution. Condensing gases on all distributions included H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and SOM. Dissolving gases on all distributions included HNO<sub>3</sub>, HCl, and NH<sub>3</sub>. The liquid water content and H<sup>+</sup> of each bin were determined as a function of the relative humidity and ion composition from equilibrium calculations. All distributions were affected by self-coagulation loss to larger sizes and heterocoagulation loss to other distributions (except the internally-mixed distribution, which had no heterocoagulation loss).

Size-dependent aerosol processes included emission, homogeneous nucleation, condensation, dissolution, aerosol-aerosol coagulation, aerosol-cloud/ice/graupel coagulation, equilibrium hydration of liquid water, internal-particle chemical equilibrium, irreversible aqueous chemistry, evaporation of cloud drops to aerosol-particles, transport, sedimentation, dry deposition, rainout, and washout. Aerosol particles affected solar and



thermal-IR radiation, cloud evolution, gas concentration, and surface albedo, all of which fed back to meteorology.

Homogeneous nucleation and condensation of sulfuric acid were solved simultaneously between the gas phase and all size bins with a mass-conserving, noniterative, and unconditionally stable scheme [Jacobson, 2002b] that also solved condensation of organic gases onto size-resolved aerosol particles. The model further treated nonequilibrium dissolutional growth of inorganics (e.g.,  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{HNO}_3$ ,  $\text{HCl}$ ) and soluble organics to all size bins with a mass-conserving nonequilibrium growth solver, PNG-EQUISOLV II [Jacobson, 2005a], where PNG is Predictor of Nonequilibrium Growth. EQUISOLV II is a chemical equilibrium solver that determines aerosol liquid water content, pH, and ion distributions following nonequilibrium growth. Aerosol-aerosol coagulation was solved among all size bins and components and among total particles in each bin with a volume-conserving, noniterative, algorithm [Jacobson, 2002b]. Coagulation kernels included those for Brownian motion, Brownian diffusion enhancement, van der Waals forces, viscous forces, fractal geometry of soot aggregates, turbulent shear, turbulent inertial motion, and gravitational settling.

#### *2.D. Regional-Scale Gas-Aerosol-Cloud-Turbulence Interactions*

Cloud thermodynamics and microphysics in the regional domain were treated explicitly [Jacobson *et al.*, 2006]. The cloud module included algorithms that treated the 3-D time-dependent evolution and movement of aerosol-containing size- and composition-resolved clouds and precipitation. Water vapor and size- and composition-resolved aerosol particles were transported using predicted horizontal and vertical velocities. When the partial pressure of water vapor exceeded the saturation vapor pressure over liquid water or ice on an aerosol particle or pre-existing hydrometeor-particle surface, water vapor condensed or deposited on the particle. The saturation vapor pressure was affected by the Kelvin effect and Raoult's law, both of which were calculated from aerosol and hydrometeor composition. Thus, changes in, for example, surface tension due to organics and inorganics affected the activation properties of aerosol particles. The numerical solution for hydrometeor growth accounted for water vapor condensation and deposition onto all activated size-resolved aerosol particles and pre-existing size-resolved hydrometeor simultaneously. The numerical scheme was unconditionally stable, noniterative, positive-definite, and mole conserving.

Following the condensation/deposition calculation, liquid drops and ice crystals were partitioned from a single size-resolved aerosol distribution into separate liquid and ice hydrometeor size distributions, where each discrete size bin contained all the chemical components of the underlying CCN aerosol particles. Table 1 shows the chemical makeup of these two distributions. A third discretized hydrometeor distribution, graupel, was also tracked. This distribution formed upon heterocoagulation of the liquid water and ice hydrometeor distributions, contact freezing of aerosol particles with the liquid distribution, heterogeneous-homogeneous freezing of the liquid distribution, and evaporative freezing of the liquid distribution. The graupel distribution also contained all the chemical components from the aerosol and other hydrometeor distributions (Table 1).

Following partitioning, the size-resolved cloud-aerosol processes treated each time step included hydrometeor-hydrometeor coagulation (liquid-liquid, liquid-ice, liquid-graupel, ice-ice, ice-graupel, and graupel-graupel), aerosol-hydrometeor coagulation, large liquid drop breakup, settling to the layer below (or precipitation from the lowest layer to the surface), evaporative cooling during drop settling, evaporative freezing (freezing during drop cooling), heterogeneous-homogeneous freezing, contact freezing, melting, evaporation, sublimation release of aerosol cores upon evaporation/sublimation, coagulation of hydrometeors with interstitial aerosols, irreversible aqueous chemistry, gas

washout, and lightning generation from size-resolved coagulation among ice hydrometeors. The kernel for all cloud coagulation interactions and aerosol-cloud coagulation interactions included a coalescence efficiency and collision kernels for Brownian motion, Brownian diffusion enhancement, turbulent inertial motion, turbulent shear, settling, thermophoresis, diffusiophoresis, and charge. Numerical techniques used for these processes are given in *Jacobson* [2003].

During the microphysical calculations, changes in energy due to condensation, evaporation, deposition, sublimation, freezing, and melting were included as diabatic heating terms in the thermodynamic energy equation; energy was conserved exactly due to cloud formation and decay. Similarly, total water (water vapor, size-resolved aerosol water, size-resolved cloud water, soil water, and ocean water) was conserved exactly.

Following the cloud- and aerosol microphysical calculations each time step, size-resolved aerosol particles and hydrometeors particles (if they existed) in each grid cell were transported by the horizontal and vertical winds and turbulence. Thus, three-dimensional size-resolved clouds (stratus, cumulus, cumulonimbus, cirrus, etc.) formed, moved, and dissipated in the model.

Aerosol particles of different size were removed by size-resolved clouds and precipitation through two mechanisms: nucleation scavenging and aerosol-hydrometeor coagulation. Both processes were size-resolved with respect to both aerosol particles and hydrometeor particles.

### *2.E. Radiative Processes*

Radiative processes include UV, visible, solar-IR, and thermal-IR interactions with gases, size/composition-resolved aerosols, and size/composition-resolved hydrometeor particles. Radiative transfer was solved with the scheme of *Toon et al.* [1989]. Calculations were performed for >600 wavelengths/probability intervals and affected photolysis and heating. Gas absorption coefficients in the solar-IR and thermal-IR were calculated for H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, CO, O<sub>3</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>3</sub>Cl, CFCI<sub>3</sub>, CF<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and CCl<sub>4</sub> as in *Jacobson* [2005b]. Aerosol-particle optical properties were calculated assuming that black carbon (BC) (if present in a size bin) comprised a particle's core and all other material coated the core. Shell real and imaginary refractive indices for a given particle size and wavelength were obtained by calculating the solution-phase refractive index, calculating refractive indices of non-solution, non-BC species, and volume averaging solution and nonsolution refractive indices. Core and shell refractive indices were used in a core-shell Mie-theory calculation [*Toon and Ackerman*, 1981]. Cloud liquid, ice, and graupel optical properties for each hydrometeor size and radiation wavelength were also determined from Mie calculations by assuming cloud drops and ice crystals contained a BC core surrounded by a water shell. The surface albedos of snow, sea ice, and water (ocean and lake) were wavelength-dependent and predicted by (rather than specified in) the model [*Jacobson*, 2004].

### *2.F. Ocean Surfaces*

Ocean mixed-layer velocities, energy transport, and mass transport were calculated with a gridded 2-D potential enstrophy-, kinetic energy-, and mass-conserving shallow-water equation module, forced by wind stress [*Ketefian and Jacobson*, 2006]. Water (ocean and lake) temperatures were also affected by sensible, latent, and radiative fluxes. Nine additional layers existed below each ocean mixed-layer grid cell to treat energy diffusion from the mixed layer to the deep ocean and ocean chemistry. Dissolution of gases to the ocean and ocean chemistry were calculated with OPD-EQUISOLV O [*Jacobson*, 2005c], where OPD solves nonequilibrium transport between the ocean and atmosphere and

EQUISOLV O solves chemical equilibrium in the ocean. Both schemes were mass conserving and unconditionally stable.

### *2.G. Agricultural Land and Other Surfaces*

The model treated ground temperatures and moisture over subgrid surfaces (12 soil classes and roads, roofs, and water in each grid cell). It also treated vegetation over soil, snow over bare soil, snow over vegetation over soil, sea-ice over water, and snow over sea-ice over water [Jacobson, 2001a]. The initial soil moisture fields in all model domains were obtained from the monthly climatology of Nijssen *et al.* [2001]. The fractional vegetation cover, necessary for these calculations, was obtained from the 1-km resolution data set of Zeng *et al.* [2000]. For all surfaces except sea ice and water, surface and subsurface temperatures and liquid water content were found with a time-dependent 10-layer module.

For each of the 12 subgrid soil classes in each grid cell, it was necessary to find the fractional agricultural land for applying irrigation to. This fraction was determined from landuse data at 1-km resolution [USGS, 1999]. The landuse dataset consists of 24 landuse categories, one of which is assigned to each square kilometer. Five categories of data included agricultural land: dryland cropland and pasture, irrigated cropland and pasture, mixed dryland/irrigated cropland and pasture, cropland/grassland mosaic, and cropland/woodland mosaic. At each location in the model domain, the soil type [Miller and White, 1998] and the landuse type were known at 1 km resolution. As such, it was possible to determine the fractional agricultural land for each soil type in each model grid cell. Fig. 2a shows the fractional agricultural land in each grid cell as a whole, which is the sum of the product of the agricultural fraction of each soil type and the fraction of the grid cell consisting of each soil type. The figure shows a strong agricultural presence in the San Joaquin Valley. Agriculture, though, existed throughout the model domain at lower levels. The figure also indicates that about 4.15 percent of all land area in the California model domain (which includes land area outside of California as well) consisted of an agricultural landuse category.

### *2.H. Irrigation*

Irrigation data for the study were obtained from Salas *et al.* [2005]. Data were available at 5-km resolution and daily temporal resolution for 1983, 1996, and 1997. Separate datasets were available for each year assuming either 1950s or early 2000s climate conditions. Here, the 1997 data set with early 2000s climate conditions was used. The 5-km resolution data were converted to coarser model-resolution data in a water-conserving manner for each day of the year. Fig. 2b shows an example of the resulting irrigation rates for August 1. The figure shows that most irrigation in California occurs in the San Joaquin Valley. Some irrigation occurs in the Eastern Los Angeles basin (approximately 118°W, 34°N) and to the east and northeast of San Diego (33°N).

Daily irrigation, which was now a model grid cell-average value, was applied proportionally to the fraction of agricultural land in each subgrid soil class in the grid cell. Thus, for example, if a grid cell consisted 50% of sandy loam and 50% clay loam, and the agriculture fraction of sandy loam was 30% and that of clay loam was 60%, one third of all irrigation in the cell was applied to the sandy loam soil class and two-thirds was applied to the clay loam class.

### *2.I. Treatment of Agricultural Albedo*

Recent surface albedo data were obtained from a 1-km resolution dataset derived from AVHRR measurements for August 1990 [Martien and Umeda, 1993]. From these data, it was possible to calculate the albedo of land without agriculture mathematically as

$$A_{non-ag} = \frac{A_{cur} - A_{ag}f_{ag}}{1 - f_{ag}} \quad (1)$$

where  $A_{cur}$  is the albedo of land from the data,  $f_{ag}$  is the fraction of land occupied by agriculture (Section 2.G), and  $A_{ag}$  is an assumed albedo of agricultural crops. The albedo of agricultural crops varies with season and type of crop. *Gutman et al.* [1999], for example, found that the visible albedo of corn in Iowa ranged from 0.12-0.14 in spring to 0.2-0.22 in August to 0.18 in September to 0.12 in October. *Giambelluca et al.* [1997] found the albedo of cropland in Brazil to range from 0.17-0.176. Here, albedo of agricultural land was estimated at  $A_{ag} = 0.18$ . In addition, it was assumed that the albedo of land displaced by agriculture was that of nonagricultural land, as determined from Equation 1. Figure 3 shows both the baseline albedo (with agriculture) and the albedo difference (with minus without agriculture), derived from the baseline albedo data and Equation 1, respectively. The figure shows that agriculture may have increased the albedo of the northern and middle San Joaquin Valley but decreased the albedo of the southern valley. This result is consistent with the fact that the northern and middle valley was mostly rangeland and marshland (low albedo) and the southern 15% of the valley below Lake Tulare was (and still is) mostly desert, which has a high albedo, in the 1800s [*Kahrl*, 1979]. Thus, the addition of agriculture should increase the albedo of the northern and middle valley and decrease that of the southern valley, as found here.

### 2.J. Treatment of BC in Snow

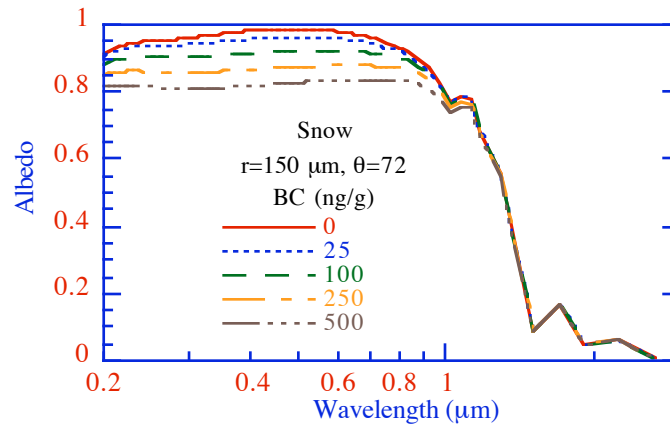
BC in the model entered snow by precipitation and dry deposition. BC's concentration in snow was also affected by changes in snow depth due to melting, vapor deposition, and sublimation. Precipitation to the surface included size-resolved liquid, ice, and graupel. Aerosol components were carried to the surface in each size bin of each hydrometeor type. The calculation of dry deposition of soot to snow accounted for aerodynamic resistance, resistance to molecular diffusion, and the fall speed of particles. At the surface, snow and graupel were aggregated into one effective size bin for radiative calculations ( $r_{sn} = 150 \mu\text{m}$ ), which is in the range of typical effective radii used for snow optical calculations [e.g., *Grenfell et al.*, 1994; *Aoki et al.*, 2000]. This radius was chosen for use here based on a best-fit of modeled to measured spectral albedo [*Jacobson*, 2004]. The effective radius of snow grains was assumed not to change due to snow aging, although in reality, snow aging causes the effective radius to increase and the albedo of new snow to decrease over time [e.g., *Flanner et al.*, 2006]. Because snow aging affects snow albedo when soot is both present and absent, not including it should have a somewhat minor effect on the albedo change due to soot in snow. For example, a 10% reduction in snow albedo due to aging combined with a 1% reduction in albedo due to soot causes a 0.1% error in the albedo change due to soot caused by not accounting for aging.

To account for radiative effects of BC in snow, one snow layer was added to the bottom of each atmospheric model column (which otherwise extended from the surface to 55 km) during radiative calculations. The wavelength-dependent upward divided by downward irradiance at the top of this layer was the calculated surface solar albedo (0.165 to  $10 \mu\text{m}$ ). The wavelength-dependent emissivity, used for spectral thermal-IR calculations (3-1000  $\mu\text{m}$ ), was one minus the calculated albedo. As such, the model predicted (rather than prescribed) the changes in albedo and emissivity of snow each radiative time step, and these change were affected by aerosol inclusions within snow and atmospheric optical properties. Because changes in albedo and emissivity affected incident solar radiation and heating, such changes affected the melting of snow, which fed back to soil moisture, albedo, and other climate variables.

Snow depth ( $D_s$ , cm) in the model was affected by precipitation and melting [Jacobson, 2001a, Equation 36] as well as sublimation/ice deposition (added subsequently). Within each snow layer, it was necessary to calculate the concentration of BC. The time-dependent BC in snow (moles-BC  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ -snow) was calculated primarily as the sum of the concentrations of BC from precipitation and dry deposition, as described in Jacobson [2004]. For snow-BC optical calculations, BC was treated as partly internally mixed as a core within snow grains and partly externally mixed from snow grains (in both cases, the BC was still internally mixed with other aerosol constituents). The refractive index of BC was taken from Krekov [1993]. The density of emitted soot aggregates varies as a function of diameter and composition from 0.2-2.25  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$  [e.g., Fuller *et al.*, 1999]. The value 1.5  $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$  was chosen because it is relatively consistent with the mean size of emitted soot from Maricq *et al.*, 2000, Figure 5, although no single number captures the density of soot.

Figure 1 below shows the effect on spectral albedo of different levels of BC in snow. The result suggests that 25 ng/g of BC might reduce the albedo of snow at 550 nm by 2.3%. Clarke and Noone [1985] similarly found that the addition of 25 ng/g of soot to snow decreased snow albedo by about 2.0%. The modeled effect of BC on emissivity is small. For example, at wavelength 7.75  $\mu\text{m}$ , an increase from 0 to 500 ng/g BC increases emissivity by only 0.0005%.

**Figure 1.** Comparison of modeled spectral albedos over snow containing different BC mass mixing ratios when each snow grain contains a single internally-mixed BC inclusion and the rest of the BC in snow is assumed to be externally-mixed (all BC particles in snow are assumed to be 266-nm diameter). The zenith angle ( $\theta$ ) was 72°. From Jacobson [2004].



### 3. Description of Simulations

Nested simulations were run to examine the effects of agriculture and absorption within snow on California climate and air pollution. For both studies, baseline and sensitivity simulations were carried out. For the agricultural study, simulations were run for August 2006; for the snow study, simulations were run for February 1999.

The model was run in nested mode from the global to regional scale. Two one-way nested domains were used: a global domain (4°-SN x 5°-WE resolution) and a California domain (0.2°x0.15°  $\approx$  21.5 km x 14.0 km with the southwest corner grid cell centered at 30.0°N and -126.0°W and 60 SN cells x 75 WE cells). The global domain included 39 sigma-pressure layers between the surface and 0.425 hPa. The nested regional grids included 26 layers between the surface and 103.5 hPa, matching the bottom 26 global-model layers exactly. Each domain included five layers in the bottom 1

km. The nesting time interval for passing meteorological and chemical variables was one hour.

The gas and particle emission inventory used was the U.S. National Emission Inventory for 2002 [USEPA, 2006a]. The inventory accounted for over 370,000 stack and fugitive sources, 250,000 area sources, and 1700 source classification code (SCC) categories of onroad and nonroad mobile sources. Pollutants emitted hourly included CO, CH<sub>4</sub>, paraffins, olefins, formaldehyde, higher aldehydes, toluene, xylene, isoprene, monoterpenes), NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, HONO, NH<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, particle black carbon, particle organic carbon, particle sulfate, particle nitrate, and other particulate matter. From the raw U.S. inventory, special inventories were prepared for each model domain. Particle mass emissions were spread over multimodal lognormal distributions. Additional emission types treated in the model were biogenic gases (isoprene, monoterpenes, and other volatile organics from vegetation and nitric oxide from soils), soildust, sea spray, pollen, spores, and bacteria, NO from lightning, DMS from the oceans, volcanic SO<sub>2</sub>, many gases and particles from biomass burning, and CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>O from fossil-fuel combustion and biomass burning.

For August 2006, a baseline simulation (with irrigation and current albedo) and two sensitivity simulations (one without irrigation but with current albedo and the other without irrigation and with pre-agriculture albedo) were run. For February 1999, a baseline simulation (with absorption by BC and soildust in snow) and one sensitivity simulation (without absorption in snow) were run. In the February baseline simulation, BC and soildust emissions, evolution, and absorption within snow were treated. In the sensitivity simulation, BC and soildust absorption within snow were not treated.

Sources of BC emissions in the model included shipping, aircraft, other fossil fuels, biofuels, and biomass burning. Land-based fossil-fuel soot (BC, OM, and sulfate) emissions were obtained from USEPA [2006] within the U.S. and Bond *et al.* [2004] outside the U.S.. Shipping BC emissions were obtained by scaling BC emission factors to the sulfur shipping emission rate from Corbett *et al.* [2003], as described in Jacobson [2006]. Aircraft BC emissions inventory were derived by applying BC emission factors to the 1999 commercial, military, and charter aircraft fuel use data of Sutkus *et al.* [2001] and Mortlock and Van Alstyne [1998]. Soildust emissions as a function of size, soil type, wind speed, soil moisture, and snow cover were calculated with the method of Marticorena *et al.* [1997] using soil data from Miller and White [1998].

The global domain simulations were the same for both baseline and sensitivity California-domain simulations to ensure that errors due to coarser resolution in the global domain did not influence results in the finer California domain.

The model dynamics time steps were 300 s (global domain) and 10 s (California domain). The time interval for nesting between the domains was 1 hour. Nesting was treated using a five-row buffer layer at each horizontal boundary in each fine domain to relax concentrations and other variables from the coarse domain, as in Jacobson [2005d, Section 21.1.11]. Variables passed at the horizontal boundaries included temperature, specific humidity, wind velocity, gas concentrations (including total water as water vapor), and size- and composition-resolved aerosol concentrations. Clouds themselves were treated with no-flux boundary conditions since total water as water vapor moved across boundaries and could generate new clouds; however, there is no reason why clouds could not be passed across the boundaries as well for future studies.

For February 1999, initial meteorological fields were obtained from National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) reanalysis fields for February 1 1999, at 12

GMT (NCEP, 2003). Aerosol and gas fields in all domains were similarly initialized from background data. U.S. EPA ambient air quality data [USEPA, 2006b]. for O<sub>3</sub>, CO, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub> were then assimilated with background values at the initial time. For August 2006, initial meteorological fields were obtained from Global Forecast System (GFS) 1°x1° data. No data assimilation, nudging, or model spinup was performed during any simulation and gas/aerosol fields were initialized from background values.

#### 4. Effects of Agriculture

Figure 4 shows baseline and sensitivity simulation results related to agriculture. Each subfigure includes (in the upper right corner), the average parameter value over all land in the figure, which includes land in California and parts of Nevada. Table 2 summarizes statistics from the figures.

**Table 2.** Summary of August modeled mean baseline values over all land points (irrigated and nonirrigated) in the model domain and percent changes in mean values due to irrigation (irrigation) and due to irrigation and albedo change (agriculture). Data correspond to Figures 3 and 4.

	Mean baseline value (with irrigation and current agriculture)	Mean percent change with minus without irrigation	Mean percent change with minus without agriculture
Albedo (fraction)	0.145	0	+0.96
Soil moisture (m <sup>3</sup> /m <sup>3</sup> )	0.081	+5.1	+5.1
Water vapor (kg/kg)	0.008	+0.2	+0.8
Relative humidity (fraction)	0.57	+0.40	+0.37
Cloud optical depth	1.3	+5.5	+6.7
Cloud fraction	0.12	+2.9	+3.7
Precipitation (mm/day)	0.15	+5.5	+6.3
Surface solar (W/m <sup>2</sup> )	256.9	-0.19	-0.34
Surface UV (W/m <sup>2</sup> )	13.5	-0.02	+0.03
Surface thermal-IR (W/m <sup>2</sup> )	-110	+0.16	+0.26
Air temperature (K)	291.79	-0.010	-0.013
BC in rain (mg/L)	0.0112	+3.2	+3.8
BC in air (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.69	-1.6	-1.9
Aerosol optical depth	0.075	-2.3	-1.9
Aerosol > 0.1 µm (No/cm <sup>3</sup> )	3526	-0.80	-0.85
Ozone (ppbv)	44.9	-0.70	-0.27
Nitrogen dioxide (ppbv)	3.26	-0.025	-0.40
Nitric acid (ppbv)	0.581	-3.3	-1.5
Formaldehyde (ppbv)	2.02	-7.9	-0.79
Hydroxyl radical (ppbv)	0.000068	-0.29	-0.044
Wind speed (m/s)	3.46	-0.26	-0.21

Although irrigation data were available for California only, Fig. 2a shows that Nevada has little agricultural land relative to California, so the lack of irrigation data for Nevada should not result in significant error in the estimated effects of irrigation on all land-averaged atmospheric properties. Although statistics for the effects of irrigation on the land-averaged values are given, the figures also provide information on the spatial distribution of parameter values. The spatial distribution is more useful than land-averaged values for determining maximum and minimum effects. It is possible to derive statistics over irrigated land only, but this would not capture feedbacks to areas beyond those irrigated, particularly to populated cities. Although the land-averaged statistics are

not ideal either, they do give a good indication of the direction of changes and capture feedbacks over all model points over land, including population centers.

The irrigation of agriculture (without considering albedo change) resulted in an increase in soil moisture, averaged over all land in the California model domain during August, of about 5.1% (Table 2, Fig. 4a). Most of the increases occurred in the San Joaquin Valley, where the maximum local soil moisture increase was about  $0.15 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^3$ .

California also has agricultural fields and irrigation in the Imperial Valley, located near  $115^\circ\text{W}$ ,  $33^\circ\text{N}$ , as seen in Fig. 2. However, because this area was predominantly in the 5-row buffer area of the California model domain where parameters were relaxed to global-domain values during nesting (Section 3), feedbacks of agriculture to atmospheric properties in the Imperial Valley were dampened and should not be relied on here.

Some portions of the eastern Los Angeles basin ( $118^\circ\text{W}$ ,  $34^\circ\text{N}$ ) were also irrigated, but to a lesser extent than in the San Joaquin Valley, so soil moisture changes were smaller there than in the valley. When albedo change due to agriculture was accounted for, soil moisture similarly increased in the San Joaquin Valley (Fig. 4a).

The increase in soil moisture due to irrigation increased evaporation, which increased water vapor over land by about 0.2% (Table 2, Fig. 4b), the relative humidity by about 0.4% (Table 2, Fig. 4c), cloud optical depth by about 5.5% (Table 2, Fig. 4d), and cloud fraction by about 2.9% (Table 2, Fig. 4e). The change in water vapor of 0.2% was the net effect of evaporation minus condensation to form clouds, so it was a smaller percent change than was the percent change in cloud optical depth.

Peak local increases (in the San Joaquin Valley) in the relative humidity were about 7% in the monthly average when only irrigation changes were considered and about 8% when irrigation and albedo changes were considered. The relative humidity increased more when albedo was considered because the albedo change decreased air temperatures, as discussed shortly.

The measured climatological precipitation in the San Joaquin Valley in August is low but not zero. It is higher in the northern valley and lower in the southern valley. Some measured climatological precipitation rates in August in the valley are 0.15 mm/day in Orland and Hamilton City, 0.09 mm/day in St. John, 0.08 mm/day in Oroville, 0.066 mm/day in Knights Landing, 0.06 mm/day in Williams and Colusa, 0.016 mm/day in Madera, and 0.008 mm/day in Tulefield and Benson's Ferry [*Western Regional Climate Center*, 2006]. Measured precipitation is really the difference between precipitation and evaporation in the rain gauge. Modeled precipitation rates were absolute precipitation values since evaporation was calculated separately. This may partly explain why modeled baseline August precipitation in the valley (Fig. 4f) was higher than climatological precipitation. The modeled precipitation was primarily from nighttime and early-morning fog deposits rather than from convective clouds. Much of this precipitated water re-evaporated during the day.



Increases in soil moisture due to irrigation increased modeled precipitation by about 5.5%, with most changes in the San Joaquin Valley (Table 2, Fig. 4f). Very little change of precipitation occurred in the eastern Los Angeles basin (118 °W, 34°N). With generally low precipitation levels in August, a 5.5% increase in precipitation is not a significant quantity of water. The higher relative humidity in the irrigation+albedo change case versus the irrigation-alone case caused precipitation to increase more in the former case (6.7%) than the latter case (5.5%).

The greater cloud optical depth due to irrigation reduced surface solar irradiance by about 0.2% (Table 2, Fig. 4g) and ultraviolet irradiance by about 0.02% (Table 2, Fig. 4h) but increased thermal-infrared irradiance by about 0.16% (Table 2, Fig. 4i).

The net effect of soil moisture and radiation changes due to irrigation was to decrease near-surface air temperatures by 0.029 K, with peak reductions (in the monthly average) of about 0.65 K in parts of the San Joaquin Valley (Fig. 4j). The inclusion of albedo changes due to agriculture reduced temperatures further, by a total of 0.038 K and a maximum of 0.74 K (Fig. 4j). Thus, the net increase in albedo of up to 6% locally due to agriculture (Fig. 3) had a measurable impact on temperature.

The effect of irrigation on air temperatures was a net cooling; however, irrigation generally warmed the air slightly at night but cooled it to a greater extent during the day (Fig. 5), reducing the magnitudes of temperature maximums and minimums.

The net near-surface air cooling and increase in precipitation (increased nighttime/early-morning fog deposits, light drizzle) found here due to agriculture (irrigation plus albedo change) is consistent in direction with results from the data analysis study of *Barnston and Schickedanz* [1984] but also consistent with the data analysis finding by *Moore and Rojstaczer* [2001] that the magnitude of the precipitation change may be small. Further, the cooling due to irrigation and irrigation plus albedo change is consistent with results from *Adegoke et al.* [2003], *Boucher et al.* [2004], *Snyder et al.* [2006], and *Lobell et al.* [2006]. Because agriculture appears to have increased rather than decreased albedo over most of the San Joaquin Valley, the net warming found in the valley by *Christy et al.* [2006] appears more likely to be due to other factors (e.g., anthropogenic greenhouse gas warming) rather than an increase in agriculture as suggested therein. The warming is unlikely to be due to the sum of all anthropogenic aerosol particles; *Jacobson and Kaufman* [2006], for example, found a net cooling (nighttime warming and greater daytime cooling) due to such particles in the San Joaquin Valley. Although black carbon in aerosol particles causes a warming, it is dominated by a larger amount of scattering aerosol particles.

The increase in drizzle in the San Joaquin Valley due to irrigation increased the concentration of pollutants in rainwater, increasing wet removal of these pollutants. For example, irrigation alone increased the concentration of BC in rainwater by about 3% (Fig. 4k) and decreased it in air by about 1.6% on average over all land, but mostly in the San Joaquin Valley (Fig. 4l). Due to enhanced drizzle, irrigation decreased aerosol optical depth by 2.3% (Fig. 4m) and aerosol number larger than 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter by

about 0.8% (Fig. 4n). Irrigation plus albedo change reduced aerosol optical depth by larger amounts, 3.2% and 0.9%, respectively, because of a greater precipitation increase in the latter case (Fig. 4f). Aerosol number did not decrease so much as aerosol optical depth (thus cross section) or mass upon the addition of irrigation since small aerosol particles are less likely to activate to cloud drops so are less likely to be removed by additional precipitation than are large particles..

Irrigation similarly reduced the mixing ratios of most gases in the San Joaquin Valley, in part due to enhanced wet removal and in part due to the reduction in ultraviolet radiation that it caused (Fig. 4h). While agriculture reduced near-surface ozone over land (primarily in the South Coast basin), agriculture increased ozone in the San Joaquin Valley (Fig. . The reason appears to be that irrigation reduced nitrogen dioxide (Fig 4p) and nitric acid (Fig. 4q) by enhanced wet removal and slower photochemistry. The resulting reduction in nitrogen oxides reduced titration of ozone in the valley.

Irrigation reduced organics, such as formaldehyde (Fig. 4r), and the hydroxyl radical (Fig. 4s) due to increased wet removal primarily. Lower ultraviolet radiation also reduced the hydroxyl radical.

Whereas irrigation increased removal of pollutants in the San Joaquin Valley by increasing drizzle, it apparently had the opposite but a relatively small effect in Los Angeles. The reason was that the irrigation rate was small and the drizzle rate was virtually negligible there. *Jacobson* [1999] found that an increase in soil moisture in Los Angeles, in the absence of cloud formation, cooled the ground, stabilizing the air, increasing the concentrations of many primary pollutants by reducing vertical mixing and slowing down horizontal winds.

In the present study, the changes in soil moisture in Los Angeles were much smaller and more localized than in *Jacobson* [1999], where initial changes in soil moisture were specified to be uniform spatially; nevertheless, the addition of irrigation alone in the present study slightly increased BC (a primary pollutant) in Los Angeles (Fig. 4l) and nitrogen dioxide (a primary and secondary pollutant) (Fig. 4q), the latter causing a reduction in ozone (a secondary pollutant) (Fig. 4o). The results from both studies suggest that an enhancement of soil moisture due to irrigation may reduce primary pollution in general when precipitation or drizzle is present but increase such pollution when it is absent.

Finally, the cooling of near-surface air due to agriculture reduced the vertical transfer of horizontal momentum slightly, reducing near-surface wind speeds (Fig. 4t) and increasing mid-boundary-layer wind speeds slightly.

Table 2 indicates that percent changes in several parameters due to irrigation are relatively small and possibly less than the error and bias of the baseline simulation relative to real data. This might suggest that the magnitude and direction of the modeled changes could be random and not indicative of the effects of irrigation. However, if the changes were random and not actual effects, the results would change randomly upon a

change in the initial conditions or of a parameterization in the model. Further, the results would not follow what might be expected from physical principles. However, Table 2 indicates that, when a second sensitivity test was run in which both albedo and irrigation were perturbed, the percent differences changed in sign for only one parameter (UV radiation) and hardly in magnitude for many others. Further the changes in both sensitivities could be explained in terms of physical principles, and the changes occurred where they could be expected (Fig. 4). As such, it appears unlikely that the sign of the changes found were random or noise but were real responses to irrigation and/or albedo changes. The magnitudes of the changes are more uncertain and would undoubtedly change further upon an improvement in model resolution and physical processes treated.

### 5. Effects of Impurities in Snow

February 1999 was a moderately wet year in Northern California but dry in the Southern part of the state (Fig. 6). Most precipitation occurred along the northern coast and in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The model was able to predict the locations of strong and weak precipitation as well as the magnitude in many locations although it overpredicted the magnitude in the Sierras by about a third (Fig. 6). Part of this error may be due to coarse model resolution (21.5 km x 14.0 km) and to initialization with the coarsely-resolved NCEP reanalysis (2.5° x 2.5°).

**Table 3.** Summary of February modeled mean baseline values over all land points in the model domain and percent changes in mean values due to BC and soildust absorption in snow. Data correspond to Figure 7.

	Mean baseline value (with absorption in snow)	Mean percent change with minus without absorption in snow
Snow depth (m)	0.0217	-0.41
Albedo (fraction)	0.247	-0.32
BC in air ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.287	-0.02
BC in cloud particles ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.027	+0.27
BC in rain (mg/L)	0.011	+0.20
BC in snow (mg/L)	0.0023	-1.8
Soildust in air ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.187	-3.1
Soildust in cloud part. ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.009	-3.6
Soildust in rain (mg/L)	0.082	+2.1
Soildust in snow (mg/L)	0.058	+4.3
Ground temperature (K)	276.75	+0.004
Soil moisture ( $\text{m}^3/\text{m}^3$ )	0.289	+0.07
Relative humidity (fraction)	0.83	+0.048
Cloud optical depth	5.45	-0.18

Most of the modeled snow fell in the Sierras although small amount fell in Northern and Eastern Nevada as well (Fig. 7a), as indicated by the higher albedos there (Fig. 7b). Black carbon and soildust in the model were tracked through aerosols, clouds, rain, and snow (Figs. 7c, 7d). Both entered snow by wet and dry deposition. While nearly all BC in the model was anthropogenic, most soildust was natural and produced by the wind passing over loose sand or dirt.

Absorption of solar radiation by BC and soildust together in snow reduced snow depth by about 0.4% (Table 3, Fig. 7a) and surface albedo by about 0.32% (Table 3, Fig. 7b) in February in the California domain over all land points (snow covered and non-snow-covered). Maximum snow depth and albedo decreases over snow were 2% and 4%, respectively. For comparison, *Jacobson* [2004] calculated that BC alone reduced snow and sea ice albedo by 0.4% in the annual and global average and 1% in the Northern Hemisphere. The larger effects on the global scale were due to the fact that the feedbacks operated over a much longer time in that study. Also, the Arctic and Northern Europe/Asia, where most of the black carbon effects occurred on the global scale, have nearby sources of BC (e.g., Europe and Asia) greater in magnitude than does California (mostly the San Joaquin Valley, Los Angeles, and San Francisco).

The increased absorption by BC and soildust in snow increased the modeled ground temperature in February over all land by about 0.11 K (0.004%) (Table 3, Fig. 7e). For comparison, the global and annual average increase in near-surface air temperatures due to BC absorption alone in snow was about 0.06 K [*Jacobson*, 2004].

The reduction in snow due to absorption was compensated for in part by increases in meltwater and water vapor. Snow absorption increased soil moisture by about 0.07% (Table 3, Fig. 7f), water vapor by about 0.1%, and the relative humidity by about 0.05% (Table 3, Fig. 7g). The increase in soil moisture suggests a hastening of the release of meltwater due to absorption by impurities in snow. The increase in water vapor together with the loss in snow depth suggests a net reduction in water supply due to such impurities.

The rate of snowmelt depends on ambient temperatures and temperature changes due to impurities in snow. In April, ambient temperatures are higher so more snow melts than in February, as indicated by the snow depth statistics discussed in Section 1. Similarly, the same level of impurities in snow speeds melting of snow in April more than in February because incident solar radiation, thus solar absorption and thermal-infrared heating by impurities, is greater in April. Finally, because less snowfall occurs in April than in February, more impurities can accumulate on top of snow without being buried by new snow in April. On the other hand since more snow is present in February, impurities in snow cause feedbacks over a larger region in February than in April. Overall, it is estimated that the results here for February may underestimate the effects of impurities on snowmelt relative to April.

Finally, the higher water vapor in the San Joaquin Valley resulted in a slight increase in cloud optical depth there (Fig. 7h), although the land-averaged change in optical depth was negative (Table 3).

## 6. Conclusions

This paper discussed the effects of irrigation and albedo change due to agriculture on California weather, climate, and air pollution, and the effects of black carbon and soildust absorption within snow on snowmelt and the subsequent feedback to California climate. Numerical simulations were run for August 2006 to examine the first issue and February 1999 to examine the second issue.

Satellite albedo data and irrigation data were obtained to examine the first issue. An inversion method was combined with the satellite data to estimate California's albedo in the absence of agriculture. It was found that agriculture may have increased the albedo of the northern and middle San Joaquin Valley but decreased the albedo of the southern valley relative to the albedo in the 1800s. Such a result implies that, when only albedo is considered, agriculture should cause a slight cooling of the valley. Irrigation should also cause cooling during the day but a warming at night.

From the numerical simulations, it was found that irrigation alone decreased near-surface air temperatures by about 0.03 K and irrigation plus albedo changes decreased temperatures by about 0.04 K in the monthly average over land in the model domain (covering California and parts of Nevada). Nighttime temperatures increased while daytime temperatures decreased to a greater extent. Maximum local decreases in August temperatures were about 0.7 K, occurring in the San Joaquin Valley. Since agriculture caused a net summer cooling of the San Joaquin Valley, the valley's observed historic warming appears more likely due to anthropogenic greenhouse gas buildup than to agriculture. Irrigation increased soil moisture by an average over land of about 5%, the relative humidity by about 0.4%, cloud optical depth by about 5.5%, cloud fraction by about 2.9%, drizzle by about 5.5%, and downward thermal-infrared radiation by about 0.16%.

Irrigation reduced primary pollutant concentrations when precipitation or drizzle was imminent or present but increased such pollution when precipitation was absent. Thus, in polluted, irrigated regions with low rainfall, such as eastern Los Angeles, daytime and spray irrigation should be replaced with nighttime and subterranean or drip irrigation to the extent that this is not already done, to minimize evaporation and the positive feedback of evaporative cooling to air pollution. Reducing evaporation has the collateral benefit of increasing water available for a growing population.

With respect to the effects of impurities in snow, absorption of solar radiation by black carbon and soildust in snow reduced land albedo in February by about 0.3%, reduced land-averaged snow depth by about 0.5%, increased ground temperatures over land by about 0.11 K, increased soil moisture by about 0.07%, and increased the relative humidity by about 0.04% over land. This result implies that impurities in snow may decrease water supply by increasing sublimation and may hasten the release of meltwater.

Although the effects of impurities on snow melting should be greater in April than in February due to warmer temperatures and greater solar radiation in April, snow area in April is much lower than in February, so newly-deposited impurities from Asia may have a lesser aggregate impact on snowmelt by the time they arrive in April, than local impurities, which are deposited over a larger snow area and over a longer period prior to April. Nevertheless, this study implies that efforts to reduce both local and Asian particle emissions will help to alleviate slightly the effect of climate change on early release of meltwater. Reducing emissions have the additional benefit of improving human health.

Whereas, the modeled signs of changes due to agriculture and impurities in snow may be relatively reliable, the magnitudes are more uncertain. Such uncertainty can be reduced by improving model resolution, initialization, treatment of physical, chemical, and dynamical processes, and input datasets.

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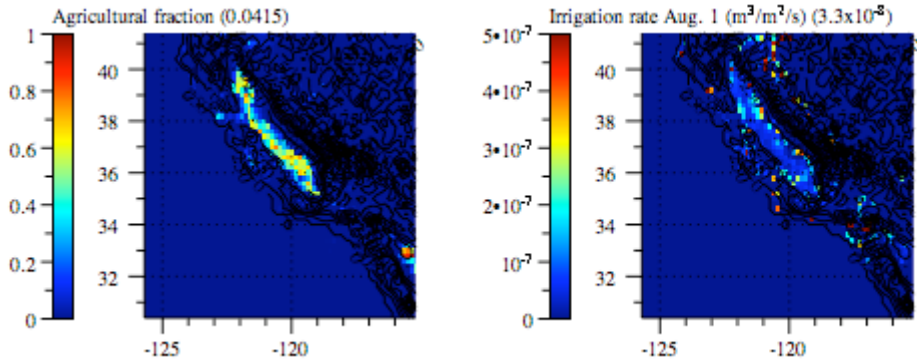


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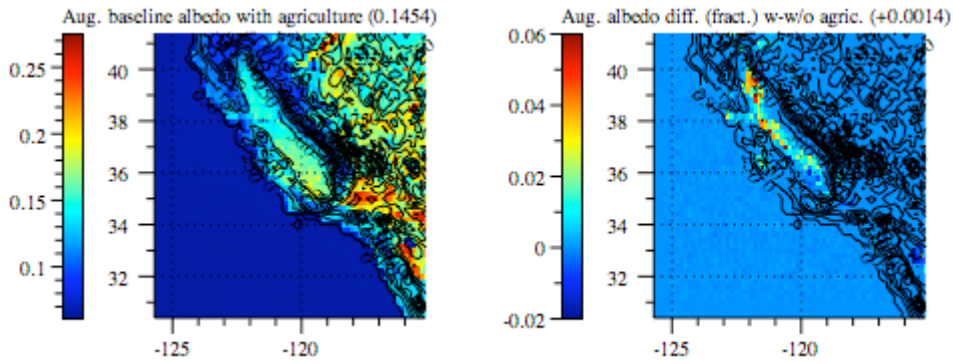
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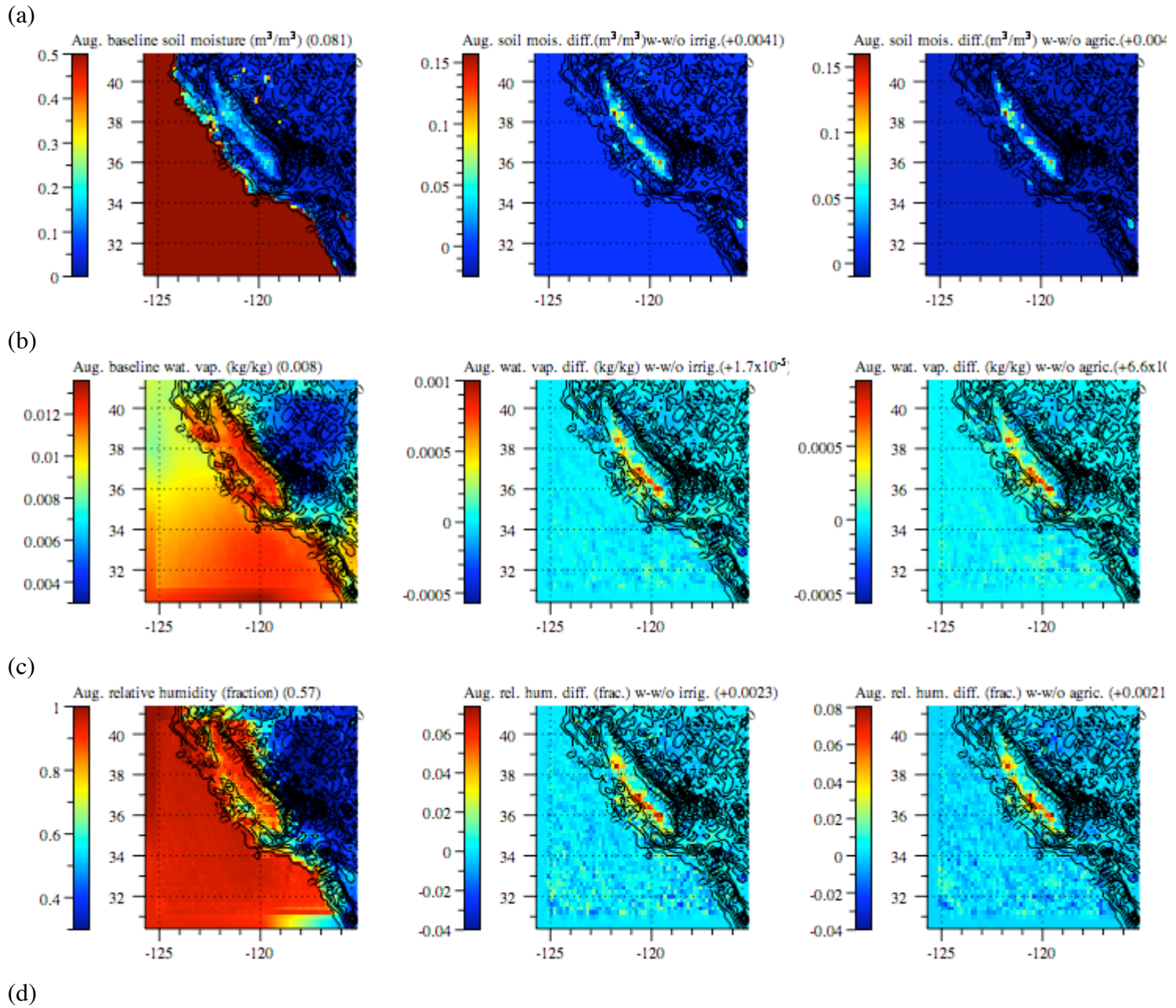
**Figure 2.** August 1 irrigation rate (Salas et al., 2006) and fraction of land as agriculture (USGS, 1999) in the model domain. The number in parentheses in each figure is the average value over land of all data in the figure.

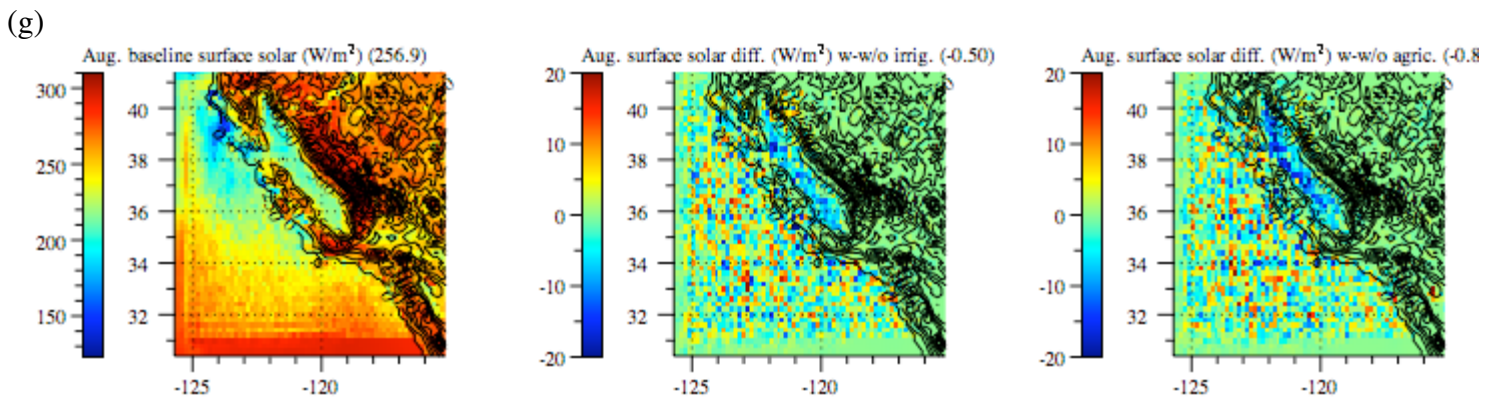
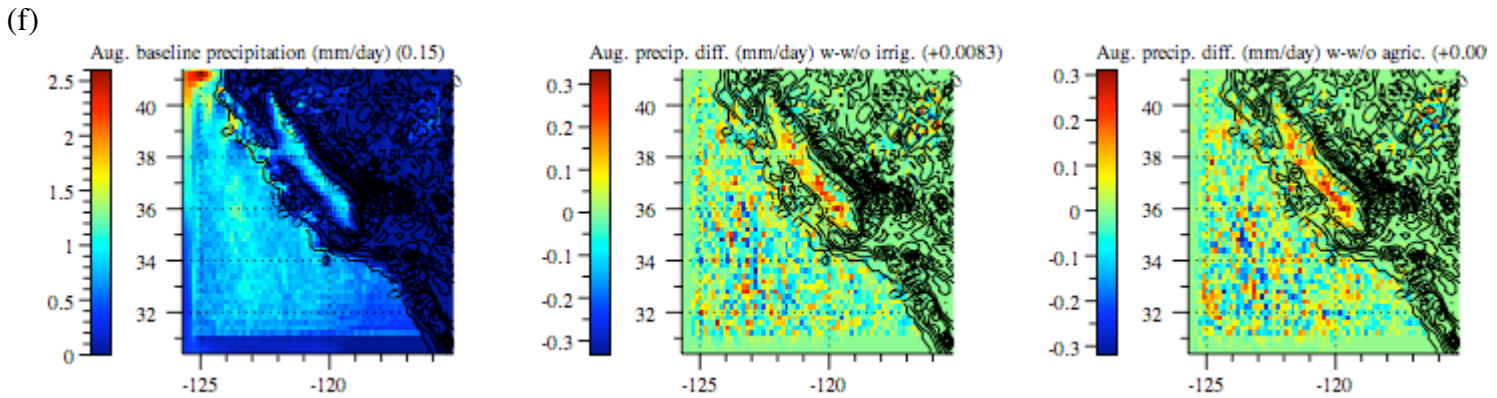
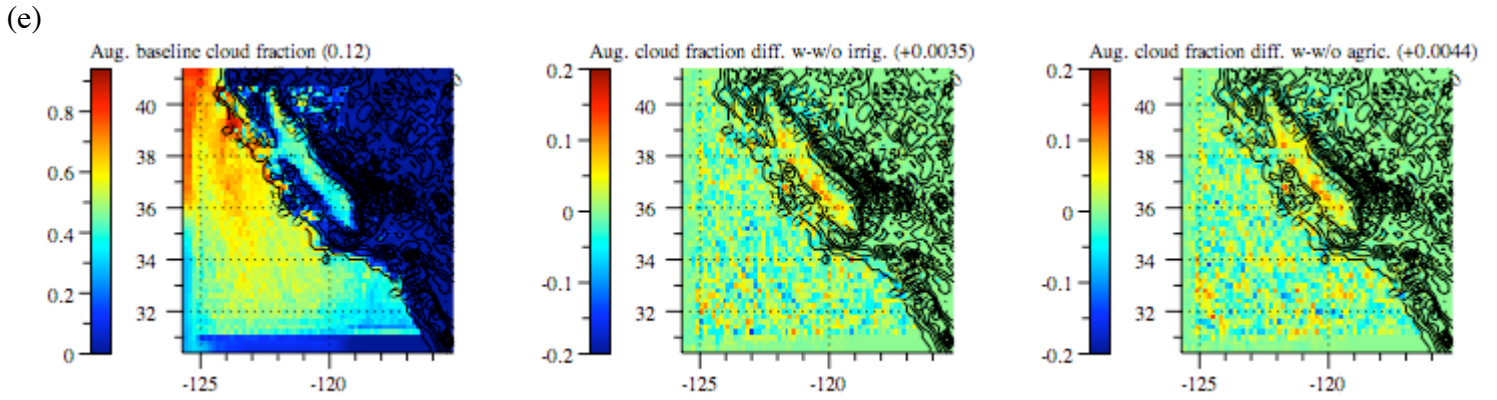
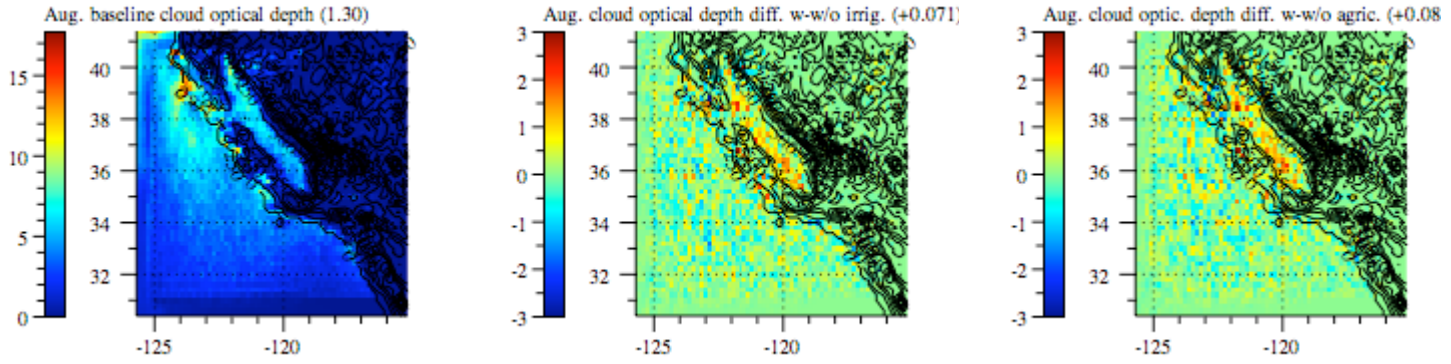


**Figure 3.** August baseline albedo (with agriculture) and the albedo difference, with minus without agriculture (Section 2.I.). The number in parentheses in each figure is the average value over land of all data in the figure.

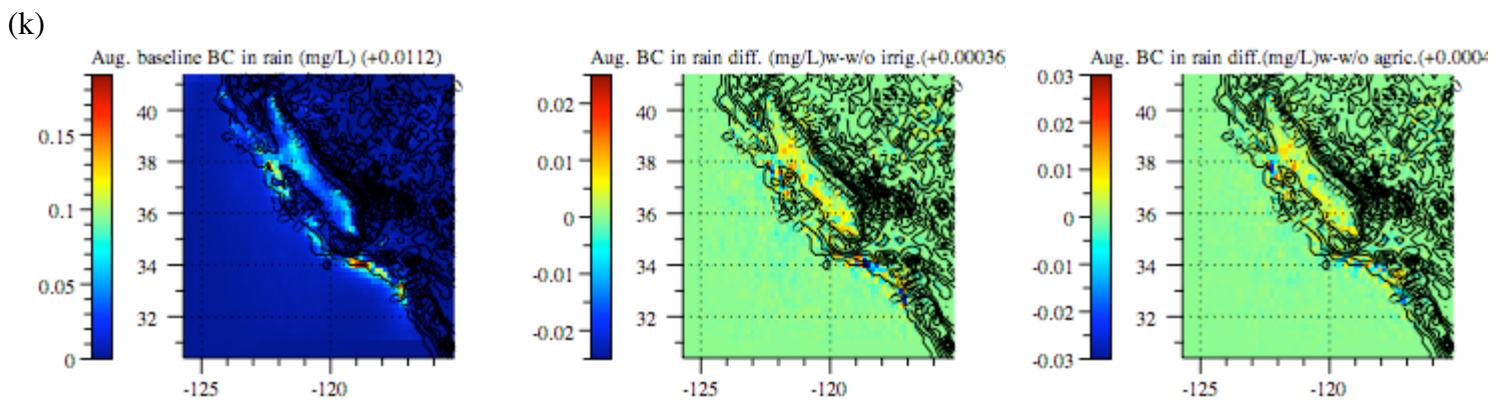
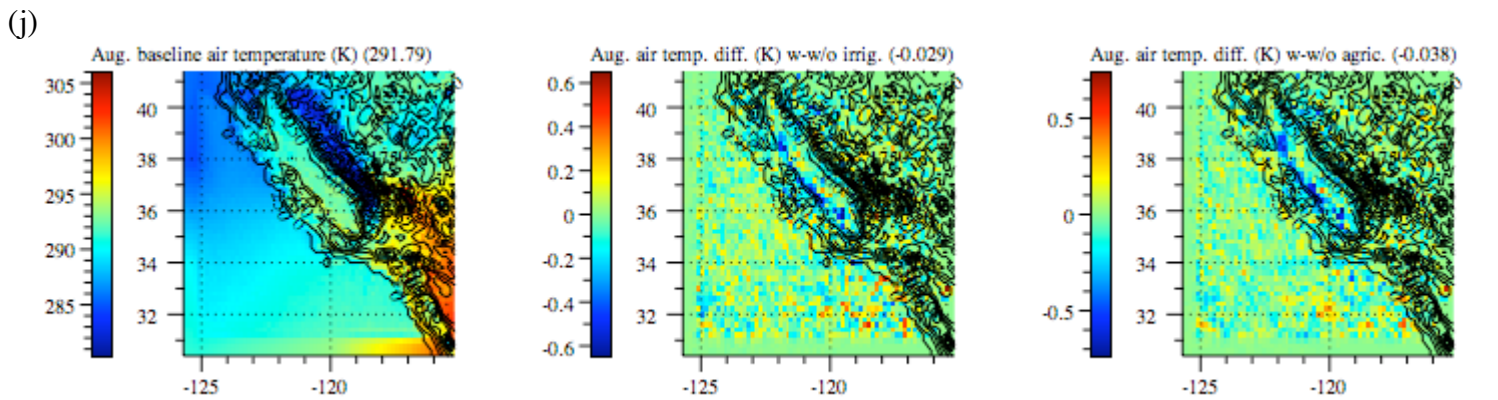
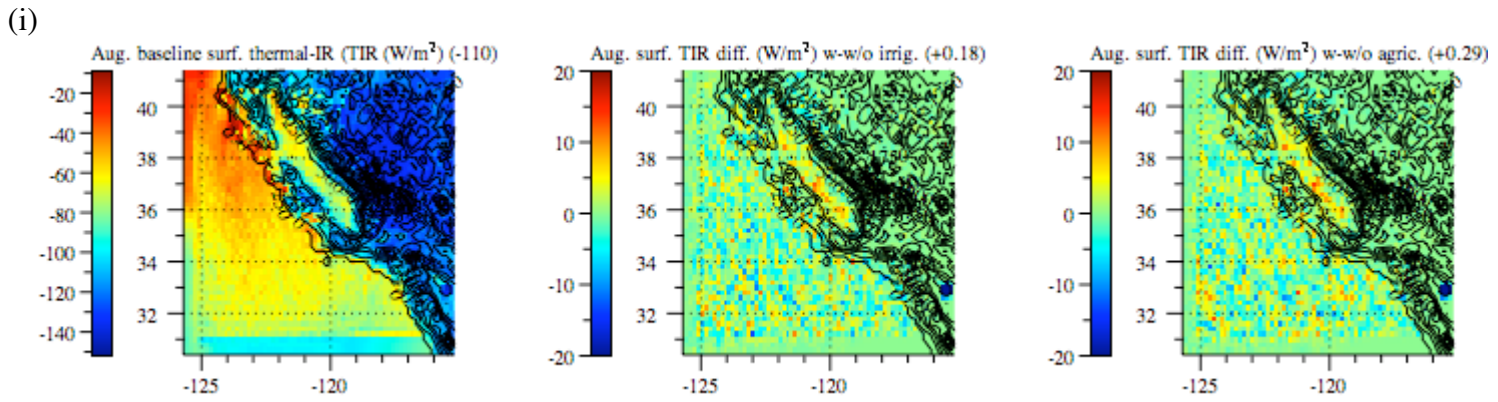
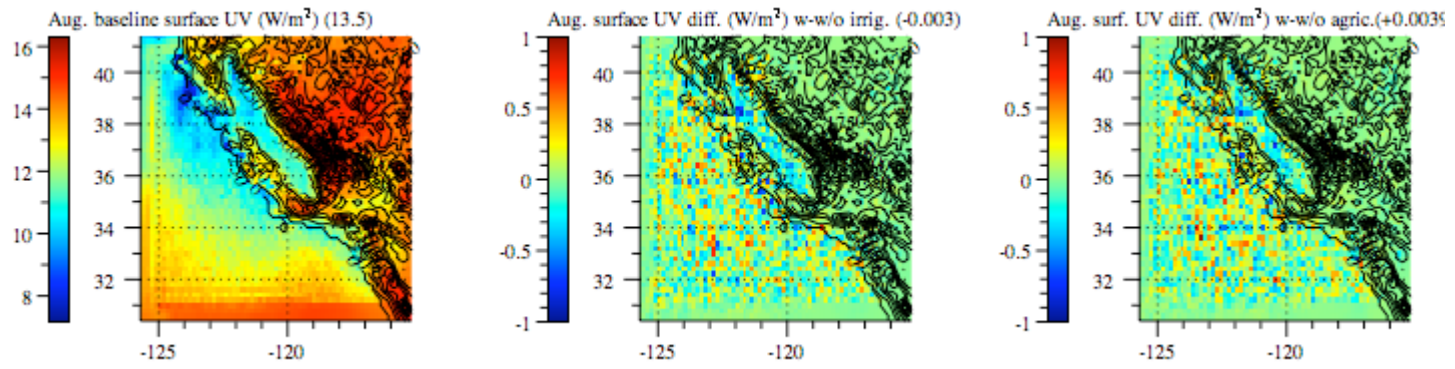


**Figure 4.** Modeled August average baseline values (with irrigation and current albedo of agriculture), baseline values minus those without irrigation but with current albedo (w-w/o irrig.), and baseline values minus those with irrigation and with pre-agriculture albedo (w-w/o agric.) for several parameters. The number in parentheses in each figure is the average value over land of all data in the figure.

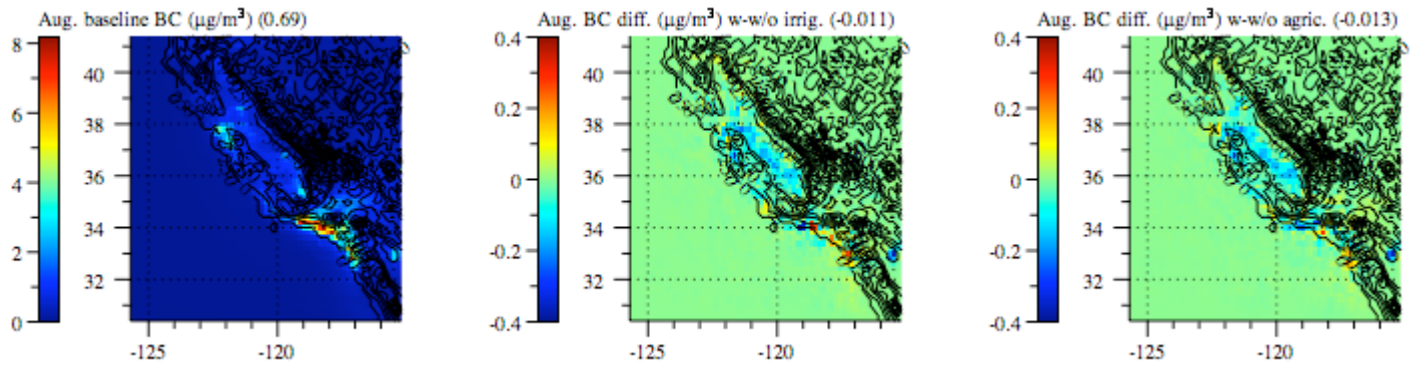




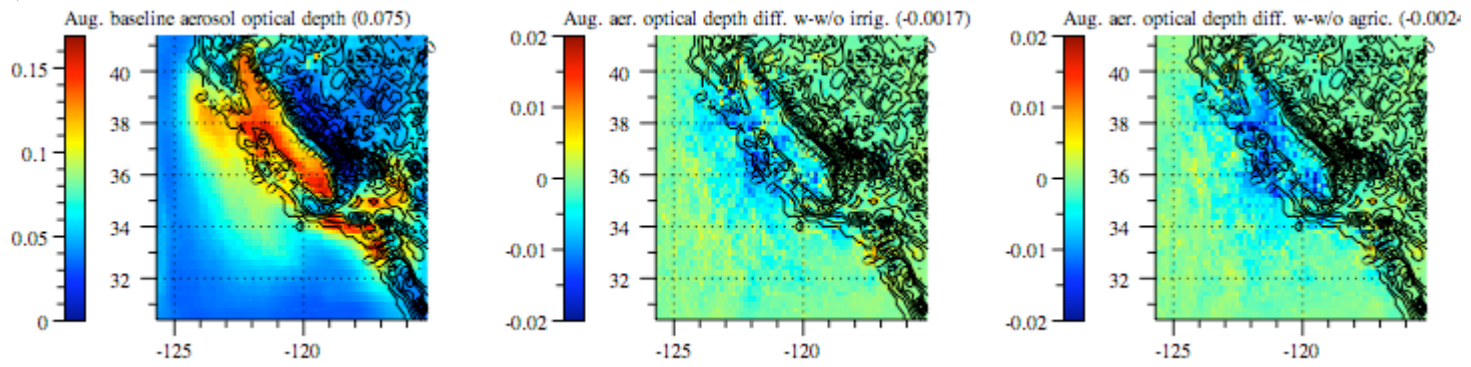
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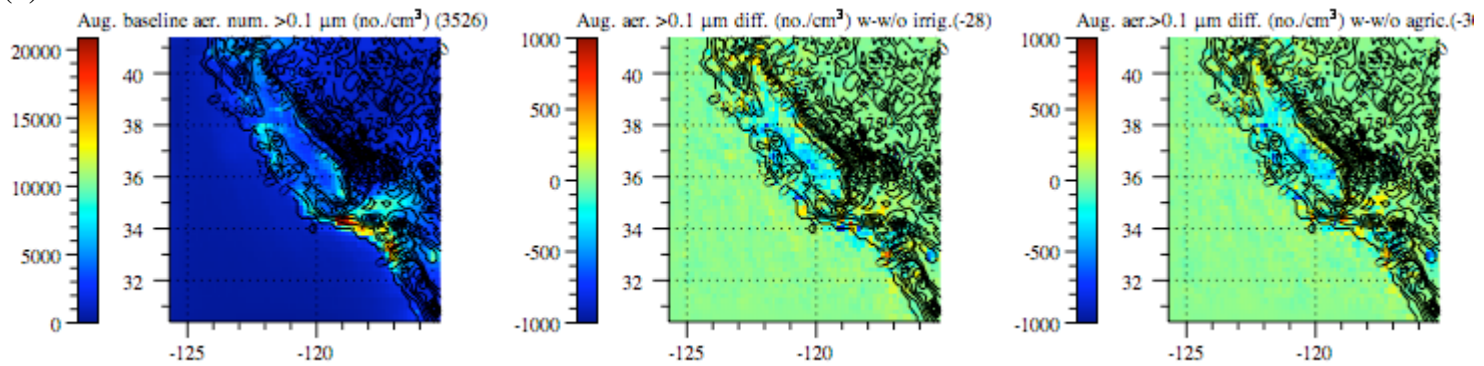
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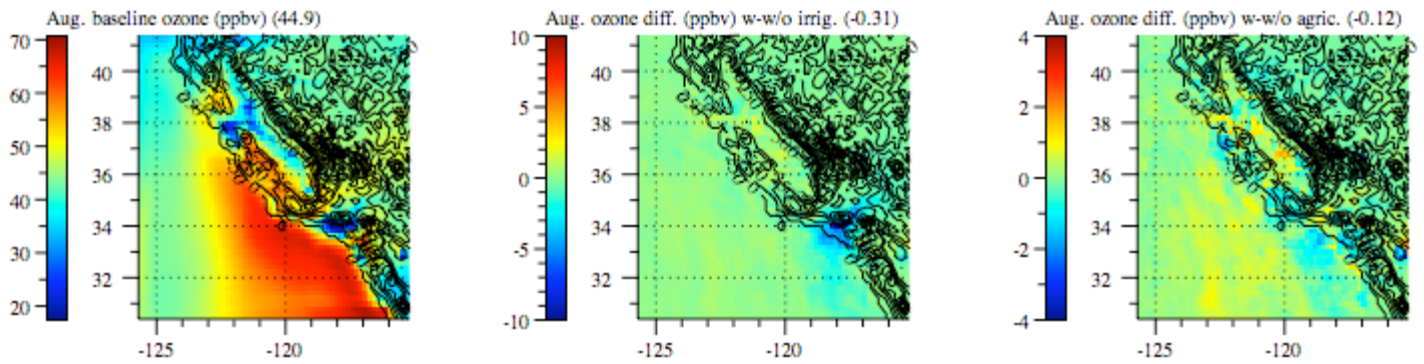
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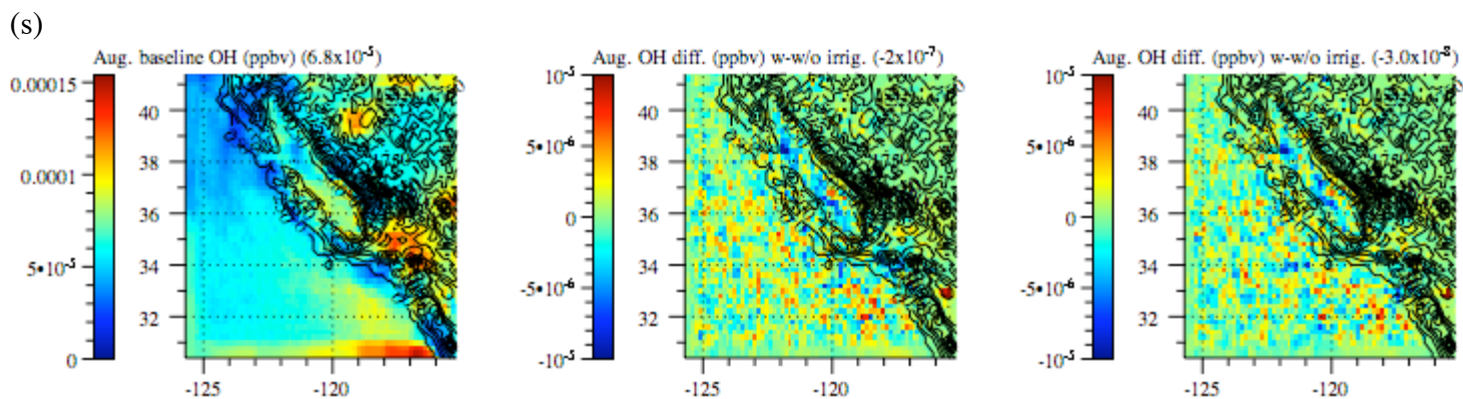
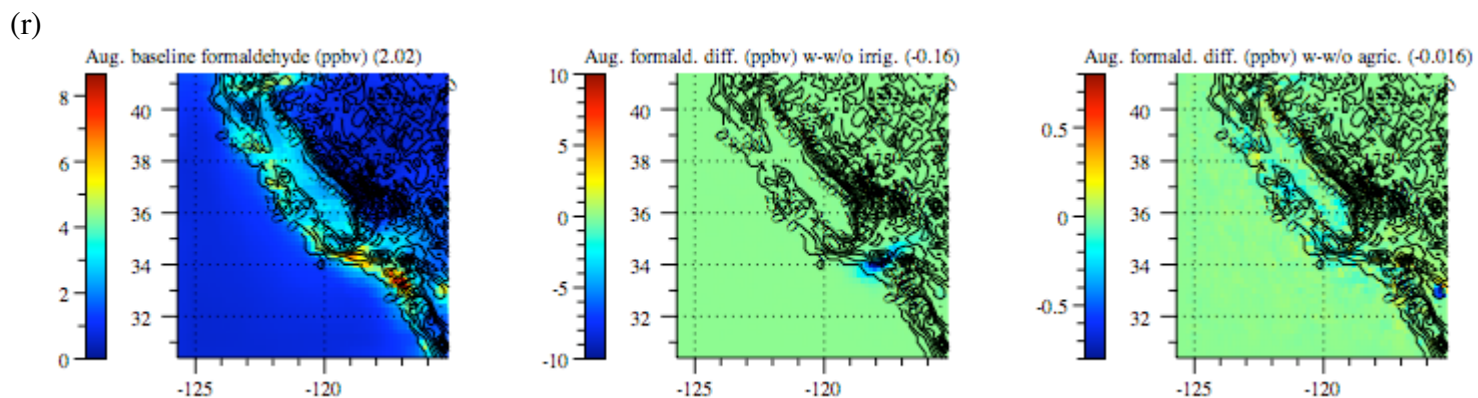
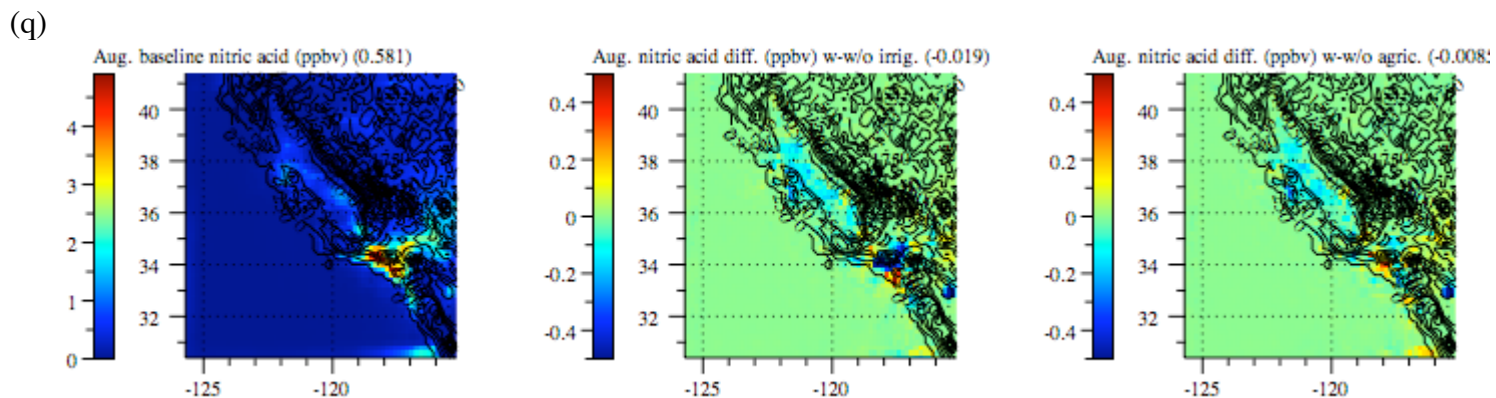
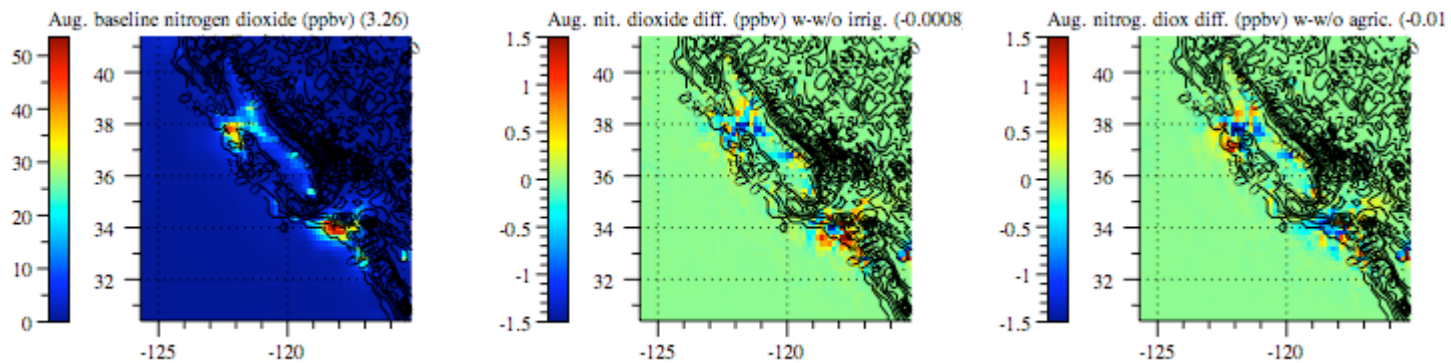


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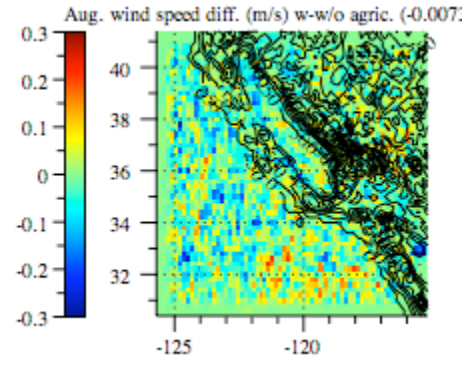
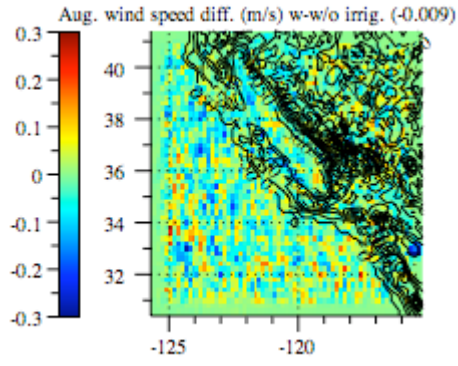
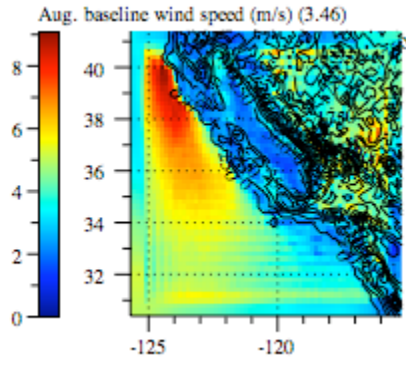


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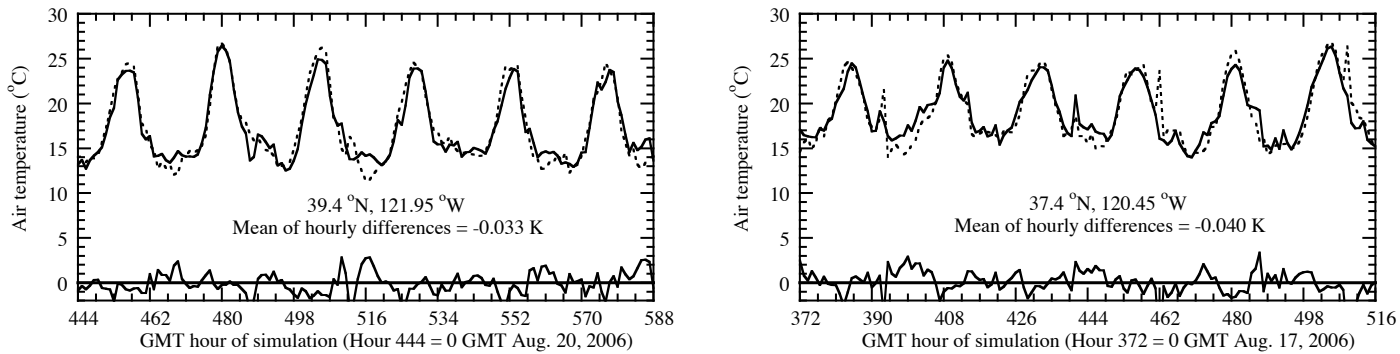




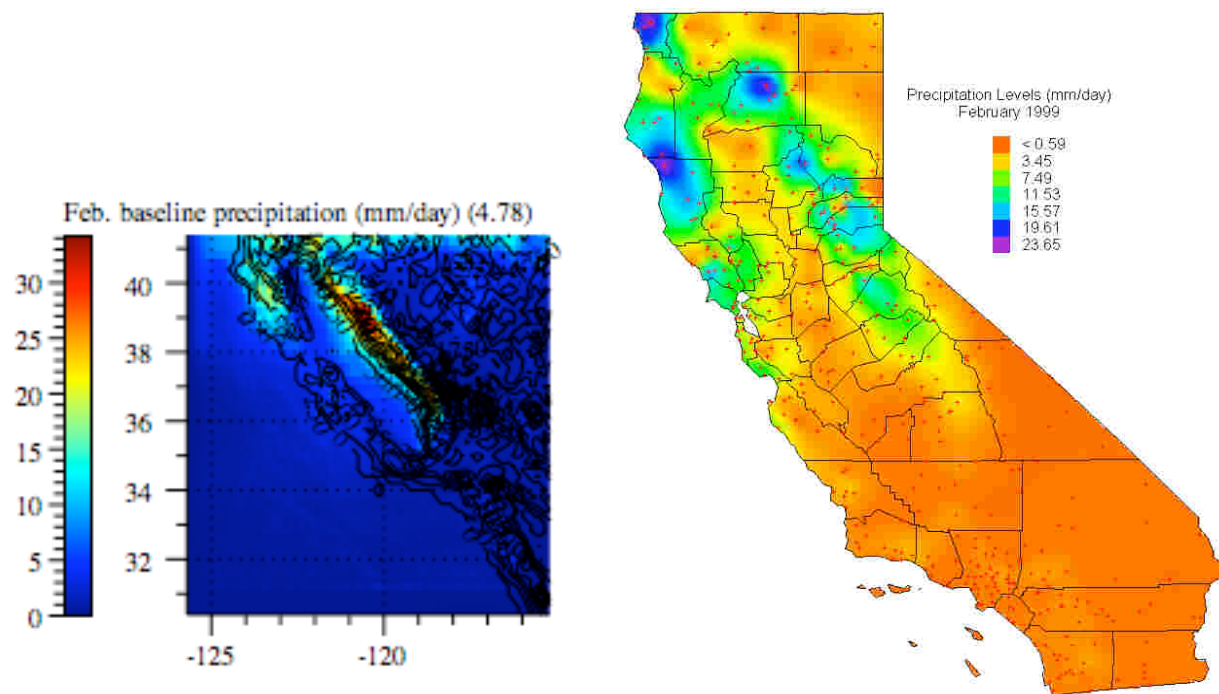
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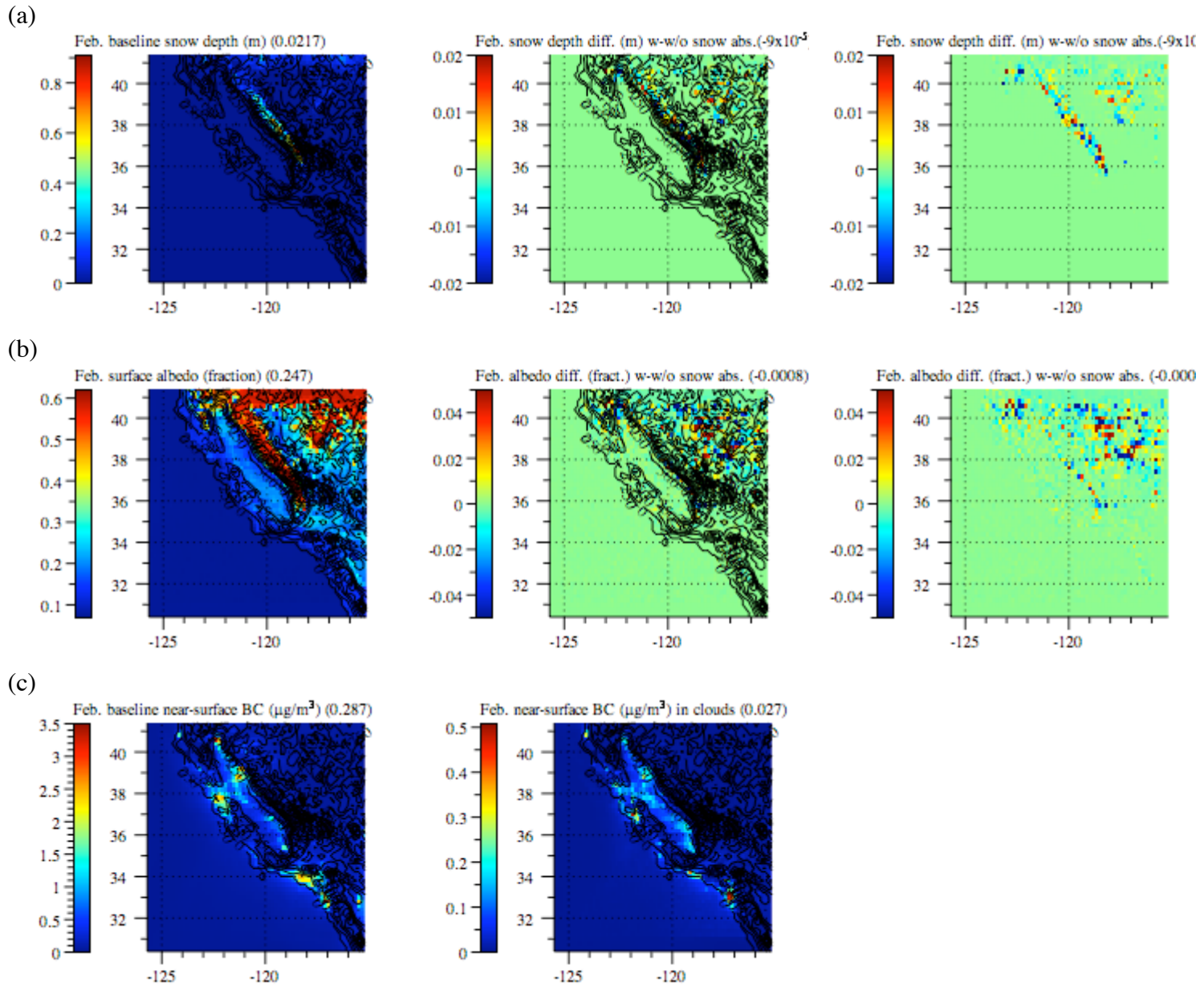
**Figure 5.** Time-dependent variation for several days in August in modeled near-surface air temperature at two locations when irrigation was included (solid lines) and excluded (dashed lines). The “Mean of hourly differences is the mean over all hours of the month of August, only some of which are shown in the figure.

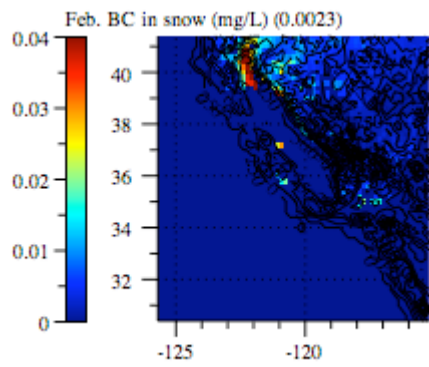
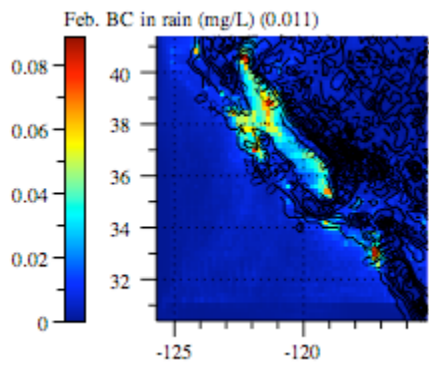


**Figure 6.** Modeled versus measured February precipitation.

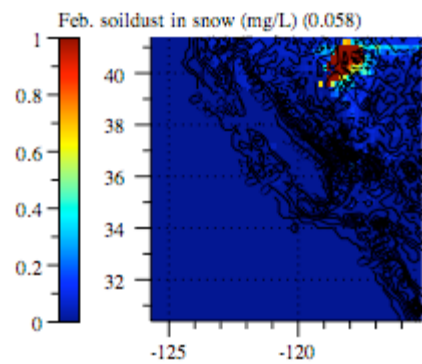
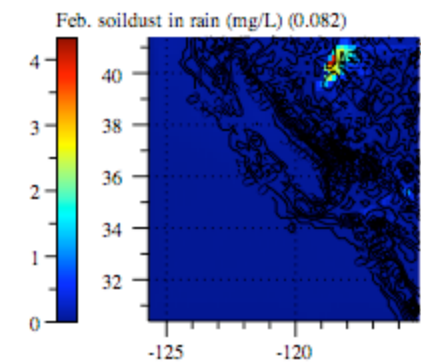
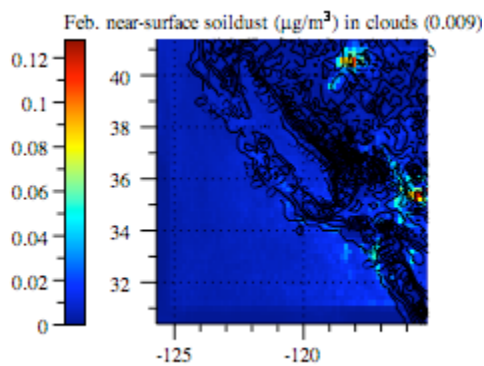
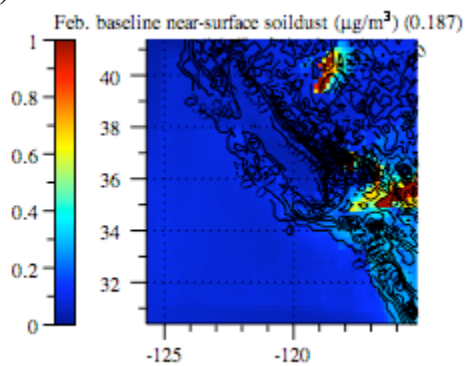


**Figure 7.** Modeled February-averaged baseline values (with absorption by BC and soildust in snow) and values w/ minus without such absorption (w-w/o snow abs.) for several parameters. The number in parentheses in each figure the average value over all land points (snow-covered and non-snow covered) in the figure. In some cases, a differen figure without topography, is shown. Such figures have the same data as the difference figure without topography.

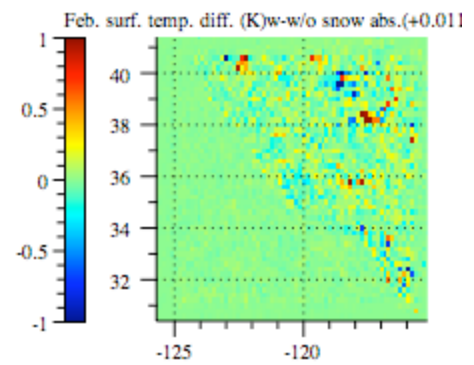
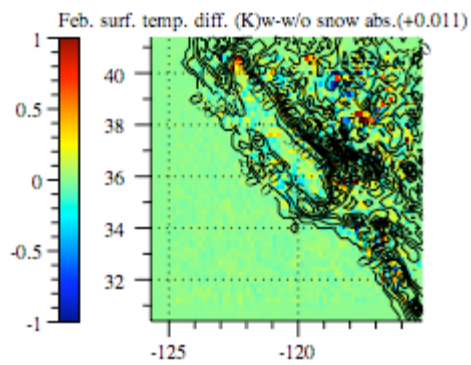
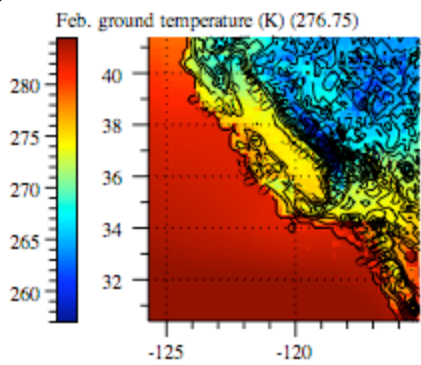




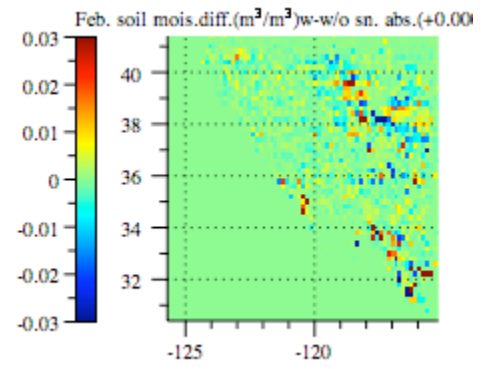
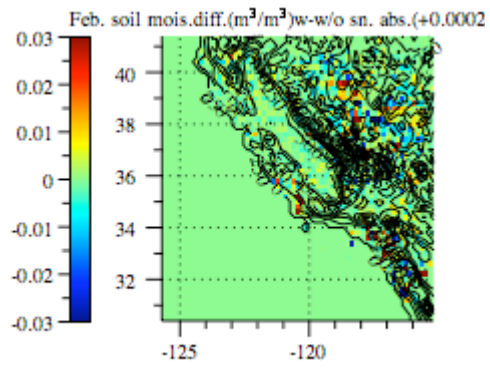
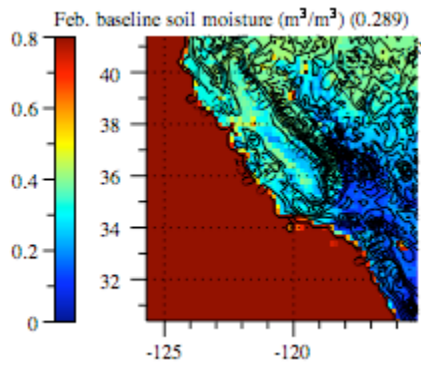
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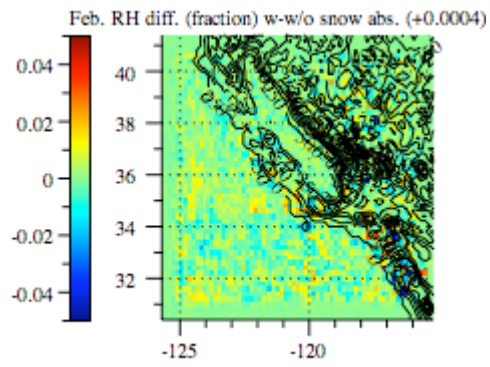
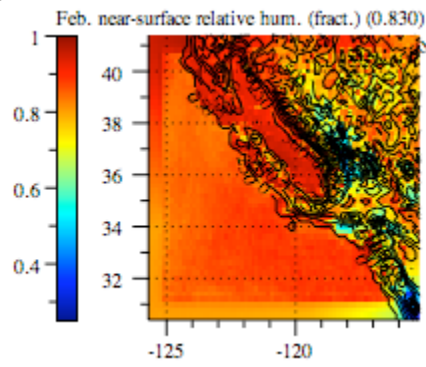
(e)



(f)



(g)



(h)

