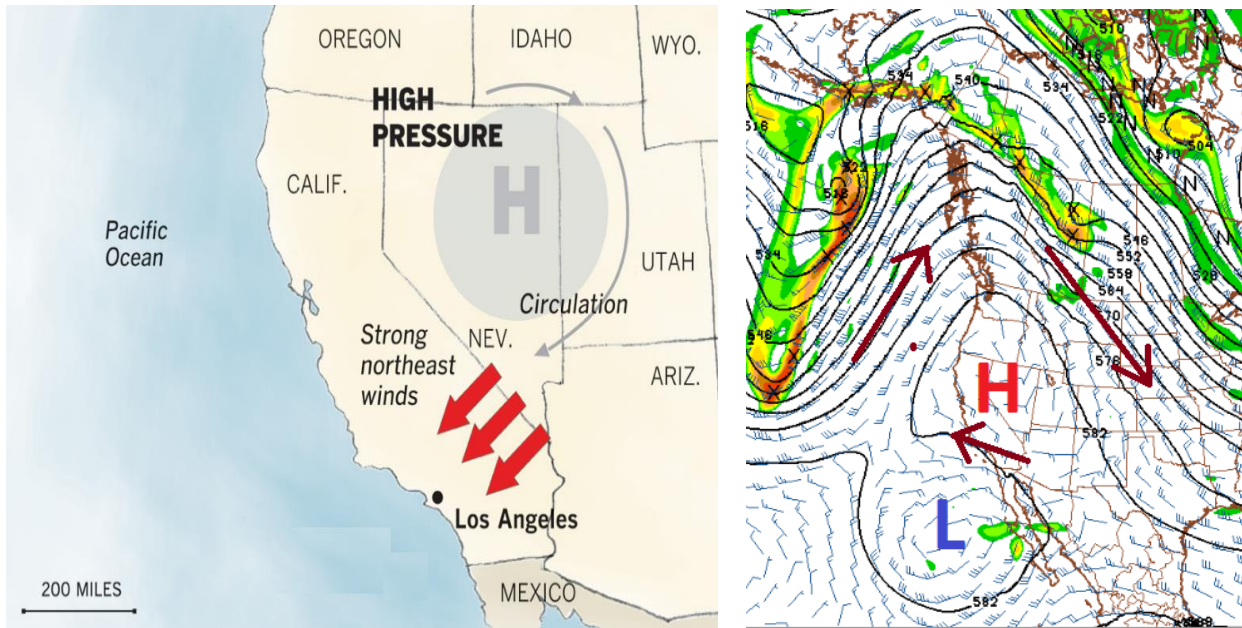


Why the Thomas Fire (and Associated Smoke) is Moving West

What's Changed?

The Thomas Fire began with a Santa Ana pattern, and the fire moved quickly through the Chaparral covered hillsides of Ventura County. Over the last couple days a Rex Block pattern has set up, and is now forcing the fire into an area which has not burned in over 100 years.



Typical Santa Ana pattern	Rex Block
Strong high pressure inland forces winds through the NE-SW aligned canyons of Southern California. RESULT? Very dry and strong NE winds through those corridors.	A “Rex Block” occurs when low pressure sets up under a high pressure ridge, in this case generating a more easterly flow, and directing the fire into the very dry chaparral of the rugged backcountry of Santa Barbara County.