

# Near record wildfire season in California, USA

Sentinel-3 SLSTR RBT acquired on 26 May 2020 at 18:12:47 UTC

Sentinel-3 SLSTR RBT acquired on 20 August 2020 from 18:19:19 to 18:22:19 UTC

Sentinel-3 SLSTR RBT acquired on 26 August 2020 at 18:27:49 UTC

Sentinel-5P TROPOMI CO acquired from 19 August 2020 at 21:43:30 to 24 August 2020 at 20:08:30 UTC

Sentinel-5P TROPOMI AER\_AI acquired from 19 August 2020 at 21:43:30 to 24 August 2020 at 20:08:30 UTC

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[3D Layerstack](#)

Fig. 1 - S3 SLSTR (26.05.2020) - Snow covers the Sierra Nevada, Central California, at the end of may 2020, before the fire season began. [2D view](#)

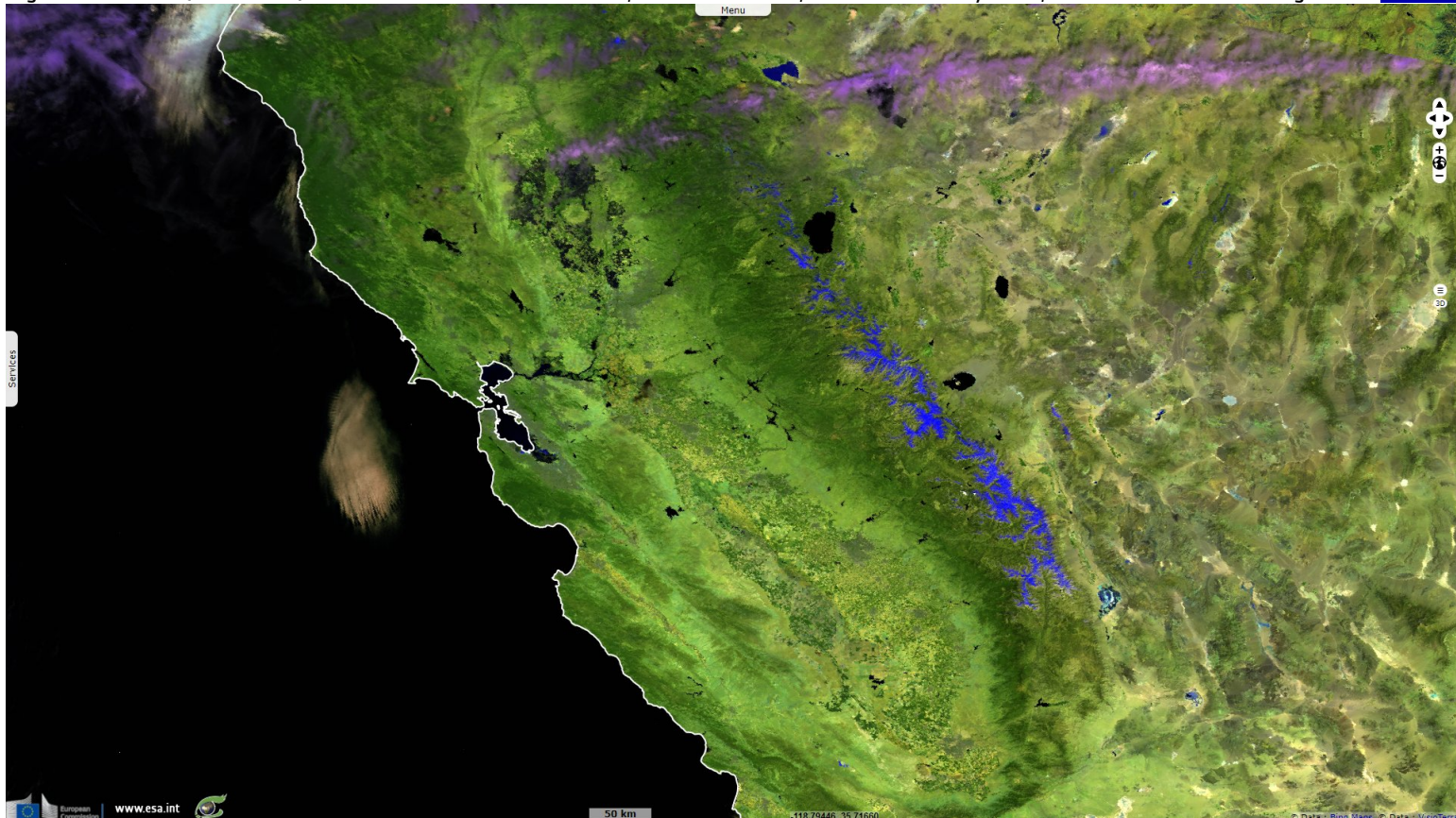


Fig. 2 - S3 SLSTR (20.08.2020) - Many large wildfires were active simultaneously at the worst of the disaster. [2D view](#)

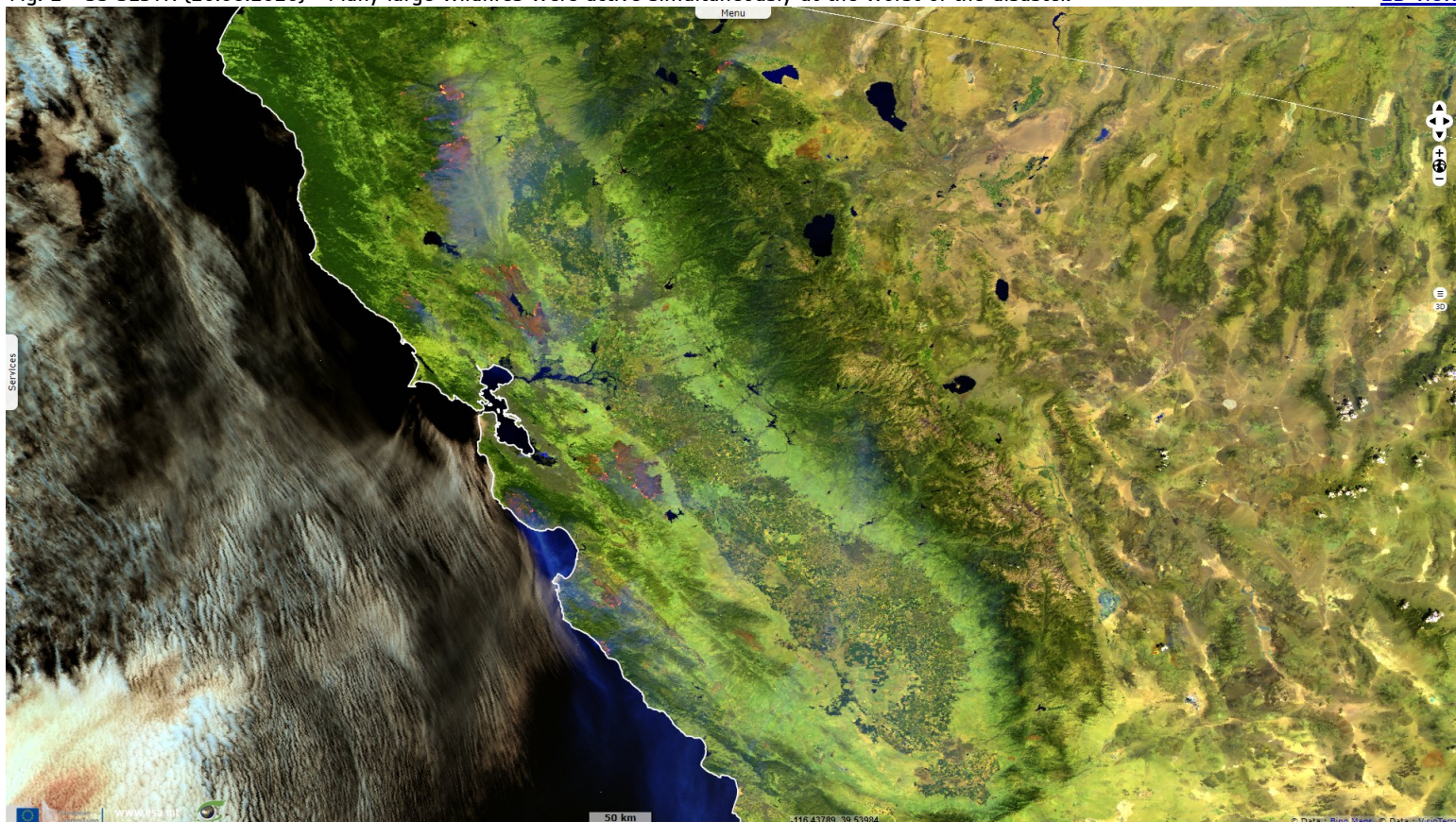




Fig. 3 - S3 SLSTR (26.08.2020) - While the fires were less active, one can assess the many burn scars that devastate the landscape.

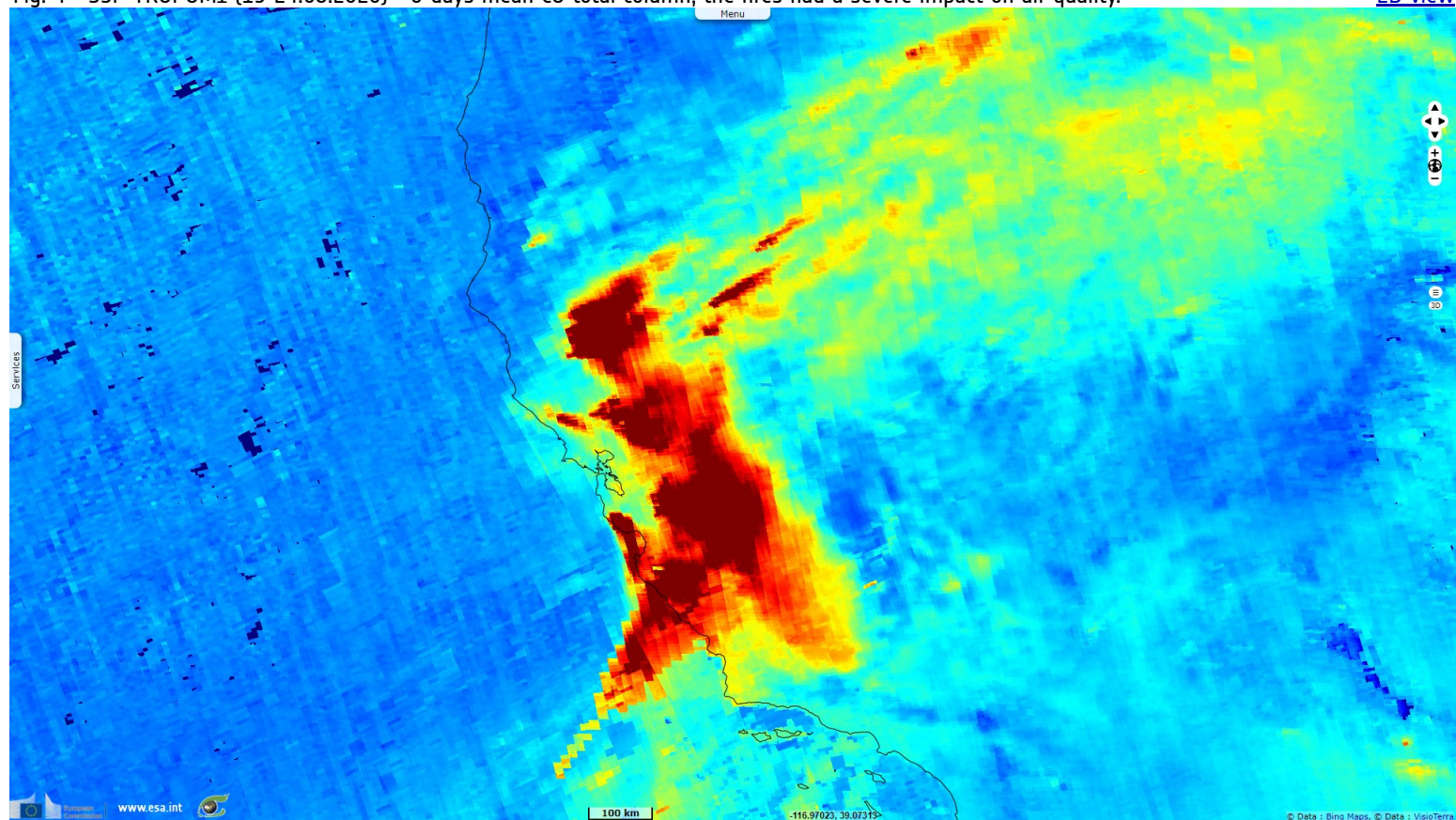
[2D view](#)



2018 Mendocino Complex record has not been beaten yet, but the second and third largest wildfire complexes ever recorded in California are still active.

Fig. 4 - S5P TROPOMI (19-24.08.2020) - 6-days mean CO total column, the fires had a severe impact on air quality.

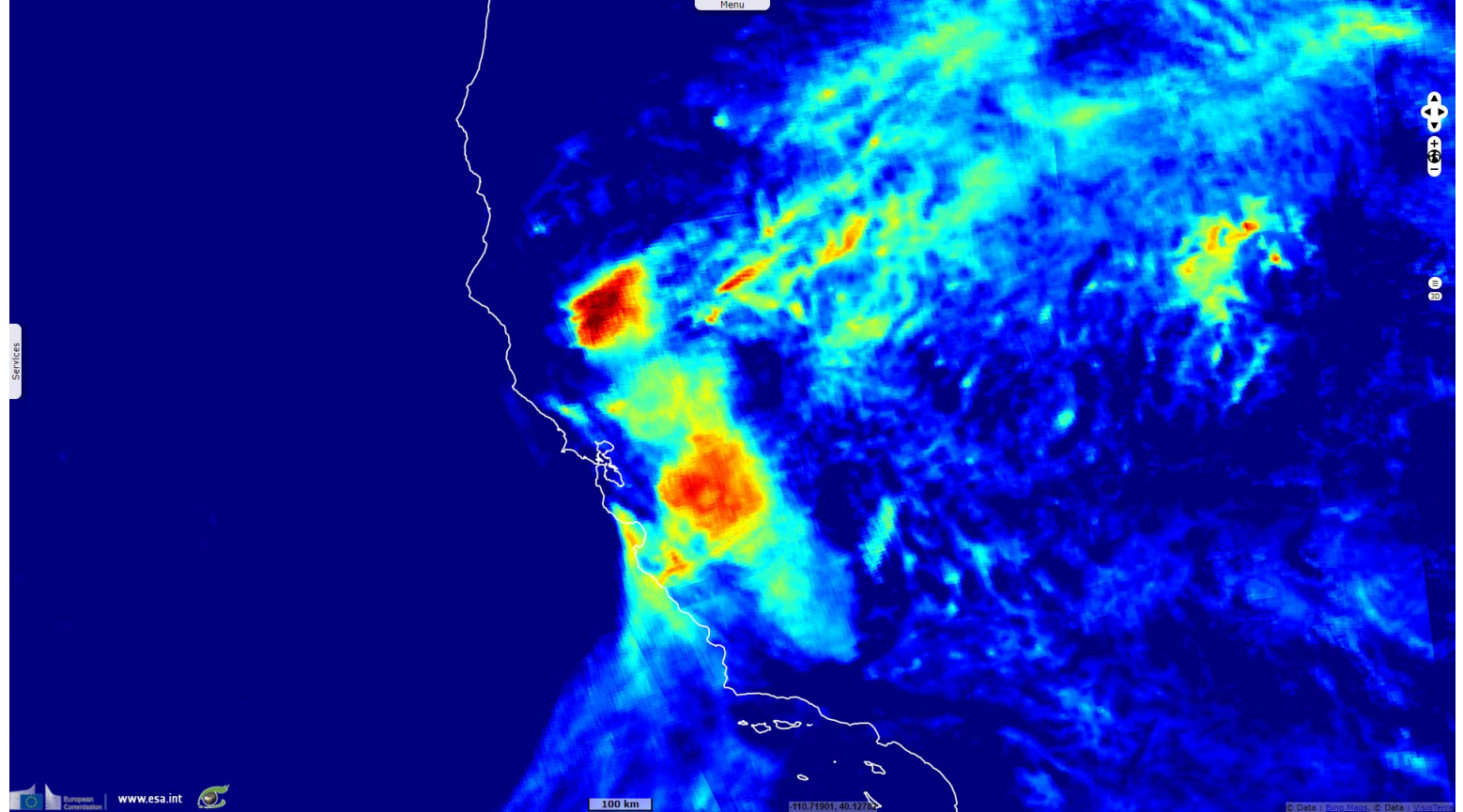
[2D view](#)



A severe drought at the start of the year led to a mass die-off of trees. Constant rainfalls arrived but late, the died trees then caused a high risk of wildfires.















Fig. 5 - 19-24.08.2020 - 6-days mean aerosol index. The pollution affected mostly the Central Valley and the Basin & Range region. [2D view](#)



The 7175 reported fire incidents caused almost 8000 km<sup>2</sup> to burn, but only 7 victims have been recorded. It is the second worst year regarding surfaces burnt after 2018.

*The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Space Agency or the European Union.  
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