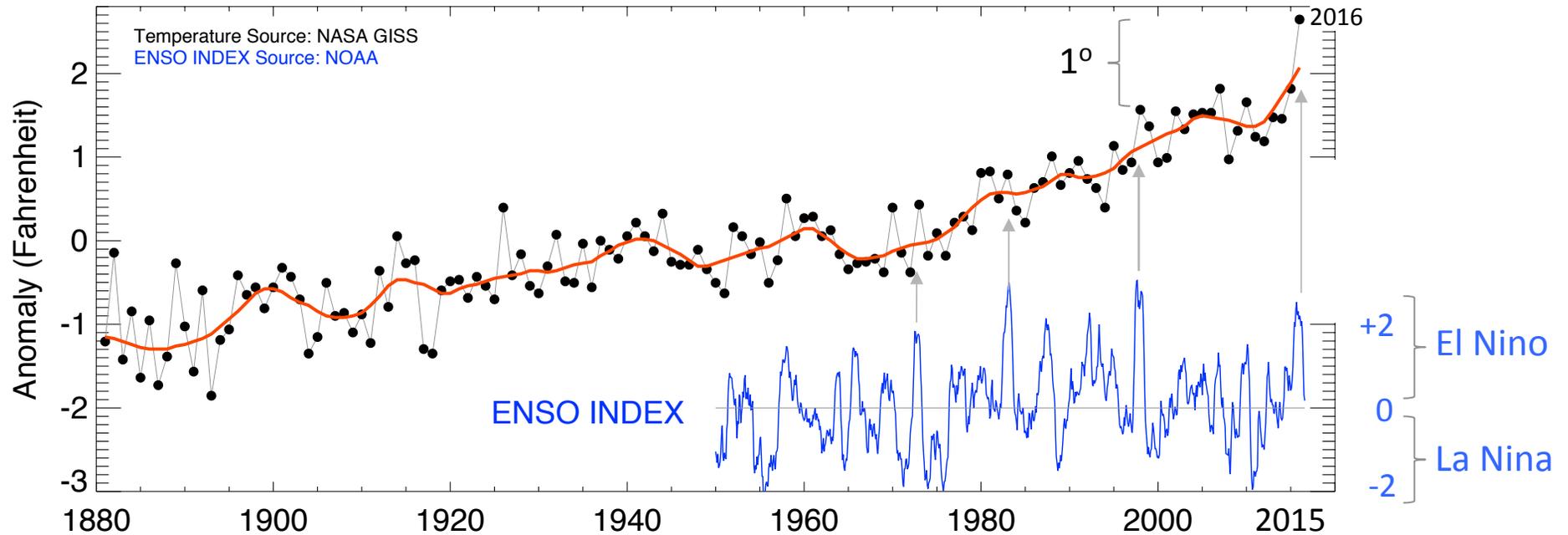


Global Mean Surface Temperatures Weather Stations only (Dec Jan Feb)



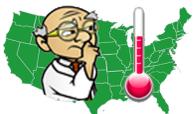
Can the recent El Nino explain the record warmth of last winter?

El Nino events are unusually warm sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific. They often drive warmer atmospheric surface temperatures. Years with strong El Nino events are 1972, 1983, 1998, 2016 (see grey arrows).

The year of 1998 had one of the strongest El Ninos which drove warm global atmospheric surface temperatures.

But the recent 2016 winter is at least 1° (F) warmer than the 1998 value. So No, the El Nino can't explain the record temperatures last winter.

Instead, this additional warming is consistent with the gradual rise in global temperatures since 1880 which is driven by the trapping of thermal radiation by greenhouse gases. More information at temperaturetrends.org



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