

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR:  
A generalized approach to generate synthetic short-to-medium range  
hydro-meteorological forecasts

Zachary P. Brodeur<sup>1</sup>, Scott Steinschneider<sup>2</sup>  
Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

1. Graduate Research Assistant, 111 Wing Drive, Riley-Robb Hall, Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 14853. Email: zpb4@cornell.edu, Phone: 607-255-2155 (Corresponding Author).

2. Assistant Professor, 111 Wing Drive, Riley-Robb Hall, Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 14853. Email: ss3378@cornell.edu, Phone: 607-255-2155.

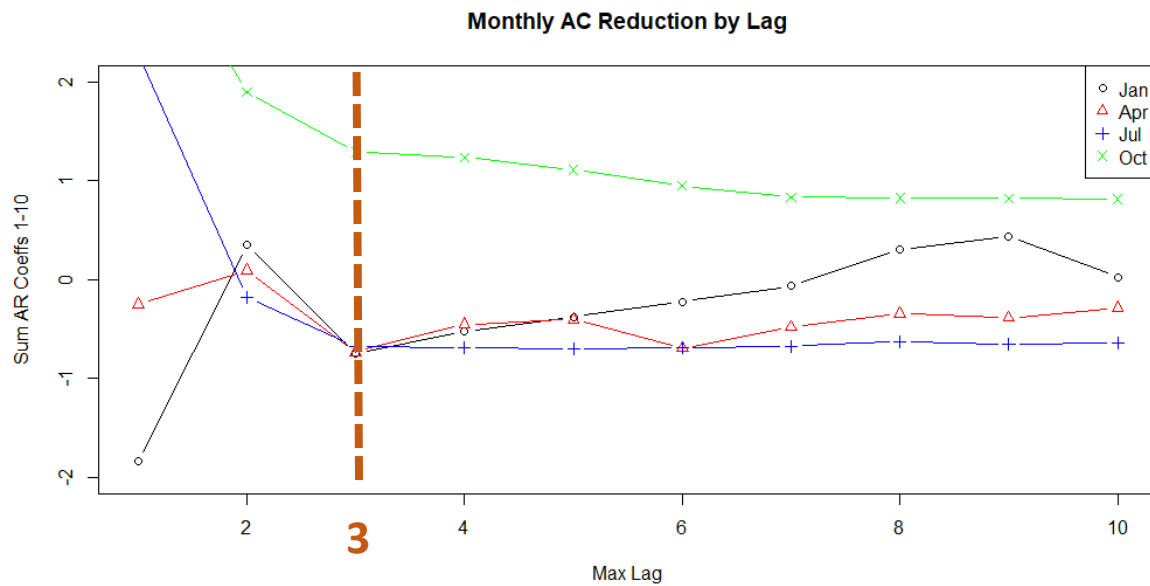


Figure S1: Summed auto-correlations coefficients (lags 1-10, all lead times) for Folsom reservoir forecast residuals after VAR decorrelation. The x-axis indicated the maximal lag-order in the BigVAR model and lines are shown for selected monthly subsets. Dark orange line demarcates maximal lag order chosen for this study.

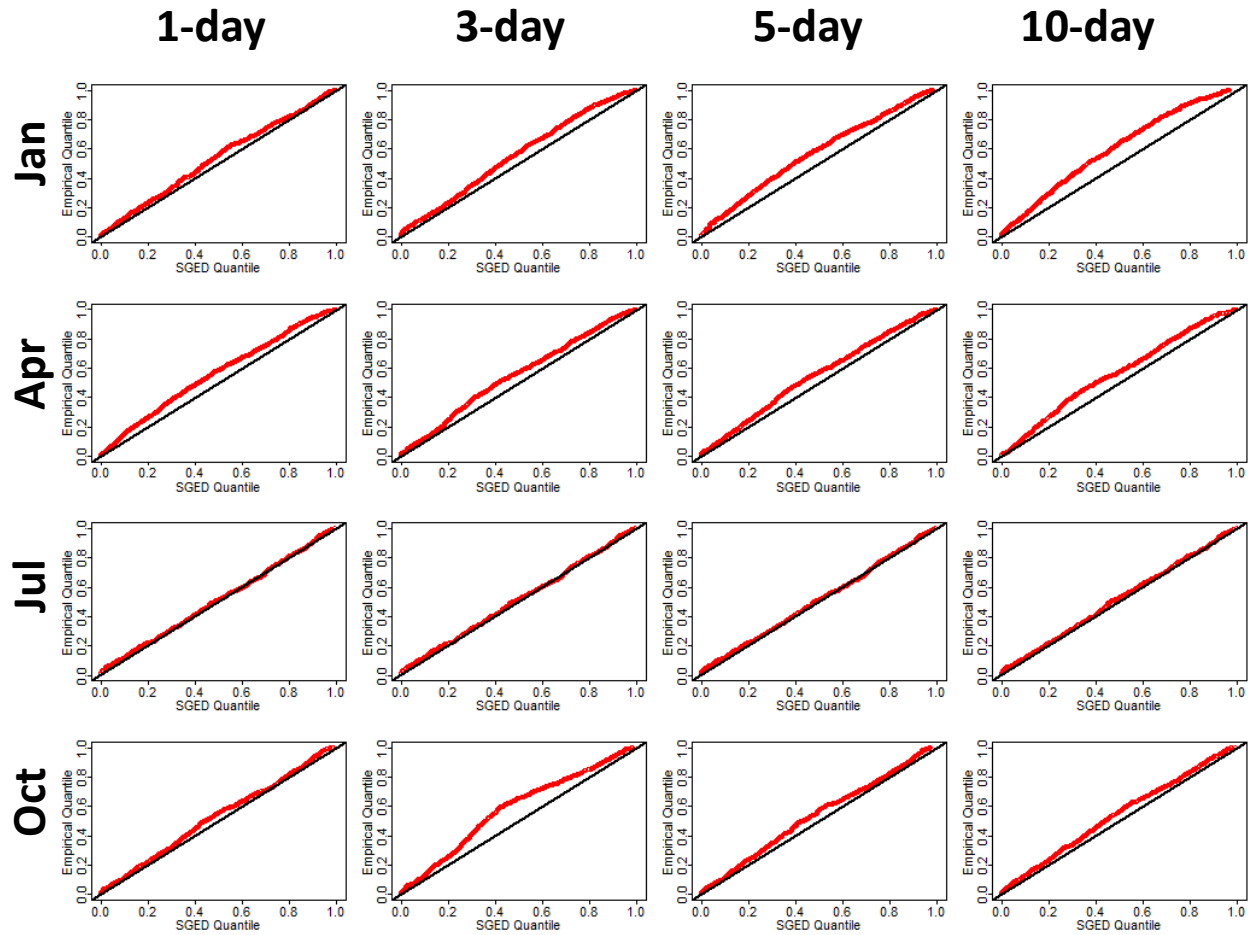


Figure S2: Q-Q plots across selected months (rows) and lead times (columns) for HEFS streamflow forecast transformed residuals ( $a_t$ ). The black line is theoretical perfect correspondence between modeled and empirical quantiles (1:1) and red line shows the actual correspondence from the SGED model for the  $a_t$  residuals.

72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88

## January

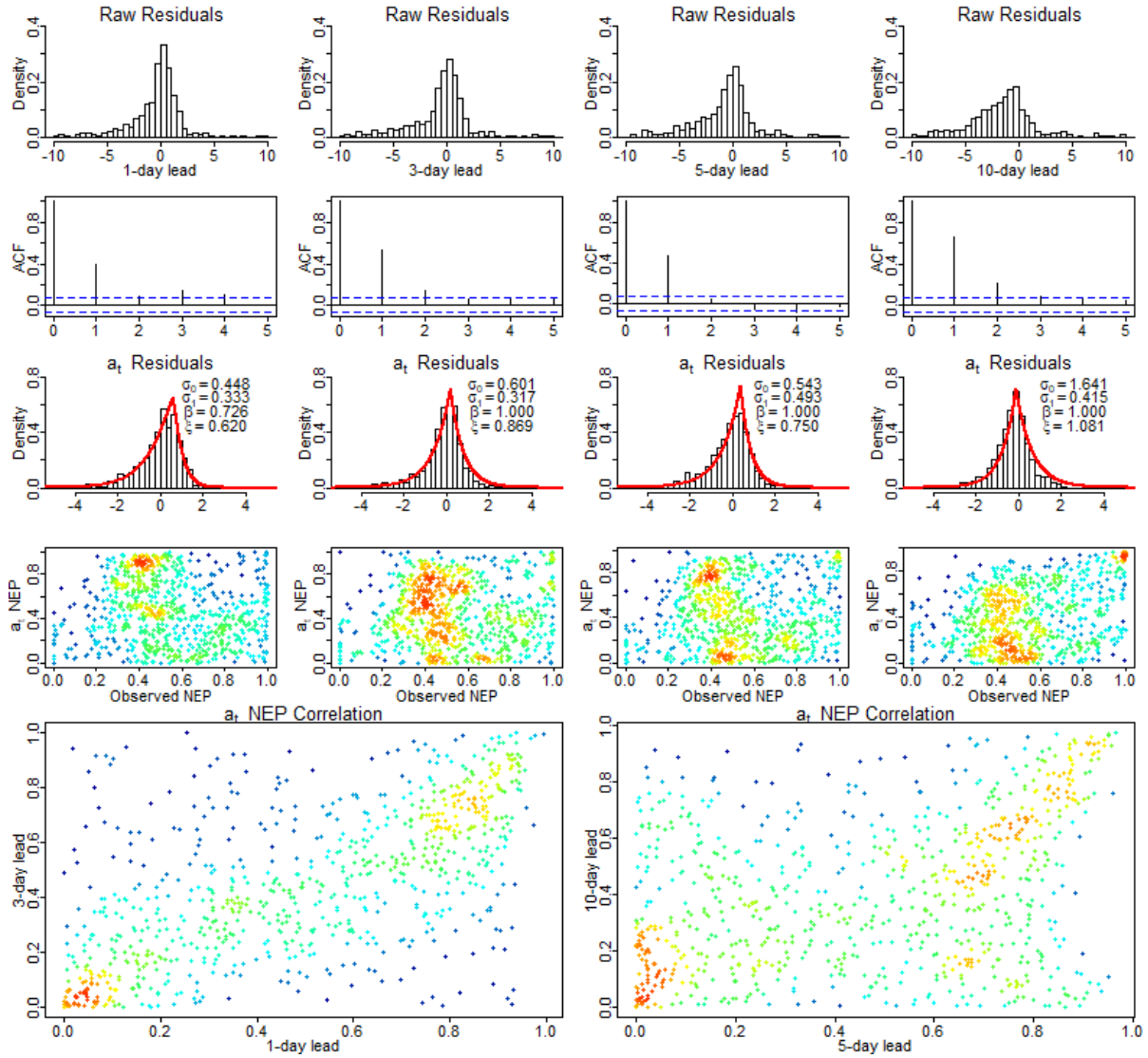


Figure S3: As in Figure 4, but only for month of January and across lead times of 1, 3, 5, and 10 days. Bottom row shows 1 to 3-day lead  $a_t$  NEP correlations in left panel and 5 to 10-day lead  $a_t$  NEP correlations in right panel.

89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98

## April

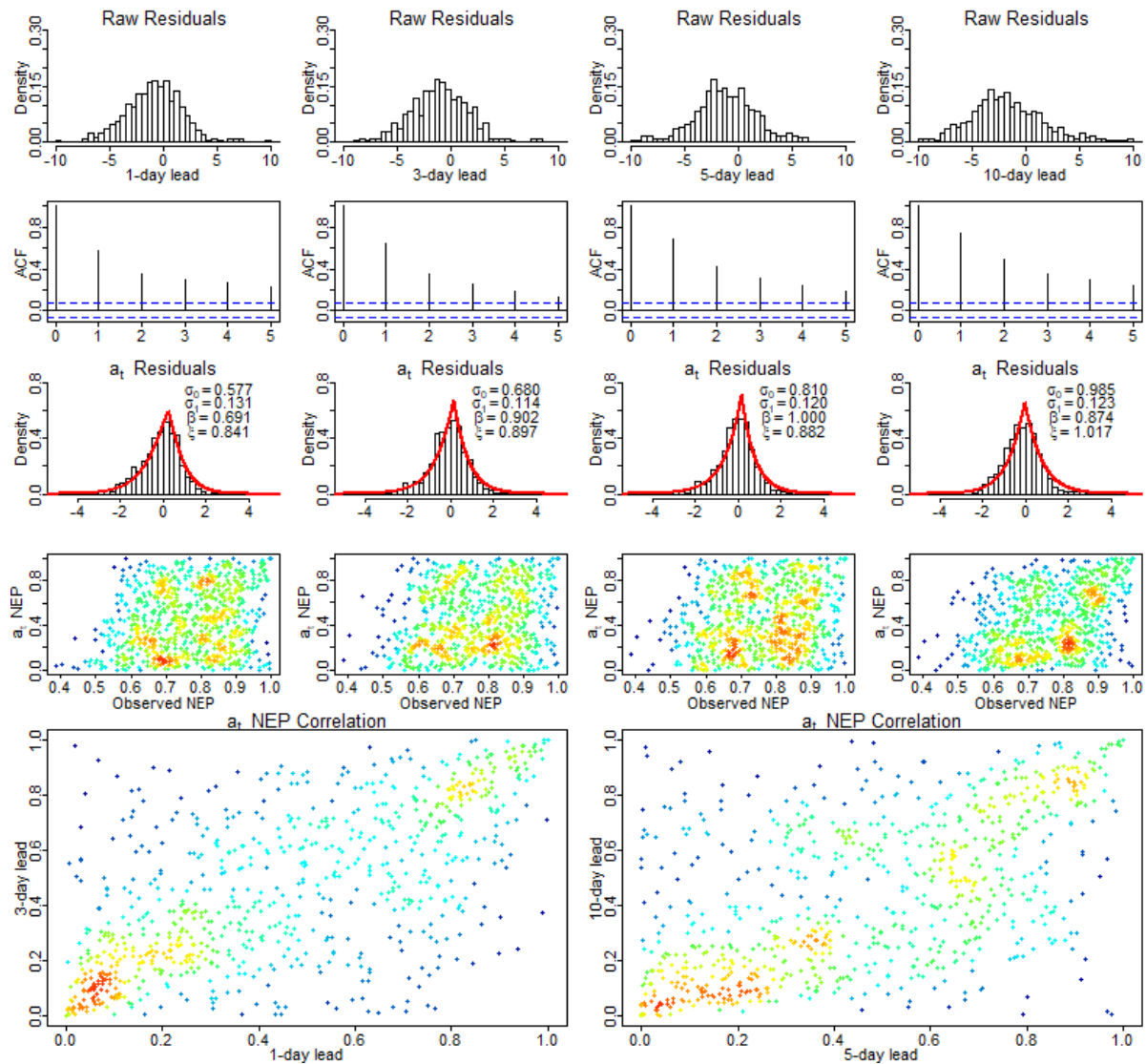


Figure S4: As in Figure 4, but only for month of April and across lead times of 1, 3, 5, and 10 days. Bottom row shows 1 to 3-day lead  $a_t$  NEP correlations in left panel and 5 to 10-day lead  $a_t$  NEP correlations in right panel.

99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109

## July

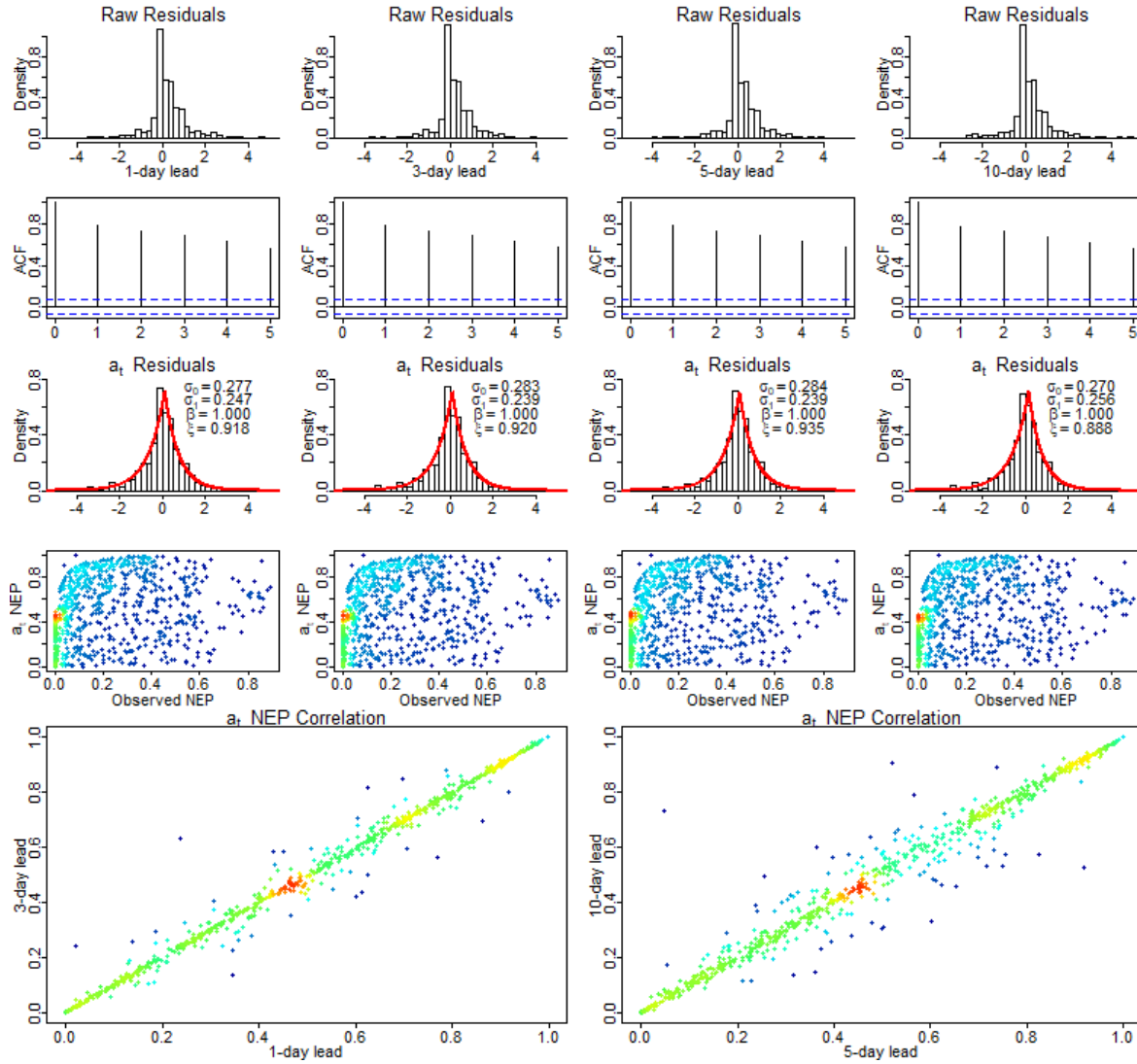


Figure S5: As in Figure 4, but only for month of July and across lead times of 1, 3, 5, and 10 days. Bottom row shows 1 to 3-day lead  $a_t$  NEP correlations in left panel and 5 to 10-day lead  $a_t$  NEP correlations in right panel.

## October

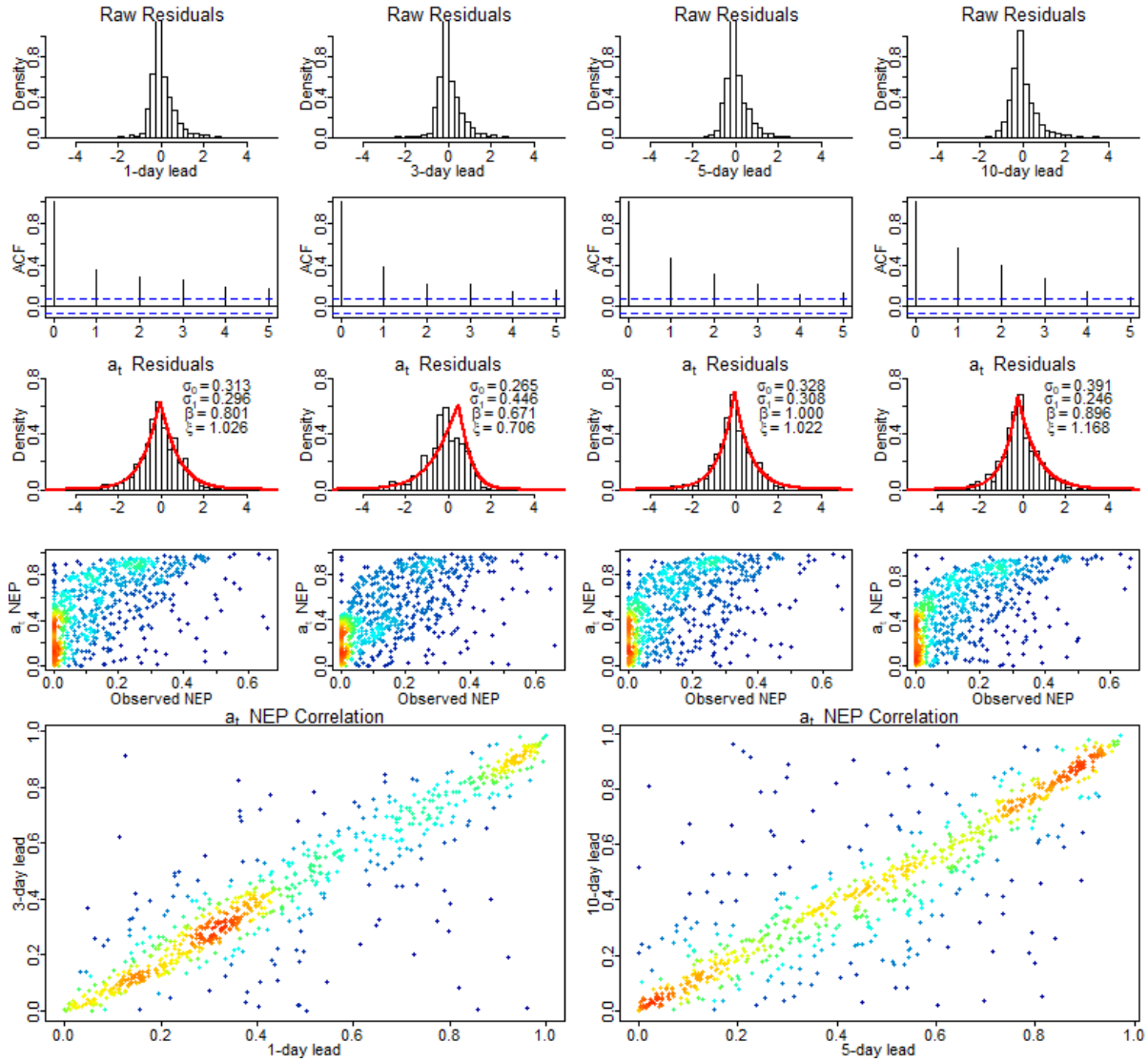


Figure S6: As in Figure 4, but only for month of October and across lead times of 1, 3, 5, and 10 days. Bottom row shows 1 to 3-day lead  $a_t$  NEP correlations in left panel and 5 to 10-day lead  $a_t$  NEP correlations in right panel.

121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132

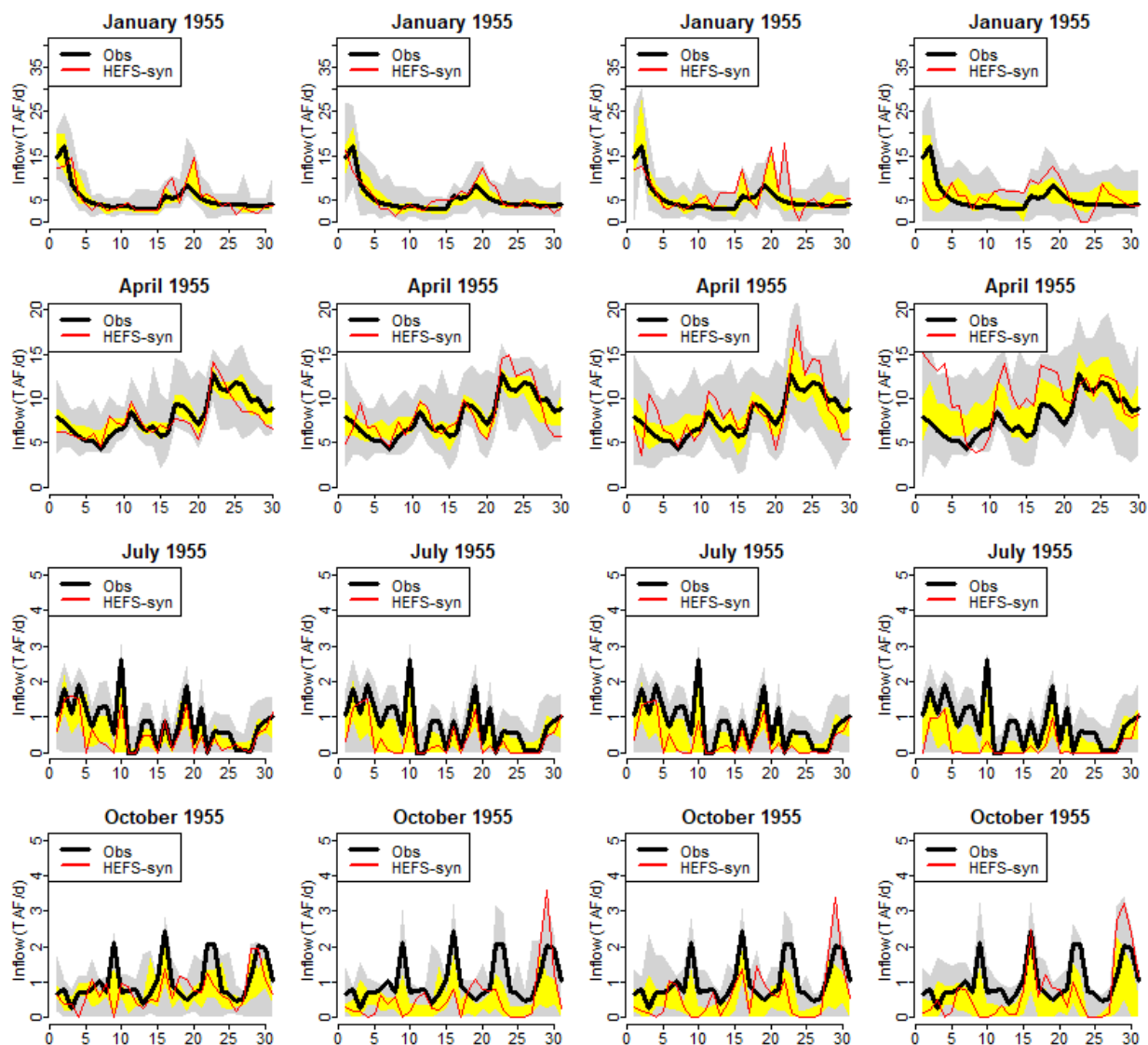


Figure S7: As in figure 6 but for 4 selected months in 1955 (i.e. synthetic period samples). Only observed full-natural-flow and synthetic data are shown since no actual HEFS hindcasts are available in this period.

133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144



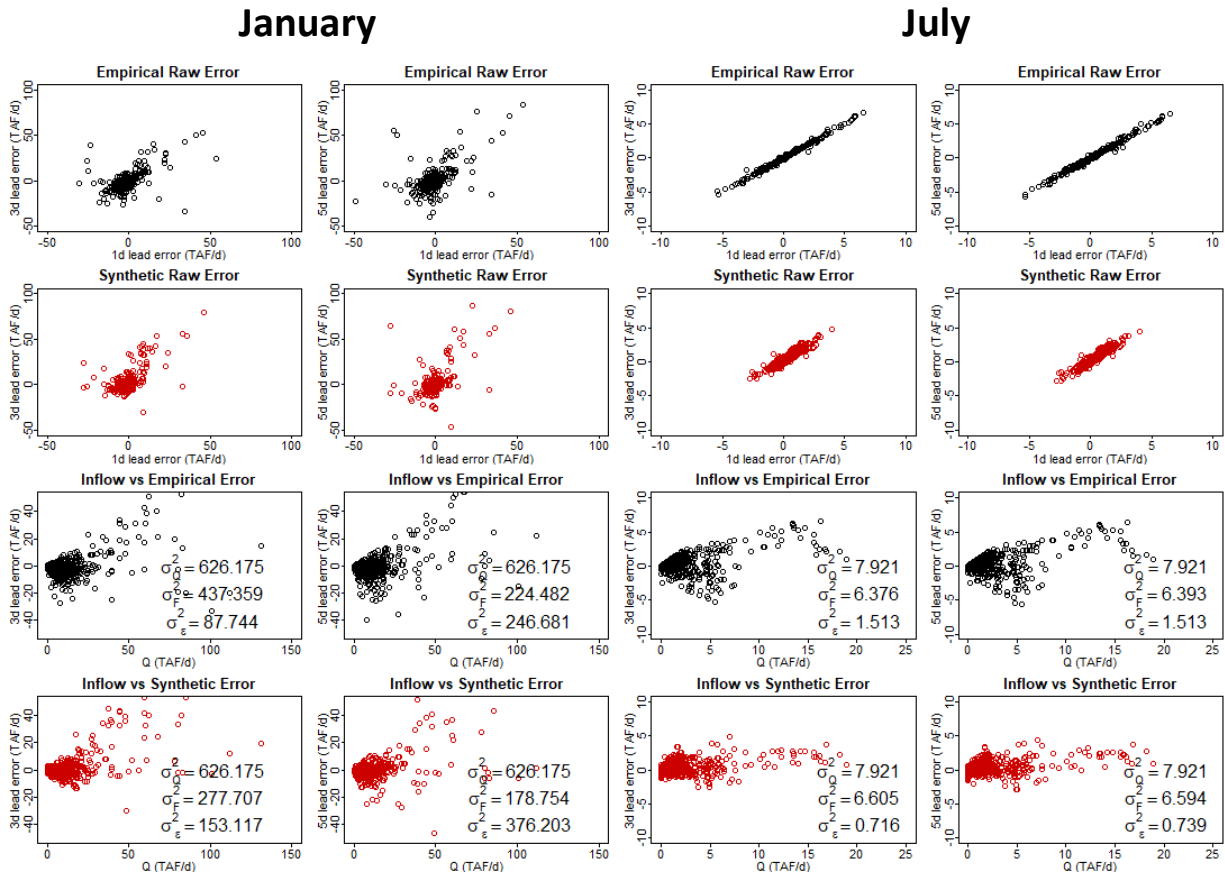


Figure S8: Raw error scatterplots for January (left two columns) and July (right two columns). Top row – Empirical raw error scatterplot (black) between 1 to 3-day forecast leads (1st and 3rd panel) and 1 to 5-day forecast leads (2nd and 4th panel). 2nd row – As for top row, but with synthetic raw error scatterplot (red). 3rd row – Observed flow versus empirical raw errors (black) at 3-day lead (1st and 3rd panel) and versus 5-day lead errors (2nd and 4th panel). Variance in observed flow ( $\sigma_Q^2$ ), forecast ( $\sigma_F^2$ ), and errors ( $\sigma_\epsilon^2$ ) are indicated top to bottom by text in the figure. Bottom row – As in 3rd row but for synthetic raw errors (red).

145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159

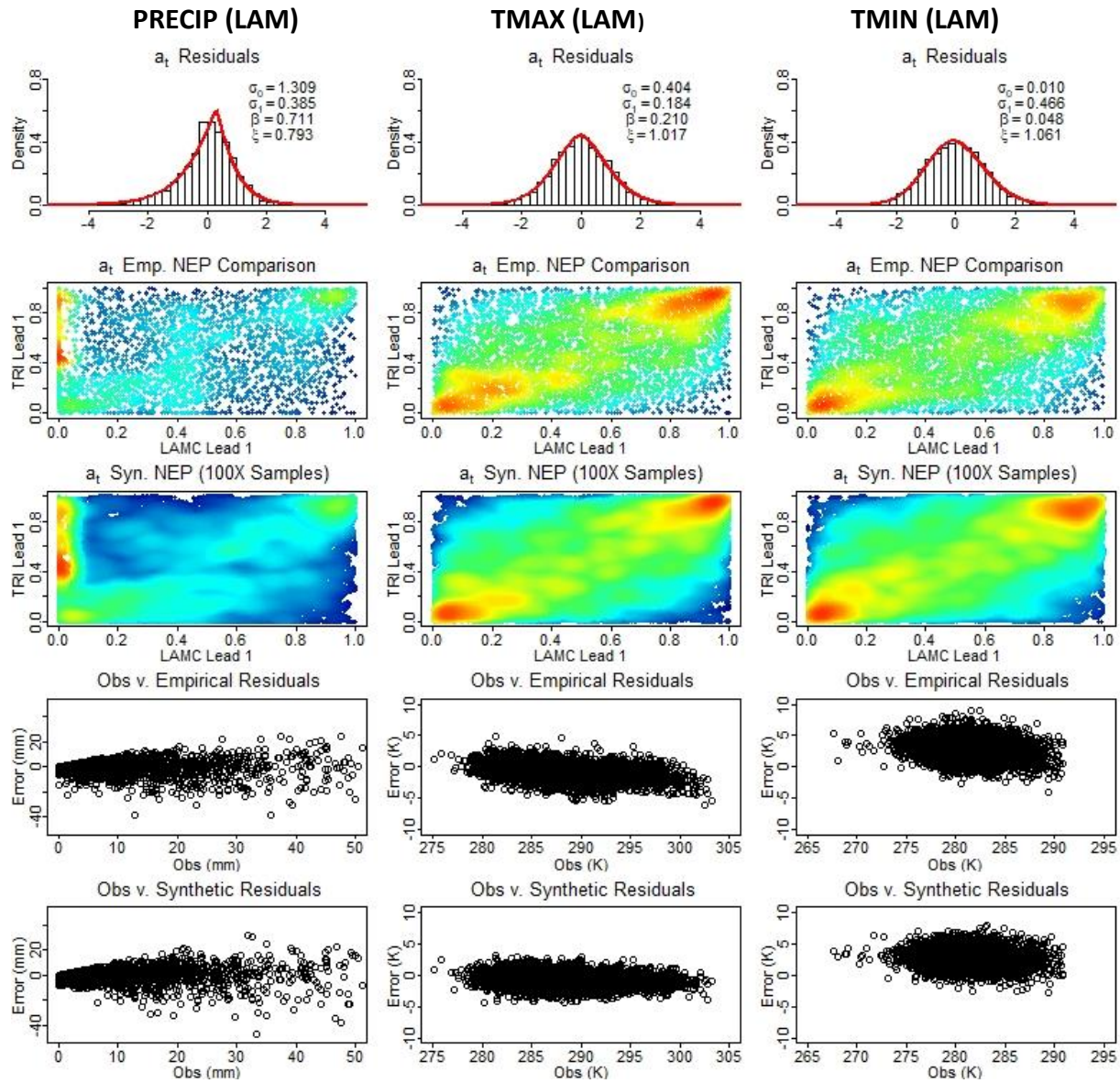


Figure S9: As in Figure 7 but for 1-day forecast lead and including TMIN column (rightmost)

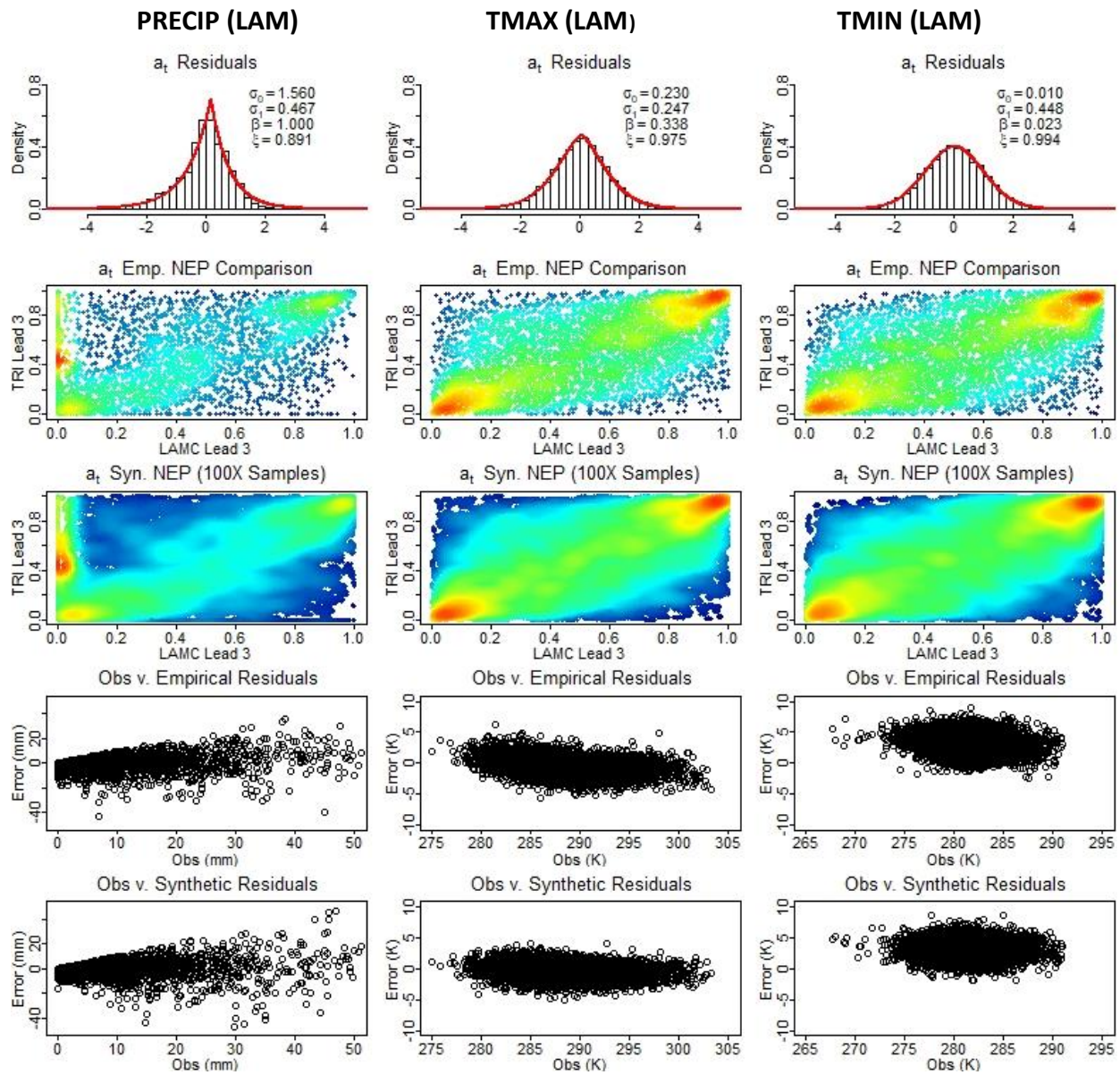


Figure S10: As in Figure 7 but for 3-day forecast lead and including TMIN column (rightmost)



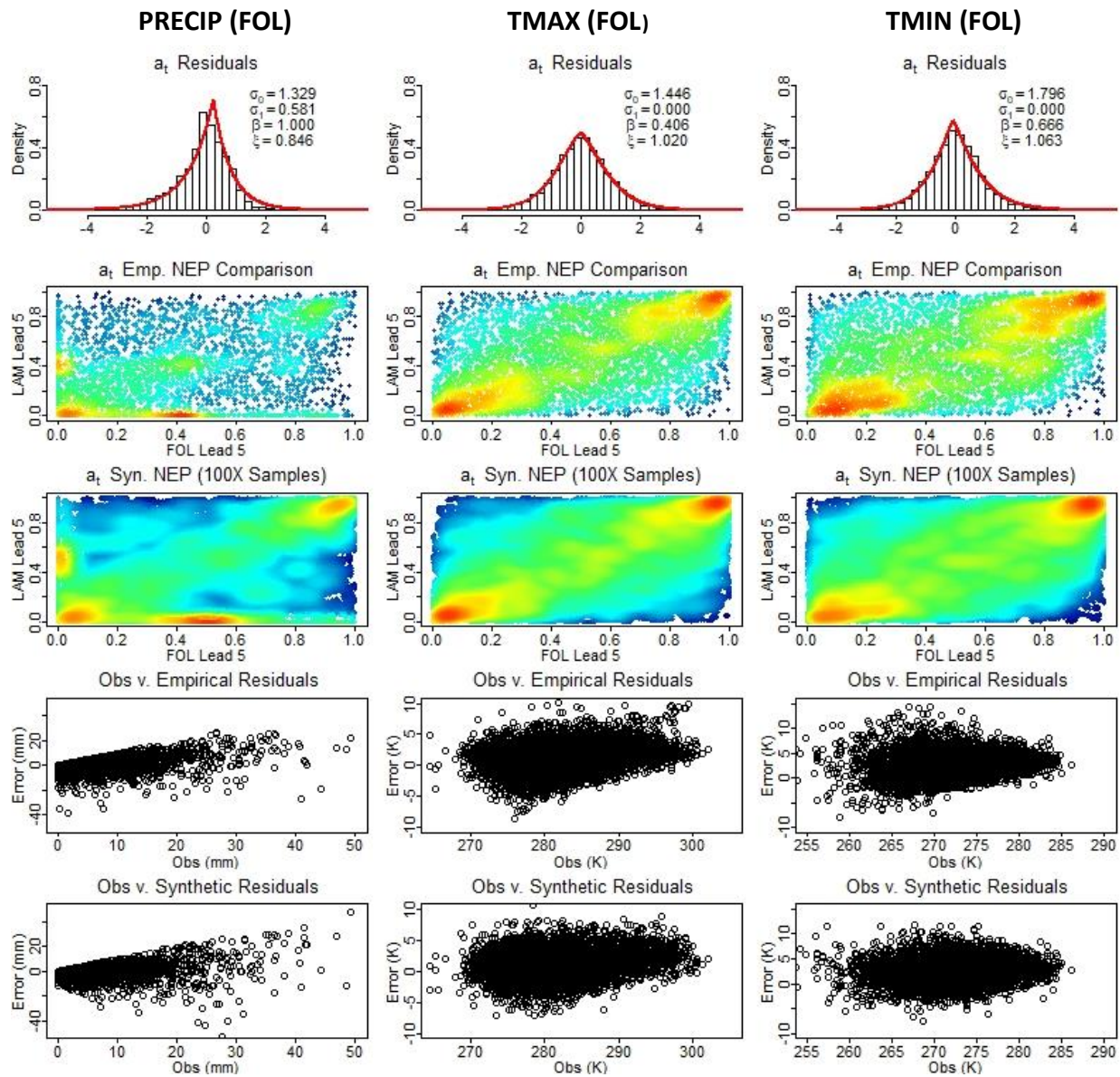


Figure S11: As in Figure 7 but with the Folsom Reservoir (FOL) grid cell compared against the Lake Mendocino (LAM) grid cell at a 5-day lead and including TMIN column (rightmost).

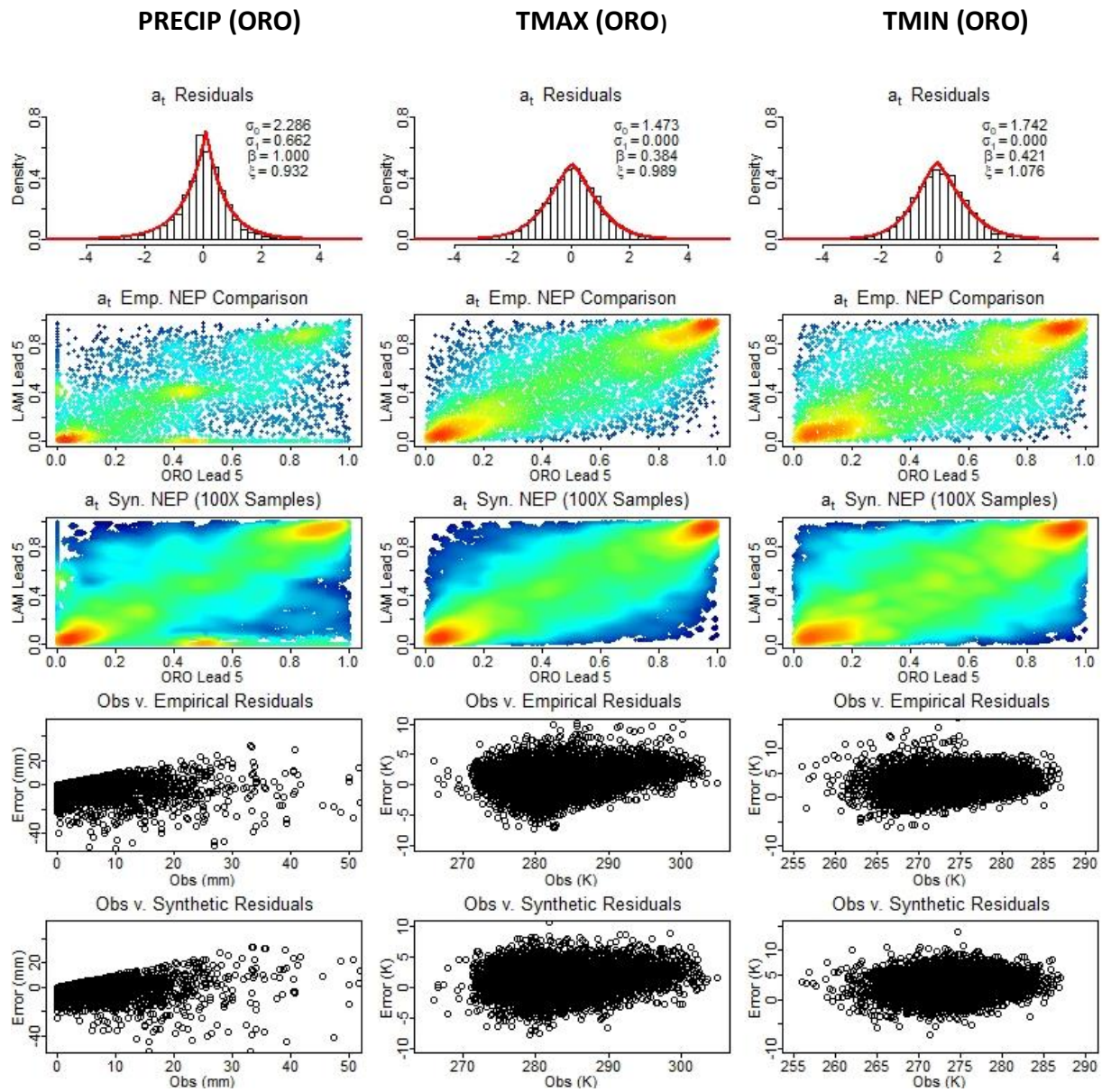


Figure S12: As in Figure 7 but with the Oroville Reservoir (ORO) grid cell compared against the Lake Mendocino (LAM) grid cell at a 5-day lead and including TMIN column (rightmost).



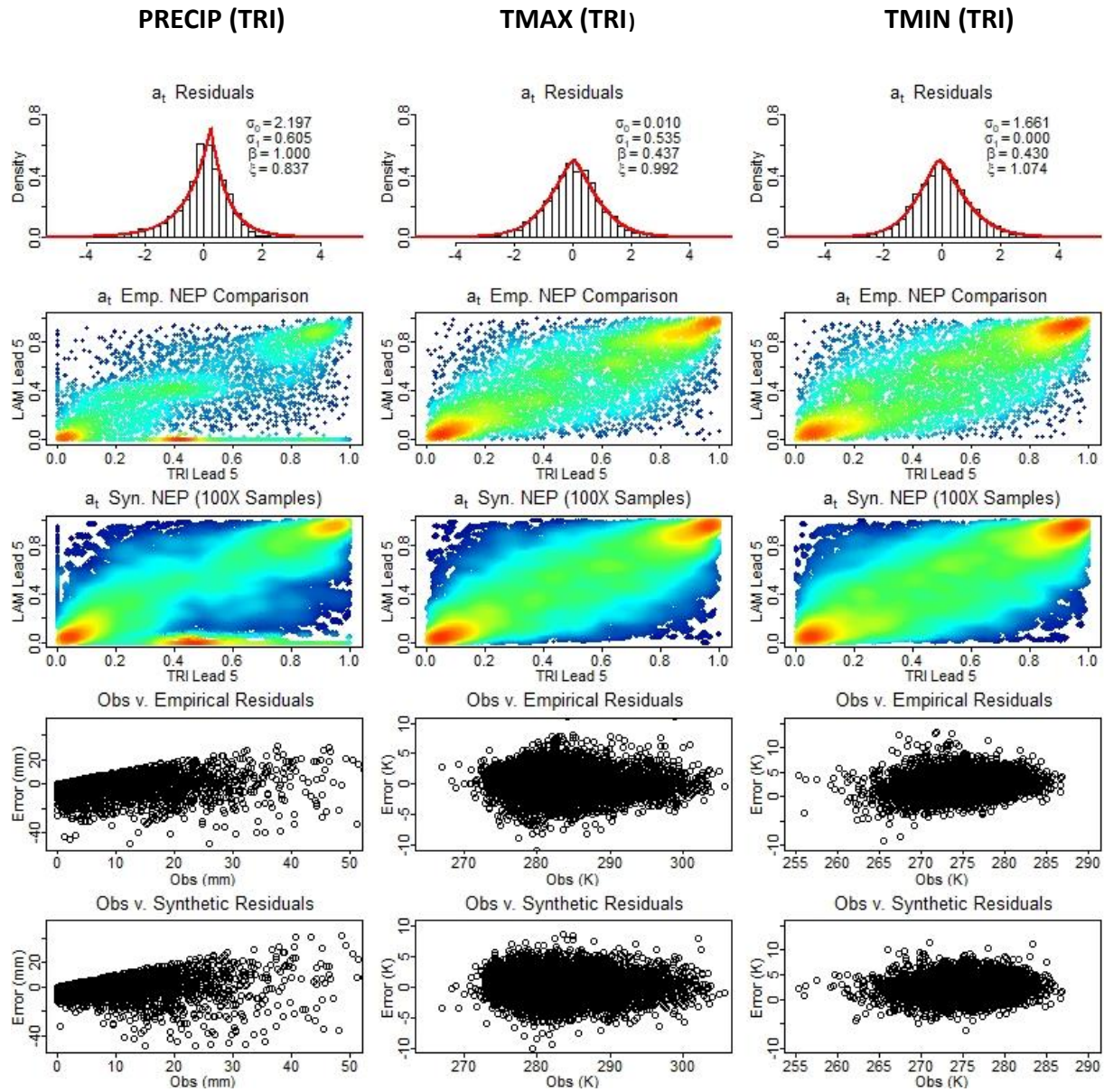


Figure S13: As in Figure 7 but with the Trinity Reservoir (TRI) grid cell compared against the Lake Mendocino (LAM) grid cell at a 5-day lead and including TMIN column (rightmost).

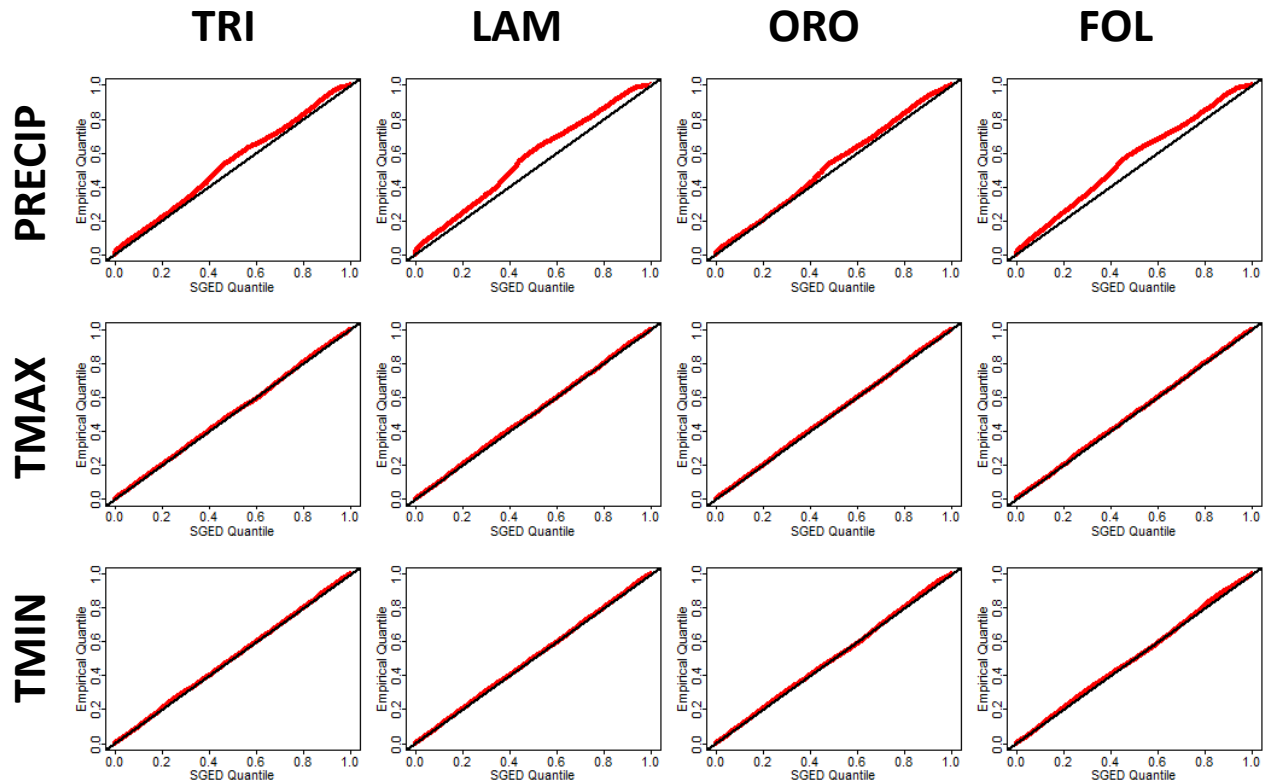


Figure S14: Q-Q plots across selected variables (rows) and basin grid cells (columns) for GEFS forecast transformed residuals ( $a_t$ ) at a 5-day lead in cold-season (ONDJFM). The black line is theoretical perfect correspondence between modeled and empirical quantiles (1:1) and red line shows the actual correspondence from the SGED model for the  $a_t$  residuals.

223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243

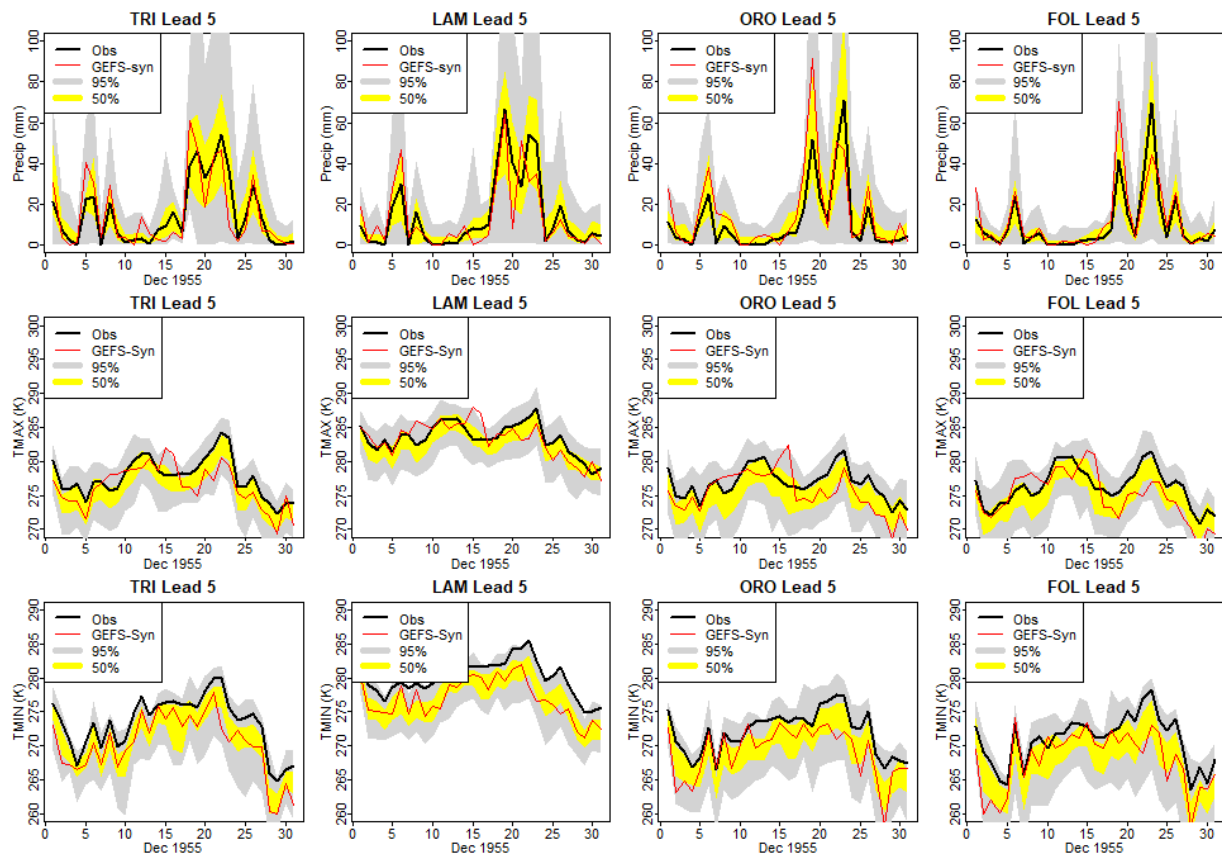


Figure S15: As in Figure 9 but for synthetic period (December 1955). Only observed (black) and synthetic forecast (red) values are shown since no GEFS hindcasts are available in this period.