

California Monthly Climate Summary
March 2006

Summary

March 2006 was a wet and cold month for most of California. Many locations set a record for number of days with precipitation. While winter passed to spring on the calendar on March 20, weather patterns over the state remain in winter form.

Precipitation for the month was again skewed north to south. The northern part of the state received approximately twice the average precipitation for the month. Monthly precipitation and temperature data for the 10 hydrologic regions in the state and statewide average are shown in tables below.

Cooler-than-average temperatures and plenty of snow caused significant increases to the state's snowpack. Sites that were below average at the beginning of the month ended the month above average. A summary of snow conditions is included in a table below. For more information on state snow and estimated spring runoff conditions, please see the Bulletin 120 at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow/bulletin120/b120mar06.pdf>.

The El Nino/Southern Oscillation is currently in a weak La Nina pattern where cooler than average water extends across the central tropical Pacific Ocean. ENSO neutral or near neutral conditions are expected for the rest of the year. For further discussion of ENSO conditions check out http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/.

For anomaly information please see <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/anom/>

Other Climate Summaries

[California Climate Watch \(DRI\)](#)

[Golden Gate Weather Service Climate Summary](#)

Statewide Extremes

High Temperature – 92 deg F (Buttercup, Squaw Lake)

Low Temperature - -22 deg F (Blackcap Basin, Kings River)

High Precipitation – Brush Creek 23.05 inches

Low Precipitation – Imperial Valley 0 inches

Statewide Precipitation Statistics

Hydrologic Region	Region Weight	Basins Reporting			Stations Reporting			Percent of Historic Average	
		Basins	Mar	Oct-Mar	Stations	Mar	Oct-Mar	Mar	Oct-Mar
NORTH COAST	0.27	5	5	5	19	14	13	182.6%	151%
SAN FRANCISCO BAY	0.03	2	2	2	6	5	5	277.4%	156%
CENTRAL COAST	0.06	3	3	3	11	7	7	194.9%	110%
SOUTH COAST	0.06	3	3	3	15	12	10	115.2%	60%
SACRAMENTO RIVER	0.26	5	5	5	43	31	27	200.9%	145%
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER	0.12	6	6	6	25	22	21	204.5%	126%
TULARE LAKE	0.07	5	5	5	28	25	23	201.9%	112%
NORTH LAHONTAN	0.04	3	3	3	14	11	10	129.5%	138%
SOUTH LAHONTAN	0.06	3	3	3	15	10	10	111.4%	102%
COLORADO RIVER	0.03	1	1	1	6	4	4	40.2%	53%
STATEWIDE WEIGHTED AVERAGE	1.00	36	36	36	182	141	130	180.2%	129.5%

Statewide Mean Temperature Data by Hydrologic Region

Hydrologic Region	No. Stations	Minimum	Average	Maximum
North Coast	29	23.8	37.7	63.6
SF Bay	11	35.3	43.3	49.0
Central Coast	16	34.6	45.0	51.1
South Coast	58	33.7	46.6	54.0
Sacramento	91	19.2	35.0	50.1
San Joaquin	54	16.2	32.9	50.8
Tulare Lake	24	10.5	30.0	55.7
North Lahontan	27	20.9	26.7	37.4
South Lahontan	18	16.1	32.5	56.5
Colorado River	8	44.5	56.2	63.1
Statewide Weighted Average	336	18.1	37.1	62.6

Summary of Snow Surveys

Region	No. Basins	No. Courses	Avg WC	% Average April 1	% Average March 1
North Coast	3	7	35.5"	139%	104%
Sacramento	6	75	33.1"	111%	60%
San Joaquin Valley	5	69	42.3"	133%	95%
Tulare Lake	4	35	32.6"	133%	89%
North Lahontan	4	15	40.3"	124%	89%
South Lahontan	2	20	29.4"	144%	134%
Statewide Average (weighted)				125%	83%