California Monthly Climate Summary
May 2006

Summary

May 2006 provided above normal temperatures across the state leading to significant melting of the Sierra snowpack. Two storms towards the end of the month cooled things off a bit. The days are getting longer with close to an hour of additional daylight gained during May.

Precipitation for the month varied across the state. For the Northern California 8-station index, May 2006 finished with a little more than half of the long-term average of 2.1 inches. Coastal areas and high elevations in the Sierra, however, received between 2 and 3.5 inches of rain. Monthly precipitation and temperature data for the 10 hydrologic regions in the state and statewide average are shown in tables below.

A warm May led to a fast melting of the lower end of the snowpack. This led to high flows on Sierra Rivers perpetuating flood concerns in the San Joaquin valley. 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/b120may06.pdf.

The El Nino/Southern Oscillation has returned back to neutral. ENSO neutral conditions are expected for the rest of the year. For further discussion of ENSO conditions go to http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/. ENSO conditions along with current trends indicate a warmer than average remainder of spring for California. Long-range precipitation and temperature outlook plots can be found at: http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/longrang/page20605.gif

For anomaly information please see http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/anom/cal_anom.html.

Other Climate Summaries

California Climate Watch (DRI)
Golden Gate Weather Service Climate Summary
NOAA Monthly State of the Climate Report

Statewide Extremes

High Temperature – 112 deg F (Mojave River Sink)
Low Temperature - 3 deg F (Charlotte Lake, Kings River)
High Precipitation – Gasquet Ranger Station (North Coast) 3.46 inches
Low Precipitation – Independence and Blythe 0 inches
Maximum Snow Depth June 1st – Slide Canyon 14.9 feet (49.04 inches SWC)
SWC – Snow water content

Statewide Precipitation Statistics

Hydrologic Region	Region Weight	Basins Reporting			Stations Reporting			Percent of Historic Average	
		Basins	**May**	**Oct-May**	**Stations**	**May**	**Oct-May**	**May**	**Oct-May**
NORTH COAST	0.27	5	4	4	19	9	8	90.6%	153.0%
SAN FRANCISCO BAY	0.03	2	2	2	6	2	2	71.6%	146.0%
CENTRAL COAST	0.06	3	2	2	11	4	4	416.1%	114.0%
SOUTH COAST	0.06	3	2	2	15	5	4	349.0%	80.0%
SACRAMENTO RIVER	0.26	5	4	4	43	21	21	69.1%	155.0%
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER	0.12	6	6	5	25	11	10	138.1%	151.0%
TULARE LAKE	0.07	5	3	3	28	11	11	84.8%	131.0%
NORTH LAHONTAN	0.04	3	3	3	14	9	9	63.3%	148.0%
SOUTH LAHONTAN	0.06	3	3	3	15	9	9	38.3%	92.0%
COLORADO RIVER	0.03	1	1	1	6	2	2	150.0%	53.0%
STATEWIDE WEIGHTED AVERAGE	1.00	36	30	29	182	83	80	122.3%	138.0%

Statewide Mean Temperature Data by Hydrologic Region (degrees F)

Hydrologic Region	No. Stations	Minimum	Average	Maximum
North Coast	36	44.4	56.6	65.3
SF Bay	19	53.9	61.2	69.2
Central Coast	36	51.0	59.5	68.0
South Coast	76	55.1	62.9	72.3
Sacramento	94	44.2	60.2	72.8
San Joaquin	80	43.5	59.9	76.6
Tulare Lake	19	30.3	53.5	77.0
North Lahontan	29	42.3	48.4	58.1
South Lahontan	18	40.3	57.0	83.7
Colorado River	24	64.9	80.1	92.2
Statewide Weighted Average	431	44.9	58.8	71.7

Summary of Snow Conditions June 1, 2006

Region	**No. Stations Reporting**	**Avg WC**	**% Average April 1**
North	28	11.0"	40%
Central	47	15.0"	50%
South	30	14.0"	53%
Statewide Average (weighted)			**48%**

Regional Snowpack Plots