

California Monthly Climate Summary  
DECEMBER 2005

**Summary**

December 2005 became a memorable month as a series of storms pounded Northern California at the end of the year leading to New Year's Eve/Day flooding on several rivers. Most of the month's storms, however, were limited to Northern California. Southern California stayed relatively dry for the month with below average precipitation. Monthly precipitation for the 10 hydrologic regions in the state and statewide average is shown below.

Temperatures across the state were relatively mild as strong zonal (east-west) flow across the Pacific Ocean prevented cold arctic air from reaching the state. Warmer than average temperatures associated with the December storms resulted in higher than average snow lines. This resulted in more storm runoff and snowpack values in the northern Sierra that were only average given that it was the 4<sup>th</sup> wettest December for Northern California in 85 years of record.

**Statewide Extremes**

High Temperature – 90 deg F (nr Riverside, CA)  
Low Temperature - -13 deg F (Crabtree Meadow, Kern River)  
High Precipitation – Strawberry Valley 41.2 inches  
Low Precipitation – 4 stations with 0 inches

**Statewide Precipitation Statistics**

Hydrologic Region	Region Weight	Basins Reporting			Stations Reporting			Percent of Historic Average	
		Basins	Dec	Oct-Dec	Stations	Dec	Oct-Dec	Dec	Oct-Dec
NORTH COAST	0.27	5	5	5	19	12	12	257%	173%
SAN FRANCISCO BAY	0.03	2	2	2	6	5	5	292%	179%
CENTRAL COAST	0.06	3	3	3	11	8	8	117%	90%
SOUTH COAST	0.06	3	3	3	15	12	11	22%	39%
SACRAMENTO RIVER	0.26	5	5	5	43	25	22	282%	180%
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER	0.12	6	6	6	25	20	18	208%	123%
TULARE LAKE	0.07	5	5	5	28	23	23	120%	76%
NORTH LAHONTAN	0.04	3	3	3	14	11	11	324%	185%
SOUTH LAHONTAN	0.06	3	3	3	15	10	10	48%	63%
COLORADO RIVER	0.03	1	1	1	6	3	3	4%	128%
STATEWIDE WEIGHTED AVERAGE	1.00	36	36	36	182	129	123	209%	142%

### **Statewide Mean Temperature Data by Hydrologic Region**

Hydrologic Region	Minimum	Average	Maximum
North Coast	23.5	40.2	61.3
SF Bay	33.5	49.1	64.6
Central Coast	32.9	51.3	78.0
South Coast	33.9	52.7	80.9
Sacramento	23.7	40.8	60.7
San Joaquin	26.3	42.0	61.6
Tulare Lake	14.9	35.9	61.6
North Lahontan	9.8	31.8	54.0
South Lahontan	13.3	35.2	62.1
Colorado River	30.8	54.0	80.3
Statewide Weighted Average	22.3	41.0	64.1

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

### **Record Events Report**

Peak flood stage on Napa River at St. Helena – 21.56 feet (old record 18.5 feet)  
12/31/2005

### **Other Climate Summaries**

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

[Golden Gate Weather Service Climate Summary](#)