

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES



EUREKA FLOOD CENTER

302 Startare Drive, Woodley Island, Eureka, CA
www.cdec.water.ca.gov (707) 445-6576

History

In October 1958, the National Weather Service and the California Department of Water Resources established a State-Federal Flood Operations Center in Sacramento. However, the responsibility for flood forecasting on the North Coast of California was not assumed by the Operations Center until December 1, 1964. Prior to that date, the responsibility of the North Coast belonged to the River Forecast Center in Portland, Oregon.

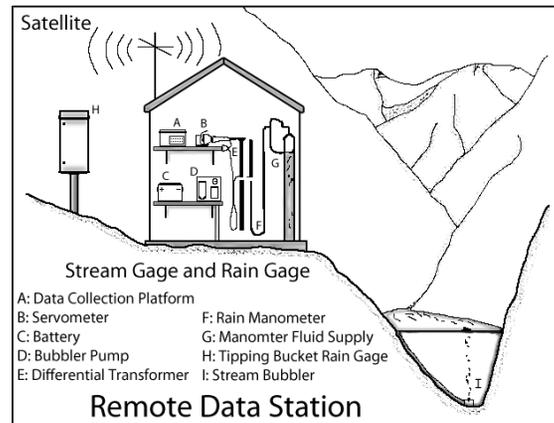
Flood warnings for the North Coastal area had historically been inadequate. This situation changed dramatically after the unprecedented flooding in December 1964. Almost as the rivers were receding from the flood, plans were being formulated to implement a sophisticated, high-speed telemetering system on the North Coast. Additionally, on November 1, 1965, the Eureka Flood Center was established to maintain the system and assist the local public.

The Flood Warning System

The North Coast Flood Warning System was developed through a cooperative effort, between the Department of Water Resources, the National Weather Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Flood Warning System allows Sacramento and Eureka to receive up-to-the-minute rainfall and river flow data from 22 remote stations. These 22 data stations are located in the Smith, Trinity, Klamath, Redwood Cr., Mad, Van Duzen, Eel, Napa and Russian river basins.

How the System Works



- A typical station looks similar to the diagram above, which shows a rain gage, a river gage, and satellite communications.
- Gages measure the rainfall amount or river level and the data is stored in a data collection platform (DCP) unit.
- A radio transmitter integrated into the DCP sends the recorded measurement out to a GOES satellite at a given time interval.
- The satellite transmits the signal back to a DWR database and the measurement is uploaded to the CDEC website.

How Is This Rainfall & River Information Used?

California weather conditions are monitored continuously and satellite imagery enables us to observe approaching storms three to five days out. When severe weather is expected, Flood forecasts are made for the major North Coast rivers by the California-Nevada River Forecast Center in Sacramento using computer models. The accurate up to the minute data received from the rain and river gages along with forecast rainfall are essential inputs of the river models.

When rivers on the North Coast are expected to exceed monitor or flood stage, bulletins are issued to warn residents of the flooding potential. During these conditions the Eureka Flood Center works closely with the Office of Emergency Services, NWS, and community officials to ensure accurate and timely river information is issued to the public.

**For River Information Call
707-445-7855**

Information updated daily

Division of Flood Management Mission Statement

The mission of the Division of Flood Management is to prevent loss of life and reduce property damage caused by floods, to facilitate recovery efforts following any natural disaster and to provide runoff forecasts and maintain a hydrologic database. The Division is committed to actively seek cooperation with and gain the confidence of other groups, and recognizes the importance of environmental resources – striving to preserve these and other resources when meeting public safety.

Handout Last Updated: February 2015

North Coast River Forecast Points and Precipitation Gages

- ◆ River Stage Gage
- Precipitation Gage
- River and Precipitation Gage

Monitor Stage and Flood Stage For River Forecast Points

Forecast Point	Monitor Stage [feet]	Flood Stage [feet]
Dr. Fine Bridge	27	33
Jed Smith	25	29
Orleans	32	38
Klamath	30	38
Hoopla	44	48
Orick	26	32
Arcata	15	22
Bridgeville	13	17
Fort Seward	55	NL
Miranda	27	33
Scotia	45	51
Fernbridge	14	20
Navarro	NL	23
NL = No Level Set		

