

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during January 2008

As of February 1, Water Year 2008 statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 110% of average to date; runoff, 55% of average to date; and reservoir storage, 85% of average for the date. The projected median April-July snowmelt runoff for the water supply basins ranged from 112% on the Trinity River to 87% on the Tule and Yuba Rivers. Conditions on the Eastern Sierra range from 97% on the West Walker to 80% for Lake Tahoe. January brought significant amounts of precipitation to California, including heavy snowfall in the mountains. Many locations now have above average rainfall. Snow water content is now over twice as much as last year at this time. The large water supply reservoirs received some inflow from this storm; however, the amounts were muted because much of the precipitation fell as snow. The long-term, dry hydrologic conditions still prevail. The Water Year type is "dry" for both the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Water Year Type Indices.

On February 4, 2008, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index had a seasonal total of 27.3", which is about 98% of the seasonal average to date and about 55% of average for an entire Water Year (50.0"). The Water Year 2007 October through January seasonal total of 24.4" is the 43rd driest year out of 89 years of record.

Sacramento River unimpaired runoff observed through January 31, 2008 was about 2.9 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 51% of average. (On January 31, 2007, the observed Sacramento River unimpaired runoff through that date was about 3.0 MAF or about 53% of average.)

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 02/03/2008 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
	Jul 1 to Date 2007 - 2008 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2006 - 2007 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2007 - 2008
Eureka	27.12	121	17.07	76	71
Redding	20.75	111	11.14	59	61
Sacramento	12.09	118	4.34	42	67
San Francisco	13.38	115	5.99	52	66
Fresno	6.60	115	2.23	39	58
Bakersfield	2.04	64	1.12	35	31
Los Angeles	12.13	162	1.50	20	80
San Diego	5.74	101	2.18	38	53

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 02/03/2008								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,425	1,772	80	2,448	58	---	1,023
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	2,232	3,156	71	4,552	49	-1,546	2,320
Lake Oroville	Feather	1,340	2,397	56	3,538	38	-1,823	2,198
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	547	585	93	966	57	-249	419
Folsom Lake	American	294	520	57	977	30	-283	683
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,497	1,397	107	2,420	62	-473	923
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,290	1,391	93	2,030	64	-400	740
Lake McClure	Merced	278	494	56	1,025	27	-396	747
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	221	341	65	520	43	-214	299
Pine Flat Res	Kings	276	484	57	1,000	28	-469	724
Isabella	Kern	117	170	69	568	21	-128	451
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,590	1,642	97	2,039	78	---	449

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range weather outlook for February 2008, issued January 31, 2008, is forecasting above average precipitation for extreme Northern California and below average precipitation for Southern California. Average rainfall is forecast for most of the northern and central portions of the State.

The pattern of this year's long-range forecasts is influenced by the continuing development of moderate La Nina conditions (cooler than average sea-surface temperatures) across the tropical Pacific. Current conditions suggest that La Nina conditions may continue into spring. La Nina events influence the position and strength of the jet stream over the Pacific Ocean, which in turn affects the winter precipitation and temperature patterns across the United States and other locations in the world. La Nina conditions can favor a wetter than average Pacific Northwest and a drier than average American Southwest. California sits in the transition zone with the northern mountains of the State potentially wetter than average, and the Central Valley and Southern California potentially drier than average. In addition, during La Nina years, weather in Northern California can be highly variable, with both wet and dry scenarios possible. Southern California has a more consistent tendency toward dryness, suggesting that drought conditions are likely to persist in that region and the American Southwest.