

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during January 2011

As of January 31, 2011, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 130 percent of average to date; runoff, 115 percent of average to date; snow water equivalent, 135 percent of average for the date (85 percent of the April 1 average); and reservoir storage, 110 percent of average for the date. Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff observed through January 31, 2011 was about 6.0 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 104 percent of average. For comparison, on January 31, 2010, the observed Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff through that date was about 3.7 MAF, or about 63 percent of average.

In contrast to a very wet December, January was unusually dry. On January 31, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 34.0 inches, which is about 127 percent of the seasonal average to date and 68 percent of an average water year (50.0 inches). During January, the total precipitation for the 8-Stations was only 2.1 inches, about 23 percent of the monthly average and the ninth driest January on record. Last year on January 31, the seasonal total for the 8-Stations was 27.2 inches, or about 102 percent of average for the date.

On January 31, the San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 35.0 inches, which is about 172 percent of the seasonal average to date and 86 percent of an average water year (40.8 inches). During January, the total precipitation for the 5-Stations was 3.3 inches, about 43 percent of the monthly average. Last year on January 31, the seasonal total for the 5-Stations to date was 22.1 inches, or about 108 percent of average for the date.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 01/31/2011 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2010 - 2011 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2009 - 2010 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg "Water Year" Jul 1 to Jun 30 2010 - 2011
Eureka	22.84	104	20.67	95	60
Redding	17.51	97	16.11	89	52
Sacramento	11.06	112	12.07	123	62
San Francisco	10.20	91	12.47	112	51
Fresno	9.88	179	6.06	110	88
Bakersfield	7.65	250	3.67	120	118
Los Angeles	11.79	176	7.66	114	90
San Diego	8.41	155	5.78	106	78

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 01/31/2011								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,821	1,763	103	2,448	74	---	627
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,490	3,133	111	4,552	77	-262	1,062
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,439	2,384	102	3,538	69	-620	1,099
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	698	581	120	966	72	-98	268
Folsom Lake	American	479	516	93	977	49	-98	498
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,601	1,392	115	2,420	66	-369	819
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,625	1,385	117	2,030	80	-65	405
Lake McClure	Merced	792	500	158	1,025	77	118	233
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	397	340	117	520	76	6	123
Pine Flat Res	Kings	646	478	135	1,000	65	-14	354
Isabella	Kern	220	169	130	568	39	50	348
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,905	1,626	117	2,039	93	---	134

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range, 1-month precipitation outlook for February 2011, issued January 31, 2010, suggests above average rainfall for extreme Northern California. No tendency for above or below average rainfall is suggested for Northern and Central California. Below average rainfall is indicated for the southern portion of the State.