

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during February 2009

As of March 1, 2009, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 80 percent of average to date; runoff, 45 percent of average to date; and reservoir storage, 70 percent of average for the date. The snowpack was at about 75 percent of its average value for the date. Sacramento River unimpaired runoff observed through February 28, 2009 was about 4.1 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 48 percent of average. (On February 28, 2008, the observed Sacramento River unimpaired runoff through that date was about 4.5 MAF or about 53 percent of average.)

For California statewide, precipitation for February was well above average. The Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index gained 11.9 inches, about 149 percent of average. This trend continued into early March. By March 10, the 8-Stations had gained an additional 6.4 inches, about 93 percent of the entire monthly average. As of March 11, the 8-Station water year total to date was 36.0 inches, about 97 percent of the seasonal average and 72 percent of an average water year (50 inches).

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 3/08/2009 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2008 - 2009 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2007 - 2008 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg "Water Year" Jul 1 to Jun 30 2008 - 2009
Eureka	22.09	76	28.86	99	58
Redding	18.34	72	22.92	91	55
Sacramento	13.25	92	13.62	95	74
San Francisco	14.08	86	15.29	94	70
Fresno	6.33	76	8.08	97	56
Bakersfield	3.98	84	2.30	49	61
Los Angeles	7.97	75	10.12	95	61
San Diego	8.80	107	6.74	82	82

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 3/08/2009								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,107	1,879	59	2,448	45	---	1,341
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	2,414	3,465	70	4,552	53	-1,269	2,138
Lake Oroville	Feather	1,659	2,581	64	3,538	47	-1,284	1,879
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	669	640	105	966	69	-127	297
Folsom Lake	American	599	570	105	977	61	-30	378
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,262	1,454	87	2,420	52	-708	1,158
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,276	1,447	88	2,030	63	-414	754
Lake McClure	Merced	359	547	66	1,025	35	-315	666
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	326	349	93	520	63	-66	194
Pine Flat Res	Kings	308	540	57	1,000	31	-464	692
Isabella	Kern	136	183	74	568	24	-152	432
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	883	1,794	49	2,039	43	---	1,156

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range weather outlook for March 2009, issued February 28, 2009, forecasts above average precipitation for most of Northern and Central California. Average precipitation is expected elsewhere in the State.