

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during February 2013

As of February 28, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 80 percent of average to date; runoff, 80 percent of average to date; snow water equivalent, 60 percent of average for the date (55 percent of the April 1 average); and reservoir storage, 100 percent of average for the date. Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff, for Water Year 2013, observed through February 28, 2013 was about 6.8 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 84 percent of average. For comparison during Water Year 2012, on February 29, 2012, the observed Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff through that date was about 3.0 MAF, or about 36 percent of average.

Similar to January, February had significantly below average rainfall, for almost all of California. On February 28, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 35.2 inches, which is about 101 percent of the seasonal average to date and 70 percent of an average water year (50.0 inches). During February, the total precipitation for the 8-Stations was 0.9 inches, which is about 11 percent of the monthly average. Last year on February 29, the seasonal total for the 8-Stations was 17.5 inches, or about 50 percent of average for the date. The combined total January and February precipitation is the driest on record.

On February 28, the San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 21.0 inches, which is about 76 percent of the seasonal average to date and 51 percent of an average water year (40.8 inches). During February, the total precipitation for the 5-Stations was 0.6 inches, which is about 9 percent of the monthly average. Last year on February 29, the seasonal total for the 5-Stations was 12.1 inches, or about 44 percent of average for the date. The combined total January and February precipitation is the driest on record.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 02/28/2013 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2012 - 2013 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2011 - 2012 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg "Water Year" Jul 1 to Jun 30 2012- 2013
Eureka	25.16	86	20.85	71	62
Redding	20.67	82	13.22	52	60
Sacramento	12.61	92	5.33	39	68
San Francisco	14.44	80	6.86	38	61
Fresno	4.86	62	3.43	44	42
Bakersfield	2.22	50	2.04	46	34
Los Angeles	5.78	58	4.31	43	45
San Diego	5.01	66	6.16	81	48

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 02/28/2013								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,986	1,851	107	2,448	81	---	462
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,611	3,370	107	4,552	79	-605	941
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,848	2,523	113	3,538	81	-315	690
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	774	622	125	966	80	-22	192
Folsom Lake	American	552	554	100	977	57	-75	425
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,600	1,440	111	2,420	66	-370	820
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,399	1,435	97	2,030	69	-291	631
Lake McClure	Merced	453	536	85	1,025	44	-221	572
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	325	345	94	520	62	-111	195
Pine Flat Res	Kings	324	533	61	1,000	32	-432	676
Isabella	Kern	82	180	46	568	14	-163	486
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,221	1,759	69	2,039	60	---	818

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range, 1-month precipitation outlook for March 2013, issued February 28, 2013, suggests below average rainfall for almost all of California, except for the very northern most region, where no tendency for above or below average is expected.