California Weather-Hydro Conditions during March 2011

As of April 1, 2011, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 140 percent of average to date; runoff, 120 percent of average to date; snow water equivalent, 170 percent of the April 1 average (the normal date of maximum accumulation); and reservoir storage, 110 percent of average for the date. Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff observed through March 31, 2011 was about 12.6 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 112 percent of average. For comparison, on March 31, 2010, the observed Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff through that date was about 7.5 MAF, or about 66 percent of average.

March was an extremely wet and cool month, up and down the State. On April 1, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 61.0 inches, which is about 146 percent of the seasonal average to date and 122 percent of an average water year (50.0 inches). During March, the total precipitation for the 8-Stations was 18.5 inches, which is about 268 percent of the monthly average and the third wettest March in 90 years of record. Last year on April 1, the seasonal total for the 8-Stations was 40.7 inches, or about 98 percent of average for the date.

On April 1, the San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 56.0 inches, which is about 167 percent of the seasonal average to date and 137 percent of an average water year (40.8 inches). During March, the total precipitation for the 5-Stations was 14.1 inches, or about 231 percent of the monthly average and the sixth wettest March in 107 years of record. Last year on April 1, the seasonal total for the 5-Stations to date was 34.3 inches, or about 102 percent of average for the date.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 03/31/2011 (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	38.34	116	30.93	94	101
Redding	30.26	105	24.52	85	90
Sacramento	21.40	132	17.34	107	119
San Francisco	20.69	112	17.95	97	103
Fresno	14.94	152	9.96	101	133
Bakersfield	9.81	173	5.69	100	151
Los Angeles	17.30	142	11.10	91	132
San Diego	11.97	123	8.74	90	111

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 03/31/2011								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	2,108	1,960	108	2,448	86	---	340
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	4,032	3,736	108	4,552	89	394	520
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,840	2,754	103	3,538	80	52	698
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	786	695	113	966	81	-10	180
Folsom Lake	American	635	626	101	977	65	1	342
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,941	1,486	131	2,420	80	-98	479
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,727	1,474	117	2,030	85	37	303
Lake McClure	Merced	763	578	132	1,025	74	124	262
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	431	360	120	520	83	93	89
Pine Flat Res	Kings	779	560	139	1,000	78	94	221
Isabella	Kern	245	195	126	568	43	-88	323
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	2,035	1,874	109	2,039	100	---	4

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range, 1-month precipitation outlook for April 2011, issued March 31, 2011, suggests above average rainfall for far Northern California. No tendency for above or below average rainfall is suggested for most of the northern Sierra. Below average rainfall is approximately indicated south of a line from Lake Tahoe to San Francisco.