

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during March 2012

As of March 31, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 70 percent of average to date; runoff, 50 percent of average to date; snow water equivalent, 50 percent of average for the date (50 percent of the April 1 average); and reservoir storage, 105 percent of average for the date. Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff observed through March 31, 2012 was about 5.7 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 52 percent of average. For comparison, on March 31, 2011, the observed Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff through that date was about 12.6 MAF, or about 115 percent of average.

Precipitation in March was significantly above normal across Northern California and below normal in Southern California. On March 31, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 33.2 inches, which is about 80 percent of the seasonal average to date and 66 percent of an average water year (50.0 inches). During March, the total precipitation for the 8-Stations was 15.7 inches, which is about 228 percent of the monthly average. Last year on March 31, the seasonal total for the 8-Stations was 61.0 inches, or about 147 percent of average for the date.

On March 31, the San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 19.2 inches, which is about 57 percent of the seasonal average to date and 47 percent of an average water year (40.8 inches). During March, the total precipitation for the 5-Stations was 6.7 inches, which is about 110 percent of the monthly average. Last year on March 31, the seasonal total for the 5-Stations to date was 56.0 inches, or about 167 percent of average for the date.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 03/31/2012 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2011 - 2012 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2010 - 2011 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg "Water Year" Jul 1 to Jun 30 2011- 2012
Eureka	33.17	96	38.34	111	82
Redding	20.02	68	30.26	102	58
Sacramento	9.65	59	21.40	130	52
San Francisco	12.77	60	25.19	118	54
Fresno	6.04	61	14.93	151	53
Bakersfield	3.30	58	9.81	172	51
Los Angeles	5.97	51	17.30	146	47
San Diego	7.08	76	11.97	128	68

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 03/31/2012								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	2,086	1,960	106	2,448	85	---	362
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,853	3,736	103	4,552	85	-331	699
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,943	2,754	107	3,538	83	89	595
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	817	695	118	966	85	21	149
Folsom Lake	American	664	626	106	977	68	19	313
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,982	1,486	133	2,420	82	-57	438
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,523	1,474	103	2,030	75	-167	507
Lake McClure	Merced	661	578	114	1,025	65	-74	364
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	295	360	82	520	57	-226	225
Pine Flat Res	Kings	641	560	114	1,000	64	-271	359
Isabella	Kern	171	195	88	568	30	-190	397
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,764	1,874	94	2,039	87	---	275

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range, 1-month precipitation outlook for April 2012, issued March 31, 2012, suggests above average precipitation for Northern California and below average precipitation for Southern California. The outlook suggests no tendency for above or below average rainfall for the central part of the State.