

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during May 2008

As of June 1, Water Year 2008 statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 80 percent of average to date; runoff, 60 percent of average to date; and reservoir storage, 80 percent of average for the date. As of June 3, the date of the last forecast, the projected median April-July runoff for the water supply basins ranged from 78% (Kings River) to 49% (Tule River). The forecast is down about 1 or 2 percent on average compared to the May 27 forecast. Sacramento River unimpaired runoff observed through May 31, 2008 was about 8.8 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 55% of average. (On May 31, 2007, the observed Sacramento River unimpaired runoff through that date was about 8.7 MAF or about 55% of average.)

Spring of 2008 is turning out to be extremely dry. The Water Year 2008, Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index seasonal total of 34.8 inches is now less than last year's seasonal total of 35.6 inches at this time. March and April 2008 were each the sixth driest of those months on record. For the 8-Stations, the Water Year 2008 combined March through May total precipitation is only 3.4 inches, the driest on record (since 1921). The Water Year 2008, 8-Station Index, October through May total of 34.8 inches is the 22nd driest year out of 88 years of record. The 2-year combined total precipitation for Water Years 2007 (37.2 inches) and 2008 is 72.0 inches, the 9th driest 2-year period on record.

January and early February brought significant amounts of precipitation to California, including heavy snowfall in the mountains. California's large water supply reservoirs received some inflow from these storms; however, the amounts were muted because much of the precipitation fell as snow. Because precipitation was significantly below average last year, dry hydrologic conditions still prevail. Storage in most of the major water supply reservoirs is still well below average. The Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Water Year Type indexes are both forecasted to be "Critical."

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 06/01/2008 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2007 - 2008 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2006 - 2007 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2007 - 2008
Eureka	33.95	90	35.02	93	89
Redding	24.00	73	22.73	69	71
Sacramento	13.71	77	10.88	61	76
San Francisco	15.55	78	11.63	58	77
Fresno	8.40	76	6.03	55	74
Bakersfield	2.38	37	3.06	48	36
Los Angeles	13.53	90	3.21	21	89
San Diego	7.23	68	3.85	36	67

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 06/01/2008								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,663	2,157	77	2,448	68	---	785
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	2,789	3,949	71	4,552	61	-1,763	1,763
Lake Oroville	Feather	1,761	3,041	58	3,538	50	-1,777	1,777
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	756	834	91	966	78	-210	210
Folsom Lake	American	613	838	73	977	63	-364	364
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,347	1,502	90	2,420	56	-1,073	1,073
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,344	1,538	0	2,030	66	-668	686
Lake McClure	Merced	452	706	64	1,025	44	-463	573
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	406	409	99	520	78	-33	114
Pine Flat Res	Kings	522	724	72	1,000	52	-403	478
Isabella	Kern	252	296	85	568	44	-233	316
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,087	1,650	66	2,039	53	---	952

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range weather outlook for June 2008, issued May 31, 2008, is forecasting slightly below average precipitation for northeastern California. Average precipitation is forecasted for the rest of the State.