

California Weather-Hydro Conditions at the end of Water Year and during September 2006

At the end of Water Year 2006 (October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006) California statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 140% of average to date; runoff, 170% of average to date; and reservoir storage, 120% of average for the date. The Northern Sierra, 8-Station Precipitation Index, seasonal total as of September 30 was 80.1", which is 160% of a normal Water Year (50.0"). (During Water Year 2005, the 8-Station Index had 57.5", or 115% of the seasonal normal.) Water Year 2006 was the fifth wettest year for the 8-Station precipitation record (1921-2006). Most locations in Northern and Central California, as well as the Pacific Northwest, also had above average seasonal precipitation. However, south of the Tehachapi Mountains, rainfall in portions of Southern California was significantly below normal, as was much of the American Southwest. Severe drought continues in portions of Arizona, which had one the driest winters on record, although the summer monsoon has brought some relief.

The median Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley 2006 Water Year Type indices were both classified as "Wet." On June 13, the date of the last forecast for the season, the projected median April-July runoff indicated the following percentages of historical average for the State's water supply basins: Shasta through American, 185%; Mokelumne through San Joaquin, 180%; and the Kings through Kern, 175%.

Except for some interior valley locations, temperatures across most of California during September were cooler than normal. Extended periods of low-pressure troughs, onshore flow, and a mid-summer type marine layer resulted in San Francisco's average monthly temperature being a full 4 degrees (F) below normal, and San Jose and Eureka being 2.3 degrees and 2.2 degrees below normal, respectively. San Diego was 1.4 degrees below normal, and Sacramento was 1.7 degrees below normal.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 09/30/2006 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
	Jul 1 to Date 2006 - 2007 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2005 - 2006 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2006 - 2007
Eureka	0.13	9	0.20	14	0
Redding	0.04	5	0.02	3	0
Sacramento	0.00	0	0.10	21	0
San Jose	0.00	0	0.01	3	0
Fresno	0.00	0	0.04	14	0
Bakersfield	0.00	0	0.09	39	0
Los Angeles	0.00	0	0.29	63	0
San Diego	0.05	15	0.11	33	0

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 09/30/2006 midnight								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,795	1,706	105	2,448	73	---	653
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,205	2,827	113	4,552	70	-1,347	1,347
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,833	2,298	123	3,538	80	-517	705
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	697	591	118	966	72	-214	269
Folsom Lake	American	639	563	113	977	65	-338	338
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	2,056	1,307	157	2,420	85	-217	364
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,768	1,357	130	2,030	87	-4	262
Lake McClure	Merced	736	464	159	1,025	72	-116	289
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	240	198	122	520	46	-280	280
Pine Flat Res	Kings	465	359	129	1,000	47	-535	535
Isabella	Kern	236	176	134	568	42	-68	332
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,313	1,010	130	2,039	64	---	726

The latest National Weather Service, Climate Prediction Center long-range weather forecast maps for October, issued September 30, suggests average precipitation for most of California, except for above average in the southeast portion of the State. Much of the Southwestern United States is also forecasted to have above average precipitation. Temperatures are forecasted to be average for all of California and the American West.