

## **California Weather-Hydro Conditions during October 2008**

As of October 31, 2008 (the first month of Water Year 2009), statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 60 percent of average to date; runoff, 55 percent of average to date; and reservoir storage, 70 percent of average for the date. Reservoir storage at the end of October 2007 was at 85 percent of average for the date. However, after two consecutive dry years, water levels in the State's major multipurpose reservoirs are now significantly below average (the lowest in 14 years). Sacramento River unimpaired runoff observed through October 31, 2008 was about 0.3 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 65% of average. (On October 31, 2007, the observed Sacramento River unimpaired runoff through that date was about 0.5 MAF or about 89% of average.)

Water Year 2009 got off to a wet start with a storm in early October and additional storms at the end of the month, which continued into early November. For the month of October, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index totaled 3.1 inches, or about 103% of average. On November 10, the 8-station Index accumulated a seasonal total of 8.4 inches, which is 165% of the seasonal average to date and 17% of an average Water Year (50.0 inches).

It will take a significantly above average rainfall season to alleviate current drought conditions. For the 8-Station Index, Water Year 2008 was the 15th driest year out of 88 years of record. The Spring of 2008 turned out to be extremely dry. The Water Year 2008 combined March through June total precipitation was only 3.4 inches, the driest on record (since 1921). The 2-year combined total precipitation for Water Years 2007 (37.2 inches) and 2008 (34.9 inches) was 72.1 inches, the ninth driest 2-year period on record.

January and early February of 2008 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. Very dry hydrologic conditions prevail because precipitation was significantly below average during Water Year 2007 and the Spring of Water Year 2008. The Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Water Year Type indexes were both classified as "Critical" during Water Year 2008.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 11/01/2008 (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	2.01	52	6.57	168	5
Redding	1.99	65	4.28	141	5
Sacramento	2.36	167	1.12	79	13
San Francisco	1.15	82	2.13	152	5
Fresno	0.32	33	0.24	25	2
Bakersfield	0.20	37	0.41	76	3
Los Angeles	0.05	6	1.47	173	0
San Diego	0.18	22	0.42	52	1

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 11/01/2008								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,038	1,612	64	2,448	42	---	1,410
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	1,291	2,755	47	4,552	28	-2,579	3,261
Lake Oroville	Feather	1,026	2,165	47	3,538	29	-2,137	2,512
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	490	532	92	966	51	-306	476
Folsom Lake	American	234	495	47	977	24	-482	743
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,105	1,303	85	2,420	46	-865	1,315
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,027	1,297	79	2,030	51	-663	1,003
Lake McClure	Merced	257	449	57	1,025	25	-417	768
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	169	189	89	520	32	-267	351
Pine Flat Res	Kings	123	351	35	1,000	12	-734	877
Isabella	Kern	111	158	70	568	20	-59	457
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	256	1,110	23	2,039	13	---	1,783

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range weather outlook for November 2008, issued October 31, 2008, forecasts above average precipitation for Northern California, below average precipitation for Southern California and average precipitation for the central portion of the State.