

## California Weather-Hydro Conditions during December 2006

On January 1, Water Year 2007 (October 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006) statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 75% of average to date; runoff, 80% of average to date; and reservoir storage, 120% for the date. On January 1, the statewide snow pack was about 60% of average, based on preliminary data from snow pillows. During December, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index had 8.5" of precipitation, which was 101% of average for the month. On January, the 8-Station Index had a seasonal; total of 14.6", which is about 80% of the seasonal average and about 30% of average for an entire Water Year (50.0"). During December, rainfall north of the Tehachapi was generally near or above normal, while precipitation across Southern California continued to be quite sparse.

Sacramento River unimpaired runoff observed through December 31 was 2.3 million acre-feet (MAF), which is 73% of average. (On December 31, 2005, the observed Sacramento River unimpaired runoff through November was 6.2 MAF or 189% of average.) The median forecasts of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Water Year Type indexes are "Above Normal" and "Below Normal," respectively.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 01/01/2007 (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	15.21	95	24.38	152	39
Redding	10.76	91	19.97	169	32
Sacramento	4.36	63	10.76	155	21
San Jose	3.54	70	6.09	121	23
Fresno	1.64	48	2.48	72	14
Bakersfield	0.91	48	2.02	106	14
Los Angeles	1.31	34	2.89	75	8
San Diego	1.67	52	0.94	29	15

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 01/01/2007 midnight								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,786	1,671	107	2,448	73	---	662
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,337	2,904	115	4,552	73	-37	1,215
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,801	2,230	126	3,538	79	-290	737
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	688	538	128	966	71	-108	278
Folsom Lake	American	480	480	100	977	49	-97	497
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,992	1,345	148	2,420	82	22	428
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,601	1,331	120	2,030	79	-89	429
Lake McClure	Merced	641	453	141	1,025	63	-34	384
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	249	280	89	520	48	-186	271
Pine Flat Res	Kings	469	420	112	1,000	47	-178	531
Isabella	Kern	227	154	147	568	40	57	341
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,932	1,408	137	2,039	95	---	107

Despite a dry start to the rainy season in California, especially in the central and southern portions of the State, it is still too early to refer to Water Year 2007 as a "drought." Over 60% of the wet season remains, and several large storms could quickly bring rainfall up to average or even above average. (Late December 2006 and early January 2007 marks the 10th anniversary of the big flood of Water Year 1997.) The last few water years had above average precipitation and runoff, so ground water levels and soil moisture are near normal values. Statewide reservoir storage is 120% of average for this time of year, many of the large water supply reservoirs in the foothills of the Central Valley are near flood control levels. It is worth noting, however, the Smith and Upper Klamath River Basins are the only watersheds with average or above average precipitation for this water year, sharing in the well-above average precipitation in the Pacific Northwest. All the other river basins in California are below average. Also, at the beginning of January, several regions in Central and Southern California, as well as Arizona, had days with National Weather Service, Red Flag Fire Warnings.

The latest National Weather Service, Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range weather forecast maps for winter (January through March), issued in December, suggest above average precipitation for Central and Southern California, and average rainfall for the northern part of the State. In addition, the CPC also expects above average precipitation for the American Southwest, a reflection of moderate El Niño conditions (warmer than average sea-surface temperatures) across the tropical Pacific. Current conditions suggest that El Niño conditions may continue through the spring of 2007. The CPC forecasts above average temperatures for Northern California and average temperatures for Central and Southern California.