

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during December 2008

As of December 31, 2008, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 90 percent of average to date; runoff, 40 percent of average to date; and reservoir storage, 70 percent of average for the date. The snowpack is at about 75 percent of its average value for the date. Sacramento River unimpaired runoff observed through December 31, 2008 was about 1.4 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 44 percent of average. (On December 31, 2007, the observed Sacramento River unimpaired runoff through that date was about 1.5 MAF or about 47 percent of average.)

On January 8, 2009, the Northern Sierra 8-station Precipitation Index had accumulated a seasonal total of 15.3 inches, which is 77% of the seasonal average to date and 31% of an average Water Year (50.0 inches). During December 2008, the 8-Station Index received 6.0 inches, about 71% of average. Last year at this time, the 8-Station Index had 17.8 inches for the seasonal total. January has started out dry, and approximately two-thirds of the rainy season remains to go.

Beginning in mid-December 2008, a series of strong, cold weather systems brought significant amounts of precipitation to California, especially in Southern California. By late December, these storms started to generate inflow into the large multipurpose reservoirs across the State, and snowfall accumulation began in the Sierra. For the month as a whole, rainfall was generally below normal in the northern two-thirds of California and wetter than normal in the southern one-third. Temperatures were below normal for much of the State.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 1/01/2009 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2008 - 2009 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2007 - 2008 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2008 - 2009
Eureka	12.23	76	16.20	101	32
Redding	7.46	63	9.78	83	22
Sacramento	4.75	78	5.14	84	26
San Francisco	5.01	73	5.36	78	24
Fresno	2.70	79	2.64	77	24
Bakersfield	1.69	88	0.83	43	26
Los Angeles	4.66	120	3.76	97	30
San Diego	6.05	188	2.19	68	56

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 1/01/2009								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	978	1,671	59	2,448	40	---	1,470
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	1,364	2,904	47	4,552	30	-2,022	3,188
Lake Oroville	Feather	980	2,230	44	3,538	28	-2,170	2,558
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	460	538	86	966	48	-336	506
Folsom Lake	American	218	480	45	977	22	-359	759
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,147	1,345	85	2,420	47	-823	1,273
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,046	1,331	79	2,030	52	-644	984
Lake McClure	Merced	250	456	55	1,025	24	-425	775
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	194	280	69	520	37	-241	326
Pine Flat Res	Kings	180	420	43	1,000	18	-490	820
Isabella	Kern	117	154	76	568	21	-53	451
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	490	1,408	35	2,039	24	---	1,549

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range weather outlook for January 2009, issued December 31, 2008, forecasts average precipitation for all of California.