

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during December 2011

As of December 31, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 50 percent of average to date; runoff, 40 percent of average to date; snow water equivalent, 20 percent of average for the date (5 percent of the April 1 average); and reservoir storage, 115 percent of average for the date. Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff observed through December 31, 2011 was about 1.5 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 49 percent of average. For comparison, on December 31, 2010, the observed Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff through that date was about 4.7 MAF, or about 148 percent of average.

December was extremely dry across California. On December 31, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 6.9 inches, which is about 39 percent of the seasonal average to date and 14 percent of an average water year (50.0 inches). During December, the total precipitation for the 8-Stations was 0.3 inches, which is about 4 percent of the monthly average and third driest December on record. Last year on December 31, the seasonal total for the 8-Stations was 31.9 inches, or about 180 percent of average for the date.

On December 31, the San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 4.0 inches, which is about 31 percent of the seasonal average to date and 10 percent of an average water year (40.8 inches). During December, the total precipitation for the 5-Stations was 0.0 inches, the driest December on record (tied with 1989). Last year on December 31, the seasonal total for the 5-Stations to date was 31.1 inches, or about 239 percent of average for the date.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 12/31/2011 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2011 - 2012 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2010 - 2011 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg "Water Year" Jul 1 to Jun 30 2011- 2012
Eureka	10.87	64	20.61	121	27
Redding	6.33	46	16.07	117	18
Sacramento	2.35	35	9.38	142	13
San Francisco	3.37	37	11.68	128	14
Fresno	1.57	43	8.16	223	14
Bakersfield	1.31	63	7.25	349	20
Los Angeles	3.00	75	10.98	274	23
San Diego	4.57	138	8.11	245	44

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 12/31/2011								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,936	1,668	116	2,448	79	---	512
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,095	2,897	107	4,552	68	-276	1,457
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,545	2,226	114	3,538	72	-618	993
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	643	537	120	966	67	-153	323
Folsom Lake	American	416	479	87	977	43	-161	561
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,975	1,344	147	2,420	82	5	445
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,576	1,329	119	2,030	78	-114	454
Lake McClure	Merced	659	454	145	1,025	64	-15	366
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	331	278	119	520	64	-96	189
Pine Flat Res	Kings	557	418	133	1,000	56	-67	443
Isabella	Kern	167	154	109	568	29	-3	401
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,928	1,401	138	2,039	95	---	111

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range, 1-month precipitation outlook for January 2012, issued December 31, 2011, suggests below average precipitation for Central and Southern California. No tendency for above or below average rainfall is suggested for almost all of Northern California, except for the far North Coast where above average rain is indicated.