California Weather-Hydro Conditions during December 2012

As of December 31, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 135 percent of average to date; runoff, 150 percent of average to date; snow water equivalent, 135 percent of average for the date (50 percent of the April 1 average); and reservoir storage, 105 percent of average for the date. Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff, for Water Year 2013, observed through December 31, 2012 was about 4.8 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 155 percent of average. For comparison during Water Year 2012, on December 31, 2011, the observed Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff through that date was about 1.5 MAF, or about 49 percent of average.

During December, most of California had significantly above average rainfall. On December 31, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 32.8 inches, which is about 185 percent of the seasonal average to date and 66 percent of an average water year (50.0 inches). During December, the total precipitation for the 8-Stations was 17.1 inches, which is about 204 percent of the monthly average. Last year on December 31, the seasonal total for the 8-Stations was 6.9 inches, or about 39 percent of average for the date.

On December 31, the San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 19.1 inches, which is about 147 percent of the seasonal average to date and 47 percent of an average water year (40.8 inches). During December, the total precipitation for the 5-Stations was 11.5 inches, which is about 185 percent of the monthly average. Last year on December 31, the seasonal total for the 5-Stations was 4.0 inches, or about 31 percent of average for the date.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 12/31/2012 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2012 - 2013 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2011 - 2012 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg "Water Year" Jul 1 to Jun 30 2012- 2013
Eureka	20.83	122	10.87	64	52
Redding	19.16	139	6.33	46	55
Sacramento	11.29	171	2.35	35	61
San Francisco	13.10	144	3.37	37	55
Fresno	3.39	93	1.57	43	29
Bakersfield	0.79	38	1.31	63	12
Los Angeles	4.28	107	3.00	75	33
San Diego	3.17	96	4.57	138	31

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 12/31/2012								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,910	1,668	114	2,448	78	---	538
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,318	2,897	115	4,552	73	-22	1,234
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,525	2,226	113	3,538	71	-263	1,013
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	793	537	148	966	82	-3	173
Folsom Lake	American	584	479	122	977	60	7	393
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,594	1,344	119	2,420	66	-376	826
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,327	1,329	100	2,030	65	-363	703
Lake McClure	Merced	434	454	95	1,025	42	-241	591
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	300	278	108	520	58	-135	220
Pine Flat Res	Kings	257	418	61	1,000	26	-413	743
Isabella	Kern	84	154	55	568	15	-86	484
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,098	1,401	78	2,039	54	---	941

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range, 1-month precipitation outlook for January 2013, issued December 31, 2012, suggests below average rainfall for almost all of California, except for the very southern region, where no tendency for above or below average is expected.