

## Major Floods Since 1950

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Wet water years are not necessarily indicative of flood conditions. Although water-year 1983 was the wettest in California last century, major flooding did not occur. The following table shows estimated unimpaired runoff from a few of the state's larger floods since the 1950s. In January 1997, California confronted one of the largest and most extensive flood disasters in its history. Rivers from the Oregon border to the southern Sierra reached flood stages. Flood volumes of some rivers exceeded channel capacities by as much as 700 percent. In many major river systems, flood control dams reduced peak flows by one-half or more. Even so, leveed flood control systems were overwhelmed in some areas. Flood damage costs are nearing \$2 billion.

Unimpaired Runoff				
River	Location	Date	Max 1-Day (cfs)	3-day Volume (taf)
Sacramento	Shasta Dam	Jan 1974	196,000	779
		Feb 1986	126,000	681
		Jan 1997	216,000	1,000
Feather	Oroville Dam	Dec 1964	179,000	984
		Feb 1986	217,000	1,113
		Jan 1997	298,000	1,392
Yuba	Marysville	Dec 1964	144,000	703
		Feb 1986	142,000	729
		Jan 1997	161,000	736
American	Folsom Dam	Dec 1964	183,000	835
		Feb 1986	171,000	988
		Jan 1997	249,000	977
Mokelumne	Camanche Dam	Dec 1964	36,000	171
		Feb 1986	28,000	149
		Jan 1997	76,000	233
Stanislaus	New Melones Dam	Dec 1964	44,000	198
		Feb 1986	40,000	246
		Jan 1997	73,000	298
Tuolumne	New Don Pedro Dam	Dec 1964	73,000	306
		Feb 1986	53,000	294
		Jan 1997	120,000	548

Merced	New Exchequer Dam	Dec 1964	33,000	136
		Feb 1986	30,000	164
		Jan 1997	67,000	262
San Joaquin	Friant Dam	Feb 1986	33,000	176
		Mar 1995	39,000	156
		Jan 1997	77,000	313
Truckee	Reno	Oct 1963	25,000	79
		Feb 1986	22,000	112
		Jan 1997	37,000	148
Cosumnes	Michigan Bar	Dec 1964	29,000	115
		Feb 1986	34,000	196
		Jan 1997	60,000	N/A
Eel	Scotia	Dec 1964	648,000	2,936
		Feb 1986	304,000	1,515
Santa Ynez	Lompoc <sup>a</sup>	Jan 1969	38,000	175
Salinas	Spreckles <sup>a</sup>	Feb 1969	65,000	252
		Mar 1983	60,000	314
		Mar 1995	64,000	241
Santa Clara	Saticoy	Feb 1969	92,000	270

<sup>a</sup> Impaired flows

