

February 8, 2011 Water Supply Forecast Discussion

This forecast includes observed conditions through the morning of February 8, 2011.

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir?s=b120up>.

Forecast Summary:

The projected median April-July runoff now ranges from 81 percent (Sacramento River at Bend Bridge) to 143 percent (Kern River). All forecasts have dropped since the February 1, 2011 Bulletin 120 forecast due to no precipitation so far in February. The forecast for the Sacramento River at Bend Bridge and for the Mokelumne River dropped 3 percent of average while all other forecasts were reduced either 4 or 5 percent of average. There were near record precipitation accumulations for the water year through December. But now, for rivers north of the American River, the median April-July runoff forecast is now LESS than 100 percent of average.

Runoff:

The current February Unimpaired Runoff runoff rates are well below their averages for most basins. All basins north of the Mokelumne River are flowing at less than half the average rate, for February, and the four major basins from the Mokelumne River through the Merced River are flowing at less than 75 percent of the average rate. Only the Kings River and Kern River basins are flowing at a rate greater than 100 percent of average for February.

Precipitation:

The Northern Sierra 8-Station Index has not increased since February 1. The seasonal total of 34.0 inches is now about 115 percent of average to date and 68 percent of an average water year. As with the northern Sierra conditions, the San Joaquin 5-Station Index has not increased since February 1 and has a current (February 10) accumulation of 35.0 inches which is about 155 percent of average to date and 86 percent of the water year average.

Snowpack:

According to February 8 snow sensor data, statewide snowpack stands at 79 percent of the April 1 average and 114 percent of average to date. Regionally, the Northern Sierra, Central Sierra, and Southern Sierra have 94, 110, and 145 percent of average, respectively, for February 8.

Weather and Climate Outlooks:

The NWS Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) 30-day outlook for February, last updated on January 31, 2011, suggests increased chances of below normal temperatures for all of California except for the Mojave Desert region. The same outlook calls for increased chances of above normal precipitation for a narrow band along the Oregon border and conversely increased chances of below normal precipitation for the southern portion of the state including the Southern Sierra Nevada. All other areas which includes the Northern and Central Sierra Nevada show equal chances of above or below normal precipitation.

The CPC's three month outlook (February thru April) was last updated on January 20, 2011. This outlook suggests increased chances of below normal temperatures along the entire California coastline and extending east into the interior valleys of California and the Northern Sierra Nevada. For all other areas of the Sierra Nevada south of Lake Tahoe, the outlook suggests equal chances of above or below normal temperatures. The same outlook calls for increased chances of below normal precipitation for the southern two-thirds of the state including all areas of the Sierra Nevada south of Lake Tahoe. For the northern third of the state including the Northern Sierra and the Trinity/Siskiyou mountains, the outlook suggests equal chances of above or below normal precipitation.

The 6-day forecast, issued today, indicates dry conditions for the next 4 days. Thereafter, however, precipitation is expected to move over California from the American River basin northward. Up to two inches of precipitation are expected for the Monday-Tuesday period. On these days, the freezing level is expected to drop from near 8000 feet to below 5000 feet.

For the lower San Joaquin basins, a total of less than half an inch is forecast for Monday and Tuesday with freezing levels dropping to between 6500 and 7000 feet on Tuesday.

Next Update:

The next Bulletin 120 forecast update will be produced for conditions on February 15, 2011, and will be available by Thursday, February 17, 2011. If you need guidance before then, or have any questions, please contact us:

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Important Links

Full Natural Flow Data:

Daily FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNF

Monthly FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNFSUM

Seasonal FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FLOWOUT

Precipitation Data:

Latest Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=8SI&d=today>

Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Tabulation Table

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/8-Stations_Tab.pdf

Latest San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=5SI&d=today>

San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Tabulation Table

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/5-Stations_Tab.pdf

2010 WY Precipitation Summary

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/precip/PRECIPSUM>

Snow Data:

Latest Snow Sensor Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/PAGE6>

Latest Statewide Summary of Snow Water Equivalent

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>

Monthly Snow Course Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/COURSES>

Extended Regional Forecasts:

California Nevada River Forecast Center 6 Day QPF and Snow Level Forecast

<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/awipsProducts/RNOHD6RSA.php>

Climate Prediction Center One-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>

Climate Prediction Center Three-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/>

Drought Information:

California Drought Information

<http://www.water.ca.gov/drought/>

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html