

## **March 15, 2011 Water Supply Forecast Discussion**

This forecast includes observed conditions through the morning of March 15, 2011.

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir/B120UP>

### **Forecast Summary:**

The projected median April-July runoff now ranges from 97 percent (Shasta Lake, Total Inflow and Sacramento River at Bend Bridge) to 143 percent (Kern River). However, all forecasts decreased south of the Stanislaus and increased north of the Stanislaus. Forecasts increased by 2 percent, on average. The Feather River forecast increased by 8 percent whereas the Tule River decreased by 7 percent.

### **Runoff:**

The current March unimpaired runoff rates are over 110 percent for all basins, excluding the Trinity River. The Consumes River is flowing at the greatest rate, 162 percent of average, while the Trinity is flowing at the lowest rate of 89 percent of average.

### **Precipitation:**

The Northern Sierra 8-Station Index increased by 5.1 inches from March 10, bringing the monthly total to 7.8 inches. The seasonal total of 50.3 inches is now 131 percent of average to date and 101 percent of an average water year. The San Joaquin 5-Station Index increased by 1.3 inches from March 10, bringing the total to 4.0 inches. These gains bring the Index seasonal total to 45.9 inches which is 150 percent of average to date and 113 percent of the water year average.

### **Snowpack:**

According to the March 15 snow sensor data, statewide snowpack stands at 126 percent of the April 1 average and 122 percent of average to date. Regionally, the Northern Sierra, Central Sierra, and Southern Sierra measure 121, 127, and 130 percent of average to date.

### **Weather and Climate Outlooks:**

The NWS Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) 30-day outlook for April, last updated on St Patrick's Day, March 17, 2011, suggests increased chances of below normal temperatures northwest of a line from South Lake Tahoe to San Jose. Above normal temperatures are expected southeast of a line from Oxnard to Teakettle. Otherwise, equal chances of above or below normal temperatures are expected for the remainder of California. The same outlook calls for above normal precipitation northwest of a line from Goose Lake to Fort Bragg. Below normal precipitation is expected east of a line from South Lake Tahoe to San Diego. Otherwise, equal chances of above or below normal precipitation are expected for the remainder of California.

The CPC's three month outlook (April through June) was last updated March 17, 2011. This outlook suggests above normal temperatures southeast of a line from San Diego to Teakettle. Elsewhere, equal chances of above or below normal temperatures are expected. In addition, equal chances of above or below normal precipitation are expected for all of California.

The 6-day forecast, issued today, indicates more precipitation. The Sacramento River Region may receive up to 4 inches of precipitation, over this period. Whereas the San Joaquin and

Tulare Lake regions may receive up to 5 inches of precipitation. The freezing levels for this period will be between 4,000 and 6,000 feet for the Sacramento, Tulare, and San Joaquin River regions.

**Next Update:**

The next Bulletin 120 forecast update will be produced for conditions on March 22, 2011, and will be available by Thursday, March 24, 2011. If you need guidance before then, or have any questions, please contact us:

**Snow Surveys Staff Contact Information:**

Dave Rizzardo, Chief ([daver@water.ca.gov](mailto:daver@water.ca.gov)) 916-574-2983

John King ([kingjj@water.ca.gov](mailto:kingjj@water.ca.gov)) 916-574-2637

Steve Nemeth ([nemeth@water.ca.gov](mailto:nemeth@water.ca.gov)) 916-574-2634

Andy Reising ([areising@water.ca.gov](mailto:areising@water.ca.gov)) 916-574-2181

Richard Mora ([rmora@water.ca.gov](mailto:rmora@water.ca.gov)) 916-574-2636

**Important Links**

**Full Natural Flow Data:**

Daily FNF

[http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey\\_ro/FNF](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNF)

Monthly FNF

[http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey\\_ro/FNFSUM](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNFSUM)

Seasonal FNF

[http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey\\_ro/FLOWOUT](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FLOWOUT)

**Precipitation Data:**

Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Tabulation Table

[http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/8-Stations\\_Tab.pdf](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/8-Stations_Tab.pdf)

San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Tabulation Table

[http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/5-Stations\\_Tab.pdf](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/5-Stations_Tab.pdf)

2011 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 Equivalents

<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.htm](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.htm)