

## January 1, 2012 Water Supply Forecasting Discussion

Happy New Year!! DWR has completed the January 1, 2012 Water Supply Index (WSI) forecast.

### **Forecast Summary:**

A Water Year 2012 Water Supply Index (WSI) forecast for conditions on January 1, 2012 is posted at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir/WSI.2012>. This WSI forecast is based on the precipitation and flows through December 2011 and can be summarized as follows:

<b>Sacramento River Unimpaired Runoff Water Year Forecast</b> (50 percent exceedence)	12.0 MAF (66 percent of average)
<b>Sacramento Valley Index (SVI)</b> (50 percent exceedence)	6.9 (Below Normal)
<b>San Joaquin Valley Index (SJI)</b> (75 percent exceedence)	2.0 (Critical)

### **Runoff:**

Unimpaired flows for the Water Year through the end of December have occurred at rates of 49 percent, 52 percent, and 114 percent of average for the Sacramento River basin, the San Joaquin River basin, and the Tulare Lake basin, respectively. These percentages have dropped substantially since the end of November when the rates were 77 percent, 101 percent, and 173 percent as virtually no rain or snow has fallen in December. Of the eight rivers forecast for this WSI, all showed a decrease in total monthly runoff from November to December except for the American which increased by 1 TAF.

### **Precipitation:**

After three months of the water year, precipitation in the Sacramento River Region is at 38 percent of average, the San Joaquin River region is at 38 percent of average, and the Tulare Lake region is at 53 percent of average. Statewide, cumulative water year precipitation through December is 48 percent of average.

The Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index gained 0.3 inches in December (4 percent of average). The San Joaquin 5-Station Index gained zero inches in December (zero percent of average). The seasonal average to date (as of 1/5/2012) for the 8-Station and 5-Station Indices are 36 and 29 percent, respectively.

### **Snowpack:**

The limited snow course measurements taken within our ten day window of January 1 clarified that no more than 4 inches of snow is on the ground in the mountains statewide. This is consistent with what our snow sensor network shows. As of January 6, 2012, the statewide average snow water content is 2 inches which represents 15 percent of average for the date and 6 percent of the April 1 average.

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

The latest weather forecasts indicate no precipitation throughout the state over the next 6 days except for a slight chance along the North Coast during the middle of this week. Freezing levels will start out

around 11,000 feet along the Sierra Nevada before dropping to around 8,000 feet by the end of the forecast period as more normal January temperatures settle in.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center one-month outlook for January, made on December 31, indicates below normal temperatures across the entire state, below normal precipitation for the southern two-thirds of California, and equal chances of above or below normal precipitation for the northern third of the state.

The three-month (January-February-March) outlook, posted December 15, suggests increased chances of below normal temperatures over the entire state except for the Mojave Desert region where equal chances of above or below normal temperatures are forecast. The same outlook calls for increased chances of below normal precipitation across the southern two-thirds of California and equal chances of above or below normal precipitation elsewhere.

**Next Update:**

The next WSI forecast should be available on February 8, 2012. The first B120 forecast of the water year, for conditions on February 1, 2012, will also be available on that date. If you have any questions regarding this forecast, please contact a member of the Snow Surveys staff.

If you would like to receive an email that includes a discussion of the forecast and a notification that this report has been posted, access the site below:

<http://listhost2.water.ca.gov/mailman/listinfo/wsi>

**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:**

Latest Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index

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

Latest San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index

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

**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>

**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/long\\_range/seasonal.php?lead=1](http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1)

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert\\_assessment/seasonal\\_drought.html](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html)

Weather Forecast Office California Service Area-Products

<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/forecasts.php>