Good afternoon,

We've finished the February 25, 2014 Bulletin 120 (B120) forecasts update. The forecasts include observed conditions through the morning of February 25, 2014 and is posted at http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir?s=b120up.

Forecast Summary:
Considering the rivers forecasted in the B120 update, the projected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins ranges from 9 percent on the Tule River to 50 percent for the Inflow to Shasta Lake. On average, the forecasts have fallen about 5 percent compared to last week. For all rivers south of the Mokelumne, the forecast dropped at least 6 percent except for the Kaweah, Tule, and Kern which dropped 4, 2, and 4 percent, respectively. The forecast for rivers north of the Stanislaus fell between 2 to 5 percent compared to last week's forecast.

Runoff:
Since the last significant storm over the central and northern Sierra on the 9th and 10th of February, runoff has decreased significantly. Consequently, the flows through 25 days of February are very poor in most cases and all rivers included in the forecast north of the Stanislaus River are flowing at a rate less than 50 percent of average except for the Yuba River (through 16 days), American River, and Mokelumne River which are flowing 79, 72, and 50 percent of average, respectively. South of the Mokelumne River, the flows through February 25 are less than 20 percent of average except for the Stanislaus River, Tuolumne River, and Kern River which are 29, 30, and 24 percent of average, respectively.

Precipitation:
Since the last update, no precipitation has fallen over the Sierra through February 25.

As of February 25, the Northern Sierra 8-Station index has recorded 8.4 inches of precipitation in February and is 105 percent of the monthly February average. Unfortunately, all other months of the Water Year experienced less than 30 percent of average. On February 25, the season-to-date total is 12.9 inches which is 38 percent of average-to-date and 26 percent of the Water Year average of 50 inches.

As of February 25, the San Joaquin 5-Station index showed a gain of 3.9 inches since February 1 which is 56 percent of the monthly average. On February 25, the season-to-date total of 8.5 inches represents 32 percent of average-to-date and 21 percent of the average Water Year total 40.8 inches.

Snowpack:
As of February 25, 2014 the snow sensor data indicates that the Northern Sierra, Central Sierra, and Southern Sierra snowpack are 13, 30, and 21 percent of their season-to-date averages, respectively. All have dropped since this time last week which were 15, 32, and 25 percent for the North, Central, and South, respectively. The statewide snowpack as of February 25 shows five inches of snow water content which is 22 percent of average to date and 19 percent of the April 1 average. The statewide snow water content has decreased by one inch since this time last week, today's readings reflect a 3 percent drop in average-to-date from last week (or a 1 percent drop in the April 1 average) due to the lack of significant snowfall during this time when we would normally expect to see gains in the snowpack.

Weather and Climate Outlook:
The forecast for the next 6 days includes precipitation statewide with the bulk of the precipitation expected Friday. During this period, freezing elevations are expected to remain between 5700 and 9100 feet over the northern Sierra and between 6500 and 10700 feet over the southern range.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) one-month outlook for March, updated February 20, suggests increased chances of above normal temperatures for all of the state. The same outlook predicts increased chances of below normal precipitation over the southern third of California and an increased chance of above normal precipitation near the corner of Oregon and Nevada.

The CPC's three-month outlook (March-May), updated February 20, strongly suggests increased chances of above normal temperatures for all of California. The same outlook predicts increased chances of below normal precipitation

over all of the state except over the rivers flowing into Lake Shasta where equal chances of above and below normal precipitation exist.

The latest sea surface temperatures for Nino region 3.4 were -0.4 Celsius. As such, ENSO (El Nino Southern Oscillation) conditions continue to be neutral – a pattern that is expected to persist thought the Northern Hemisphere Spring 2014.

Next Update:

The next Bulletin 120 and Water Supply Index forecasts for conditions on March 1, 2014 will be available on March 10, 2014.

If you have any questions regarding this forecast, please contact a member of the Snow Surveys staff. We are happy to help.