

Hello,

We've finished the May 27, 2014 Bulletin 120 (B120) forecast update. The forecasts include observed conditions through the morning of May 27, 2014 and are posted at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/ioidir?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 11 percent on the Tule River to 50 percent for both the Total Inflow to Shasta Lake and the Sacramento River above Bend Bridge. All forecasts either stayed the same or increased. On average, the forecasts increased 1 percent from the May 20 forecast due to greater than expected flows observed in the basins. The largest increase of 2 percent was forecast on the San Joaquin and Kern rivers.

Runoff:

For May, the flows through a majority of the month are less than 45 percent of average ranging from 10 percent on the Tule River to 42 percent on the Tuolumne River. The past week, California experienced a cooling down period followed by another heat wave, and, as a result, many rivers had another peak in flows.

Precipitation:

As of May 27, 2014, the Northern Sierra 8-Station (8SI) precipitation index gained 0.7 inches for the month (33 percent of average for May) bringing the water year total to 28.8 inches (61 percent of average to date) which is 58 percent of the average water year total.

As of May 27, 2014, the San Joaquin 5-Station (5SI) precipitation index registered 1.0 inch for the month (56 percent of average for May) bringing the water year total to 19.2 inches (50 percent of average to date) which is 47 percent of the average water year total.

Snowpack:

As of May 27, the snow sensor data indicates that the northern, central, and southern Sierra snowpack are at 3, 5, and 0 percent of average to date, respectively. The statewide snow water content stands at only 0.3 inches which is 3 percent of normal to date and 1 percent of the April 1 average. Today, only three snow sensors are registering snow: Lake Lois (American), Independence Lake (Truckee) and Leavitt Lake (Walker). According to satellite images, some snow remains in some river basins above the elevations monitored by the sensors.

Weather and Climate Outlook:

No precipitation is forecast in California over the next six days. Freezing levels will remain above 11,000 feet in all regions for the period except for far northern California where levels are expected to remain above about 10,000 feet.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) one-month outlook for June, updated May 15, suggests increased chances of above normal temperatures for all of the State. The same outlook predicts equal chances of above or below normal precipitation Statewide.

The CPC's three-month outlook (June-August), updated May 15, suggests increased chances of above normal temperatures for all of California. The same outlook predicts equal chances of above or below normal precipitation Statewide.

ENSO-neutral conditions continue in the equatorial Pacific. Sea surface temperatures are above average across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The chance of El Niño conditions increases during the remainder of the year, exceeding 65% by summer.

Next Update:

The next Bulletin 120 update for conditions on June 3, 2014 will be available June 5, 2014. We plan to issue our last Bulletin 120 update the following week for conditions on June 10.

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