

We've finished the February 17, 2015 Bulletin 120 (B120) forecasts update. The forecasts include observed conditions through the morning of February 17, 2015. The forecasts are posted at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iudir?s=b120up>.

**Forecast Summary:**

The projected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins ranges from 13 percent on the Tule River to 64 percent on the Total Inflow to Shasta Lake. On average, the forecasts for the Sacramento River Region, San Joaquin Region, and Tulare Lake Region dropped by 4, 5, and 7 percent of average, respectively. The Shasta Lake Total Inflow forecast dropped 3 percent and the San Joaquin and Kings river forecasts dropped 7 and 8 percent of average, respectively. Most of the 90 percent exceedance forecasts are below 20 percent of average.

**Runoff:**

Since the last significant storm over the Sierras during the first week of February, runoff has decreased. Through the first 18 days of February, rivers north of the Merced River are flowing near or above average with the exception of the Cosumnes River, which is currently flowing at 71 percent of average for the month. Unfortunately, all rivers south of the Tuolumne River are flowing below 55 percent of average. Thanks to the large storm in early February, the Trinity River is flowing well above normal at 250 percent of average through the first 18 days of the month.

**Precipitation:**

Precipitation for the 2014-15 water year accumulated at the following rates of average:

Region/Index	WY accumulated Precipitation through February 19, 2015 units= percent of average
Northern Sierra 8-Station Index	94 (30.3 inches)
San Joaquin 5-Station Index	51 (12.9 inches)

**Snowpack:**

The snowpack as of the morning of February 19, 2015 stands at the following (based on snow sensors):

Region	Snow Water Equivalent (inches)	% of Average (Apr. 1)	% of Average (Feb. 19)
Northern	4.7	16	20
Central	5.6	18	23
Southern	4.2	16	21
Statewide	5.0	17	21

The noteworthy event of the last week is that all three regions showed a loss of snow when, normally, the snow water content would increase.

**Weather and Climate Outlooks:**

The 6-day weather forecast indicates no precipitation except for a small amount in southern California on Sunday. Freezing levels over the Sierra are expected to range above 10,000 feet today, decreasing to between 4,000 and 6,000 feet by Sunday, and gradually increasing through the end of the 6-day period.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) one-month outlook for March, issued February 19, indicates increased chances of below normal precipitation for the northern third of California and, elsewhere, equal chances of above or below normal precipitation are expected. Temperatures are expected to be above normal for the entire state.

The CPC three-month (March-April-May) outlook, issued February 19, indicates increased chances of below normal precipitation for the very north coast of California. Elsewhere, the same forecast calls for equal chances of above or below normal precipitation. Increased chances of above normal temperatures are predicted for the entire state.

Enso-neutral conditions continue. There is an approximately 50-60 percent chance of El Nino within the late Northern Hemisphere winter and early spring, with ENSO-neutral slightly favored thereafter.

**Next Update:**

A Bulletin 120 update for conditions as of February 24 will be available Thursday, February 26. If you have any questions regarding this forecast, please contact a member of the Snow Surveys staff.

**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/sdo\\_summary.html](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.html)

Weather Forecast Office California Service Area-Products

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

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Conditions and Weekly Discussion (including La Niña)

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/lanina/enso\\_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf)

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