

We've finished the March 24, 2015 Bulletin 120 (B120) forecast update. The forecast includes observed conditions through the morning of March 24, 2015. The forecast is 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 8 percent on the Tule River to 51 percent for the Total Inflow to Shasta Lake and the Sacramento River above Bend Bridge forecast points. Statewide, the forecasts dropped an average of 4 percent from the March 17, 2015 B120 forecast update. The forecasts for the Mokelumne, Stanislaus, and Kaweah rivers dropped 5 percent of average. The 90 percent exceedance forecast for all rivers is near 15 percent of average with the exception of Total Inflow to Shasta Lake, the Sacramento River above Bend Bridge, and the Tule River.

**Runoff:**

Through the first 25 days of March, all rivers in the Sierra are flowing at or below 30 percent of average with the exception of the Mokelumne River. The highest percent of average March flow is for the Mokelumne River which is flowing at a rate of about 33 percent of average.

**Precipitation:**

Precipitation for the 2015 water year accumulated at the following rates of average:

<b>Region/Index</b>	<b>WY accumulated Precipitation through March 24, 2015 units= percent of average</b>
Northern Sierra 8-Station Index	<b>79 (31.6 inches)</b>
San Joaquin 5-Station Index	<b>43 (13.7 inches)</b>
Tulare Lake 6-Station Index	<b>45 (10.3 inches)</b>

For the first 24 days of March, the percent of average precipitation measured for the Northern Sierra, San Joaquin, and Tulare Lake precipitation indexes are 13, 7, and 4 percent of average, respectively.

**Snowpack:**

The snowpack as of the morning of March 26, 2015 stands at the following (based on snow sensors):

<b>Region</b>	<b>Snow Water Equivalent (inches)</b>	<b>% of Average (Apr. 1)</b>	<b>% of Average (Mar. 26)</b>
Northern	2.2	8	8
Central	2.6	9	9
Southern	2.3	9	9
Statewide	2.4	8	8

With less than a week left in the month of March, this water year's snowpack is expected to be the worst on record.

**Weather and Climate Outlooks:**

The six-day weather forecast indicates no precipitation is expected in the Trinity or Sierra ranges. Freezing levels will remain above 10,000 feet for the mountainous regions of the state over the period.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) one-month and three-month (April-May-June) outlooks have not been updated since being issued a week ago. Above average temperatures and equal chances of above and below average precipitation are predicted.

El Niño conditions are present. Positive equatorial sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies continue across the western and central Pacific, while near-to-below average SSTs are evident in the eastern Pacific. There is an approximately 50-60 percent chance that El Niño conditions will continue through Northern Hemisphere summer 2015. The CPC issued this statement on March 23, and it is the same statement as previous weeks.

**Next Update:**

The next Bulletin 120 and Water Supply Index forecasts for conditions as of April 1, 2015 will be available Wednesday, April 8, 2015. 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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