

We've finished the February 9, 2016 Bulletin 120 (B120) forecasts update. The forecasts include observed conditions through the morning of February 9, 2016.

The forecasts are posted at:

B120: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir?s=b120up>

Forecast Summary:

The projected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins ranges from 71 percent on the Kern River to 109 percent on the Mokelumne River. On average, the forecasts for the Sacramento River Region, San Joaquin Region, and Tulare Lake Region decreased by 4, 5, and 5 percent, respectively. All major Sierra river basins saw a decrease in the forecast, with the maximum decrease on the Mokelumne River (6 percent) and the minimum decrease on the Sacramento River above Bend Bridge (2 percent).

Runoff:

Through the first ten days of February, rivers in the Sierra are flowing between 56 (Kern River) to 112 (Tule River) percent of average. All rivers are flowing below average except for the Tule River. The daily Full Natural Flow (FNF) data for February 2016 indicates that flows have decreased by nearly half or more compared to the beginning of the month. In the central Sierra, flows have slightly increased over the past few days due to the increase in temperatures melting lower elevation snow.

Precipitation:

Precipitation for the 2015-2016 water year accumulated at the following rates of average:

Region/Index	WY accumulated precipitation (%) through February 11, 2016
Northern Sierra 8-Station Index	110 (32.9 inches)
San Joaquin 5-Station Index	110 (25.7 inches)
Tulare Basin 6-Station Index	113 (18.5 inches)

Snowpack:

The snowpack as of the morning of February 11, 2016 stands at the following (based on snow sensors):

Region	Snow Water Equivalent (inches)	% of Average (Apr 1)	% of Average (Feb 11)
Northern	22.9	79	106
Central	21.4	74	102
Southern	16.8	65	94
Statewide	20.4	73	101

Weather and Climate Outlooks:

The 6-day weather forecast indicates no precipitation. Freezing levels over the Sierra are expected to remain above 10,000 feet over the next six days.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) one-month outlook for February, issued January 31, indicates increased chances of above normal precipitation statewide with the exception along the California-Oregon border which indicates equal chances of above or below normal precipitation. The same outlook predicts increased chances of above normal temperatures statewide with the exception along the California-Arizona border which indicates equal chances of above or below normal temperatures.

The CPC three-month (February-March-April) outlook, issued January 21, indicates increased chances of above normal precipitation statewide. The same outlook predicts increased chances of above normal temperatures statewide with the exception along the California-Arizona border which indicates equal chances of above or below normal temperatures.

El Niño conditions are present. Positive equatorial sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies continue across most of the Pacific Ocean. A strong El Niño is expected to gradually weaken through spring 2016, and to transition to ENSO-neutral during late spring or early summer 2016.

Next Update:

A Bulletin 120 update for conditions as of February 16 will be available Thursday, February 18. 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

Monthly FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNFSUM

Seasonal FNF

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

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

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

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