

We've finished the February 23, 2016 Bulletin 120 (B120) forecast update. The forecasts include observed conditions through the morning of February 23, 2016.

The forecasts are posted at: <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 66 percent on the Tule River to 103 percent on the Mokelumne River. Since last week, the forecasts increased slightly in the Sacramento River region, remained flat in the northern San Joaquin Region rivers, decreased in the southern San Joaquin Region rivers, and remained flat or increased slightly in the Tulare Lake Basin rivers. Statewide, the storms that occurred last week maintained the forecasts at a similar level to last week.

On average, the forecasts for the Sacramento River Region, San Joaquin Region, and Tulare Lake Region changed by +2, -1, and 0 percent from last week, respectively. Since February 1, the forecasts for these regions have decreased by 8, 13, and 12 percent, respectively.

Runoff:

Through the first 22 days of February, only the Mokelumne River is flowing above its average rate for February. All other rivers are flowing at rates between 58 (Kern) and 93 (Tuolumne) percent of average for the month.

Precipitation:

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

Region/Index	WY accumulated precipitation (%) through February 25, 2016
Northern Sierra 8-Station Index	105 (35.5 inches)
San Joaquin 5-Station Index	101 (27.1 inches)
Tulare Basin 6-Station Index	104 (19.6 inches)

Snowpack:

The snowpack as of the morning of February 25, 2016 stands at the following (based on snow sensors):

Region	Snow Water Equivalent (inches)	% of Average (Apr 1)	% of Average (Feb 18)
Northern	23.8	83	96
Central	21.9	78	92
Southern	18.1	69	84
Statewide	21.2	77	91

Weather and Climate Outlooks:

The 6-day weather forecast indicates a total of less than 2 inches for the North Coast and a total of 1 inch for the Sacramento Basin over this period. The majority of this precipitation is expected on Days 2 and 4. The Central Basin (Feather, Yuba, American) may receive up to 0.5 of an inch over the period and no precipitation is expected for the San Joaquin and Tulare Basins. Freezing levels over the North Coast, Sacramento and Central basins are expected to decrease from the current level of about 12,000 feet and

rise again to 10,000 feet by the end of the forecast period. Freezing levels for the San Joaquin and Tulare Basins follow a similar pattern but rise to 12,000 feet by the end of the period.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) one-month outlook for March, issued February 18, indicates increased chances of above normal precipitation statewide except for the northern fifth of the state where equal chances of above or below normal precipitation are expected. The same outlook predicts increased chances of above normal temperatures over the entire state.

The CPC three-month (March-April-May) outlook, issued February 18, indicates increased chances of above normal precipitation statewide except for the northern third of the state where equal chances of above or below normal precipitation are expected. As with the one month outlook, the three month forecast predicts increased chances of above normal temperatures statewide.

El Niño conditions are present. Positive equatorial sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies continue across most of the Pacific Ocean. A transition to ENSO-neutral is likely during the late spring or early summer 2016 with a possible transition to La Nina conditions during the fall.

Next Update:

Both a B120 and a Water Supply Index (WSI) forecast for conditions as of March 1 will be available Tuesday, March 8. 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 Equivalent

<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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