

We've finished the April 19, 2016 Bulletin 120 (B120) forecast update. The forecasts include observed conditions through the morning of April 19, 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 52 percent on the Tule River to 96 percent on the Stanislaus River. The forecasts for all rivers decreased except for that of the Kaweah which remained the same as last week. The largest percentage decrease was four percent for in the Sacramento River above Bend Bridge, the Mokelumne River, and the San Joaquin River.

Runoff:

Through the first 19 days of April, rivers in the Sierra are flowing from 48 percent of average on the Kern to 123 percent of average on the Stanislaus. All rivers from the Yuba through the Kings are continuing to flow at rates greater than 95 percent of average. The Sacramento, Kaweah, Tule, and Kern rivers, however, continue to flow at rates less than 85 percent of average.

Precipitation:

Very little precipitation fell in the state over the past week. Precipitation for the 2015-2016 water year accumulated at the following rates of average:

Region/Index	WY accumulated precipitation in percent of average through April 21, 2016	April 1-21, 2016 accumulated precipitation in percent of the average total for April
Northern Sierra 8-Station Index	119 (52.9 inches)	26 (1.0 inches)
San Joaquin 5-Station Index	104 (37.5 inches)	47 (1.7 inches)
Tulare Basin 6-Station Index	96 (24.9 inches)	46 (1.2 inches)

Snowpack:

The snow continues to melt off at a strong and steady pace in most mountainous regions of the state. The snowpack as of the morning of April 21, 2016 stands at the following (based on snow sensors):

Region	Snow Water Equivalent (inches)	% of Average (Apr 1)	% of Average (April 21)
Northern	15.7	55	65
Central	16.5	57	63
Southern	11.1	41	46
Statewide	14.6	52	58

Weather and Climate Outlooks:

The 6-day weather forecast predicts significant precipitation during the initial two days of the period with the majority of the precipitation falling on day two for the Sierras. The Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Tulare River Regions may receive up to 1.5, 1.0, and less than 0.5 inches of precipitation, respectively, for the first two days. However, the North Coast may receive up to 2 inches of precipitation. After this storm, a second two-day storm is predicted day 4 and 5 during which the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Tulare River Regions may receive up to 1.0 inch, 0.5 inch, and trace

amounts of precipitation, respectively. The American River Basin has the largest estimates for this storm with estimates up to 0.7 of an inch. Statewide the freezing levels are expected to drop to 7,000 to 8,000 feet on Day 4 and stabilize with some fluctuation to the end of the period.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) one-month outlook for May, issued April 21, indicates increased chances of above normal precipitation over the entire state excluding the Central Coast, Southern Coast, and Inland Mediterranean climate region; where chances of above or below normal precipitation are expected. Temperatures are expected to be above normal over all of California.

The CPC three-month (May-June-July) outlook, issued April 21, indicates increased chances of above normal precipitation for the entire state except for the very southern part of the state where equal chances of above or below normal precipitation are expected. The three-month forecast also predicts increased chances of above normal temperatures statewide.

A strong El Niño is present and weakening. Positive equatorial sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies continue across most of the Pacific Ocean. A transition to ENSO-neutral is likely during late Northern Hemisphere spring or early summer 2016, with an increasing chance of Niña during the second half of the year.

Next Update:

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