We've finished the May 31, 2016 Bulletin 120 (B120) forecast update. The forecasts include observed conditions through the morning of May 31, 2016. The forecasts are posted at: http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir?s=b120up.

Forecast Summary:

After a week of near or less than median precipitation, all forecasts remained the same or dropped. The larger drops were for the Shasta Lake Total Inflow, American, and Stanislaus rivers which dropped 3, 4, and 4 percent of average, respectively. Forecasts south of the Tuolumne River remained the same except for the San Joaquin and Tule Rivers where the forecasts dropped 1 percent. Consequently, the expected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins included in this forecast update range from 38 percent on the Tule River to 83 percent for the Mokelumne and Stanislaus rivers.

Expectations for the Sacramento and San Joaquin river regions are for 71 and 76 percent of average flows for the April-July period. The forecast for the Tulare Lake Region is only 62 percent.

Runoff:

During May, the flows ranged from 36 percent of average for the Tule River to 79 percent for the Mokelumne and Tuolumne rivers. Five rivers, those from the Mokelumne through the Merced and the Kings River flowed at a rate from 70 to 79 percent of average. No river north of the Mokelumne flowed at a rate greater than 70 percent of average (the rate for the Feather River was lowest at 54 percent).

Precipitation:

Region/Index	WY accumulated precipitation in percent of average (inches) through May 31, 2016	May 1-31, 2016 accumulated precipitation in percent of average (inches) total for May
Northern Sierra 8-Station Index	120 (56.9 inches)	105 (2.2 inches)
San Joaquin 5-Station Index	102 (39.7 inches)	61 (1.1 inches)
Tulare Basin 6-Station Index	91 (25.6 inches)	36 (0.4 inches)

Snowpack:

The snowpack as of the morning of May 31, 2016 stands at the following (based on snow sensors):

Region	Snow Water Equivalent (inches)	% of Average (Apr 1)	% of Average (May 31)
Northern	2.1	7	30
Central	2.6	9	26
Southern	1.9	7	18
Statewide	2.3	8	25

Weather and Climate Outlooks:

No precipitation is in the forecast for the next 6 days. Freezing elevations will be above 14,000 for the entire Sierra Nevada mountain range during this forecast period.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) one-month outlook for June, issued May 31, indicates increased chances of above normal temperatures statewide. The same forecast indicates equal chances of above or below normal precipitation statewide.

The CPC three-month (June-July-August) outlook, issued May 19, indicates increased chances of above normal temperatures statewide. The same forecast indicates equal chances of above or below normal precipitation statewide.

El Niño is weakening. Positive equatorial sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies are diminishing across the equatorial Pacific Ocean. La Niña is favored to develop during the Northern Hemisphere summer 2016, with about a 75% chance of La Niña during the fall and winter 2016-17.

Next Update:
The next Bulletin 120 update for conditions as of June 7 will be available June 9. If you have any questions regarding this forecast, please contact a member of the Snow Surveys staff.