California Monthly Climate Summary
FEBRUARY 2006

Summary

February 2006 was largely a warm dry month for most of California. Mid-winter warm-ups are fairly common features in California. A description of this phenomenon can be found at http://ggweather.com/enso/winter_dry_spells.htm.

Precipitation for the month was again skewed north to south. A strong storm at the end of the month brought the northern part of the state close to average for precipitation for the month. The southern part of the state continues to be drier than average. Monthly precipitation and temperature data for the 10 hydrologic regions in the state and statewide average is shown in tables below.

Warmer than average temperatures and lack of precipitation for most of the month decreased totals for the state snowpack and expected April-July runoff. However, strong cold storms at the end of February (and continuing through the first part of March) added to the pack. For more information on state snow and estimated spring runoff conditions, please see the Bulletin 120 at http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow/bulletin120/b120mar06.pdf.

The El Nino/Southern Oscillation is currently in a La Nina pattern where cooler than average water extends across the central tropical Pacific Ocean. Under these conditions, storm tracks approaching North America generally shift northward from their usual paths which lead to drier than normal conditions for Southern California. The impact on Northern California is less clear as both wet and dry extremes have occurred in Northern California during La Nina years. La Nina conditions are expected to persist through at least mid year. For further discussion of ENSO conditions check out
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/

For anomaly information please see http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/anom/

Other Climate Summaries

California Climate Watch (DRI)
Golden Gate Weather Service Climate Summary

Statewide Extremes

High Temperature – 92 deg F (Arroyo Grande)
Low Temperature - -22 deg F (Crabtree Meadow, Kern River)
High Precipitation – Strawberry Valley 10.74 inches
Low Precipitation – 4 stations with 0 inches

Statewide Precipitation Statistics

Hydrologic Region	Region Weight	Basins Reporting			Stations Reporting			Percent of Historic Average	
		Basins	Feb	Oct-Feb	Stations	Feb	Oct-Feb	Feb	Oct-Feb
NORTH COAST	0.27	5	5	5	19	15	12	87.2%	145%
SAN FRANCISCO BAY	0.03	2	2	2	6	5	5	89.0%	133%
CENTRAL COAST	0.06	3	3	3	11	7	7	57.7%	94%
SOUTH COAST	0.06	3	3	3	15	13	10	59.4%	46%
SACRAMENTO RIVER	0.26	5	5	5	43	37	33	86.2%	134%
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER	0.12	6	6	6	25	22	20	67.0%	110%
TULARE LAKE	0.07	5	5	5	28	26	25	51.5%	91%
NORTH LAHONTAN	0.04	3	3	3	14	11	11	106.9%	150%
SOUTH LAHONTAN	0.06	3	3	3	15	11	11	54.7%	88%
COLORADO RIVER	0.03	1	1	1	6	5	5	8%	49%
STATEWIDE WEIGHTED AVERAGE	1.00	36	36	36	182	129	123	75.11%	118.7%

Statewide Mean Temperature Data by Hydrologic Region

Hydrologic Region	No. Stations	Minimum	Average	Maximum
North Coast	29	32.3	41.2	54.2
SF Bay	11	43.1	49.9	57.8
Central Coast	16	41.6	51.5	64.9
South Coast	58	42.8	53.8	67.2
Sacramento	91	32.3	41.8	54.5
San Joaquin	54	31.8	42.6	56.5
Tulare Lake	24	24.0	35.0	48.5
North Lahontan	27	20.3	30.0	42.1
South Lahontan	18	23.3	35.2	49.5
Colorado River	8	42.3	55.2	69.4
Statewide Weighted Average	336	32.4	42.3	55.3

Summary of Snow Surveys

Region	**No. Basins**	**No. Courses**	**Avg WC**	**% Average April 1**	**% Average March 1**
North Coast	3	12	26.4"	94%	104%
Sacramento	6	71	17.7"	53%	60%
San Joaquin Valley	5	61	27.5"	83%	95%
Tulare Lake	4	40	19.6"	79%	89%
North Lahontan	3	14	22.6"	78%	89%
South Lahontan	2	19	22.7"	114%	134%
Statewide Average (weighted)				**73%**	**83%**