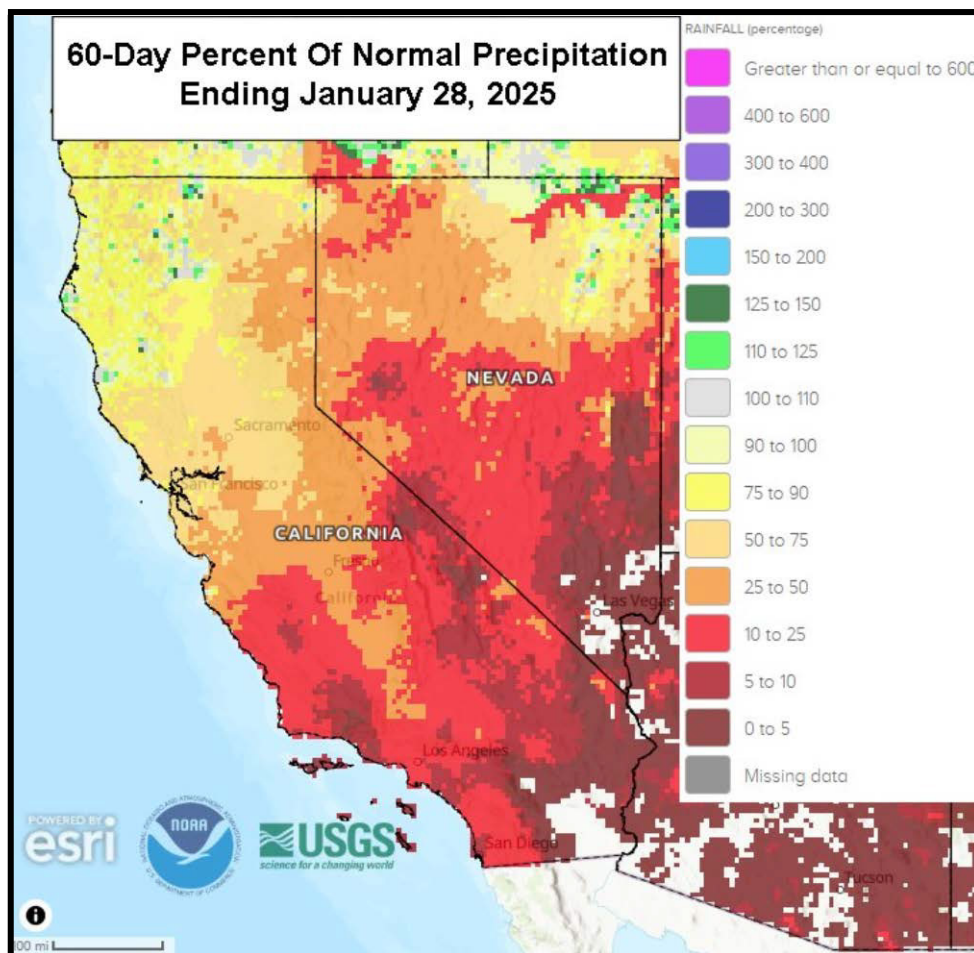


# Northern California To Receive Much-Needed Precipitation

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 29 (World Weather Inc.) – Timely precipitation was noted in portions of California last autumn and early in the winter for much of California. However, drier than normal weather was noted since early December for much of the state, most notably the southern half of the state. *Snowpack for the Sierra Nevada is generally lower or much lower than usual for this time of year. Reservoir levels are near or above historical averages and the outlook for the upcoming season is generally good. Timely precipitation would still be welcome in the coming weeks to ensure ideal prospects. The northern half of the state will be unusually wet through the middle of next week. Mountain snowpack will increase significantly and several locations at lower elevations will receive enough rain to bolster soil moisture and water storage levels. The southern half of the state will otherwise remain dry.*

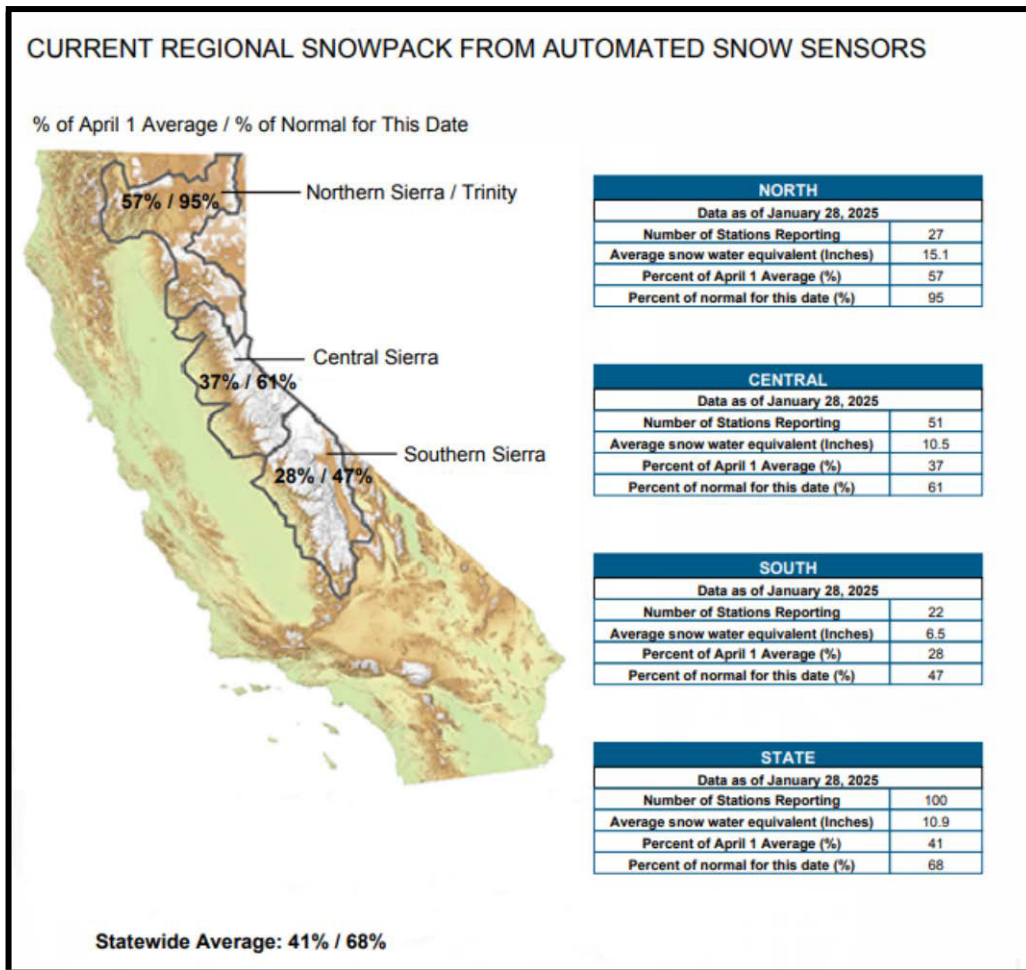
A large section of California was drier than normal during the past two months. The northern half of the state received 50-90% of normal precipitation for the 60-day period ending January 28, though a few locations near the Sierra Nevada only received 25-50% of normal precipitation. In the meantime, the southern half of the state received 5-50% of normal precipitation.



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Mountain snowpack Tuesday in the Sierra Nevada was below or well below normal for this time of year. Northern portions of the Sierra Nevada had 95% of normal snowpack compared to 61% in the central mountains and 47% in the south. Percent of normal snowpack for the April 1 average ranged from 57% in the north to 37% in central areas and 28% in the south.

Despite the lack of precipitation in recent months, reservoir levels are near to above normal in much of California. Only the Millerton and Folsom Reservoirs had below normal water levels at 80% and 81% respectively as of January 28. Other reservoirs had 97% to 135% of normal historical water levels.

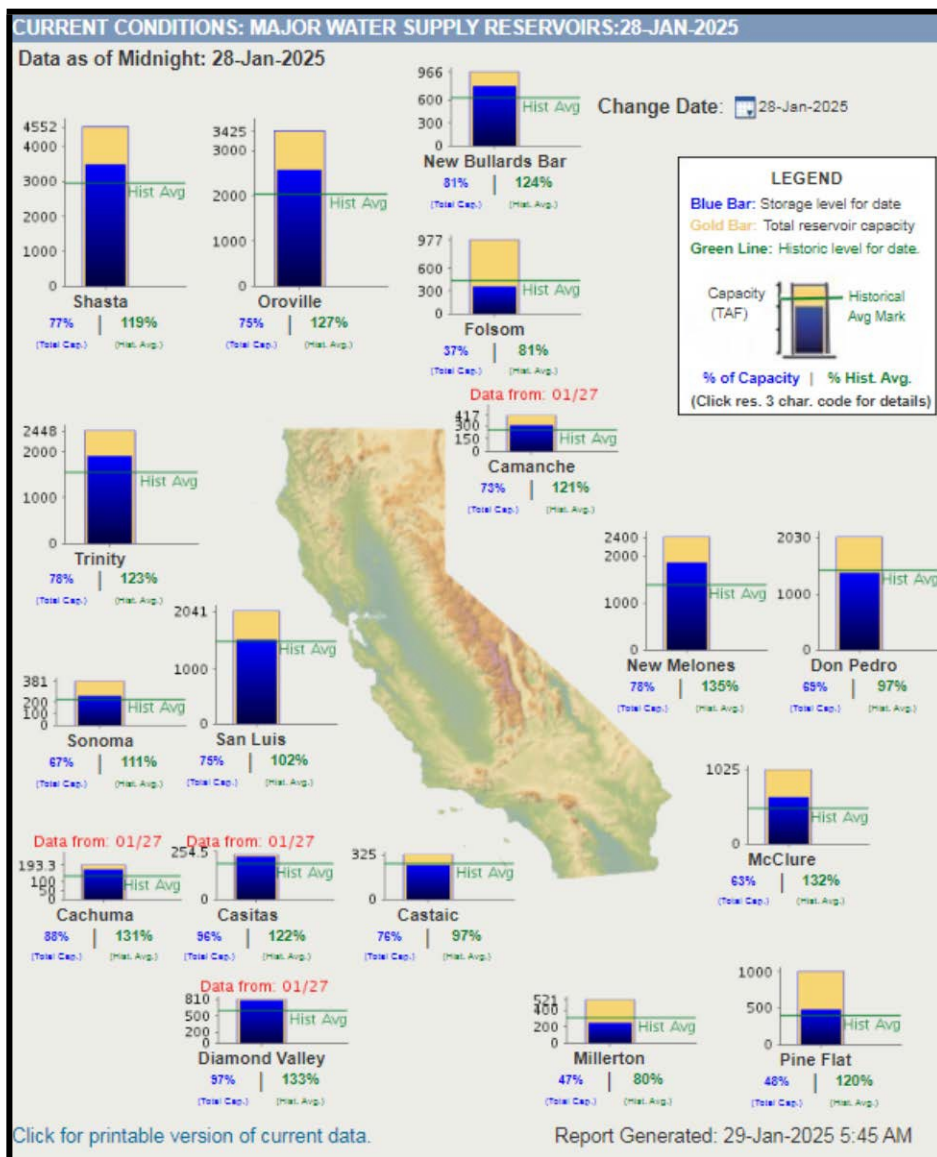


The outlook for the upcoming crop season in California is relatively favorable despite the low snowpack in the Sierra Nevada. There is water supply in storage to support growth for much of the state. Precipitation would still be welcome in the coming weeks to maintain the favorable crop outlook and to maintain good water storage levels especially in the southern Sierra Nevada where snowpack is lowest relative to normal.

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## WEATHER OUTLOOK

Northern California will trend wetter than usual through the middle of next week. Precipitation will begin late Thursday and Friday as a disturbance from the Pacific Ocean enters western North America. The disturbance will intensify and be cut-off from the main upper-level flow over the weekend and the first part of next week, which will continue to promote waves of precipitation Saturday into Tuesday. The northern half of the state will receive anywhere from 0.75 to 4.00 inches of moisture by next Wednesday morning. However, higher elevated areas in the Sierra Nevada will receive anywhere from 5.00 to 10.00 inches of moisture with local amounts of 15.00 inches or more possible. Mountain snowpack will increase by several feet with some 10 feet totals possible. The southern half of the state will otherwise receive little to no precipitation.



## Northern California To Receive Much-Needed Precipitation

Much of California will have opportunities for precipitation February 6 – 12. High pressure anomalies will extend from Alaska into the eastern Pacific Ocean, allowing for arctic air to build over North America. Disturbances will likely track around the arctic air mass during this time and could promote precipitation for much of California. Confidence is low for the timing and exact amount of precipitation that will occur, though some snow will be possible across the Sierra Nevada.

***Precipitation in the next week to ten days will likely be enough to bolster mountain snowpack above historical levels for this time of year for at least the northern Sierra Nevada. Central sections of the Sierra Nevada will likely see snowpack trend closer to normal as well while snowpack remains below normal in the southern Sierra Nevada.***

However, the potential for precipitation during the second week of the outlook could bolster snowpack across the mountain range. The waves of precipitation in the coming weeks should help maintain a good outlook for the upcoming season across California.

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