

REPORT FOR:
MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND
FLOOD CONDITIONS

MONTH: **December** YEAR: **2021**

TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH12x1
National Weather Service/Office of Hydrology
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(In Charge of Hydrologic Service Area)

DATE: January 8th, 2022

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (WSOM E-41).

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| X | An X inside this box indicates no flooding occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.
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December precipitation was between 150% to over 300% above normal across the entire HSA (Fig.1). In addition, well above average to record setting snowfall occurred throughout the southern Sierra and Kern County mountains. Current snowpack in the southern Sierra currently at 147% of average for the date (Fig. 2). In fact, Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite NP had a record 171 inches of snow in the month, breaking the old record of 143 inches set back in 1996.

There were minimal water rises for main stem rivers and no significant flooding issues for any local streams and creeks. There were also no issues of flash flooding for any burn scar as rainfall rates were not high enough to create debris flows. Minor areal flooding occurred in the Kern County desert during rainfall events on the 24th and 30th. Minor nuisance flooding occurred in the San Joaquin Valley during December.

The total precipitation in December was enough to put a significant dent into annual precipitation deficits across the HSA. December rain and snowfall also put a significant dent in the ongoing drought. There was a one to two category improvement in drought conditions across the state (Fig. 3). However, the area still remains under severe to extreme drought due to longer term precipitation deficits as well as a reflection of low reservoir levels.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED THIS MONTH

FLASH FLOOD WARNINGS*

No Flash Flood warnings were issued in November

*Note: Flash Flood Statements were issued as follow-ups to the initial Flash Flood Warnings.

FLASH FLOOD WATCHES

No Flash Flood Watches were issued in November

FLOOD ADVISORIES

Flood Advisory... Kern County desert (Tehachapi, China Lake, Edwards AFB, ect.) 1309Z 24-Dec.

Flood Advisory... Kern County desert (Tehachapi, China Lake, Edwards AFB, ect.) 1945Z 30-Dec.

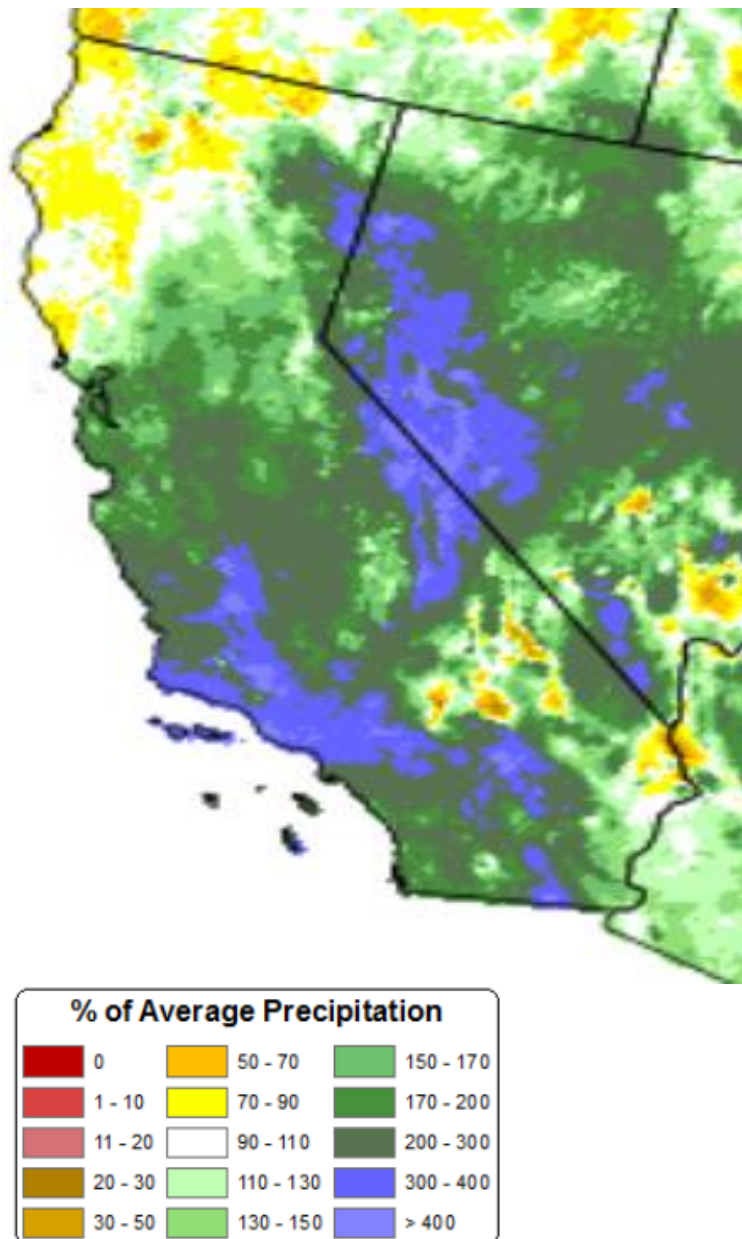
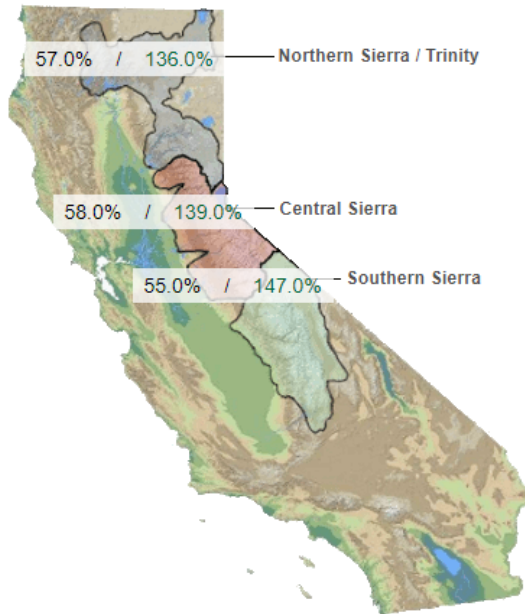


Fig 1. Departure from average monthly precipitation. Image courtesy of PRISM Climate Group at Oregon State University

Provided by the California Cooperative Snow Surveys

Data For: 07-Jan-2022

% Apr 1 Avg. / % Normal for this Date



Change Date :



07-Jan-2022

NORTH

Data For: 07-Jan-2022

Number of Stations Reporting	28
Average snow water equivalent	16.4"
Percent of April 1 Average	57%
Percent of normal for this date	136%

CENTRAL

Data For: 07-Jan-2022

Number of Stations Reporting	41
Average snow water equivalent	16.8"
Percent of April 1 Average	58%
Percent of normal for this date	139%

SOUTH

Data For: 07-Jan-2022

Number of Stations Reporting	29
Average snow water equivalent	14.2"
Percent of April 1 Average	55%
Percent of normal for this date	147%

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

Data For: 07-Jan-2022

Number of Stations Reporting	98
Average snow water equivalent	15.9"
Percent of April 1 Average	57%
Percent of normal for this date	141%

[Printable Version of Current Data](#)

Fig 2. Current snowpack conditions across California. Image from California Nevada River Forecast Center.

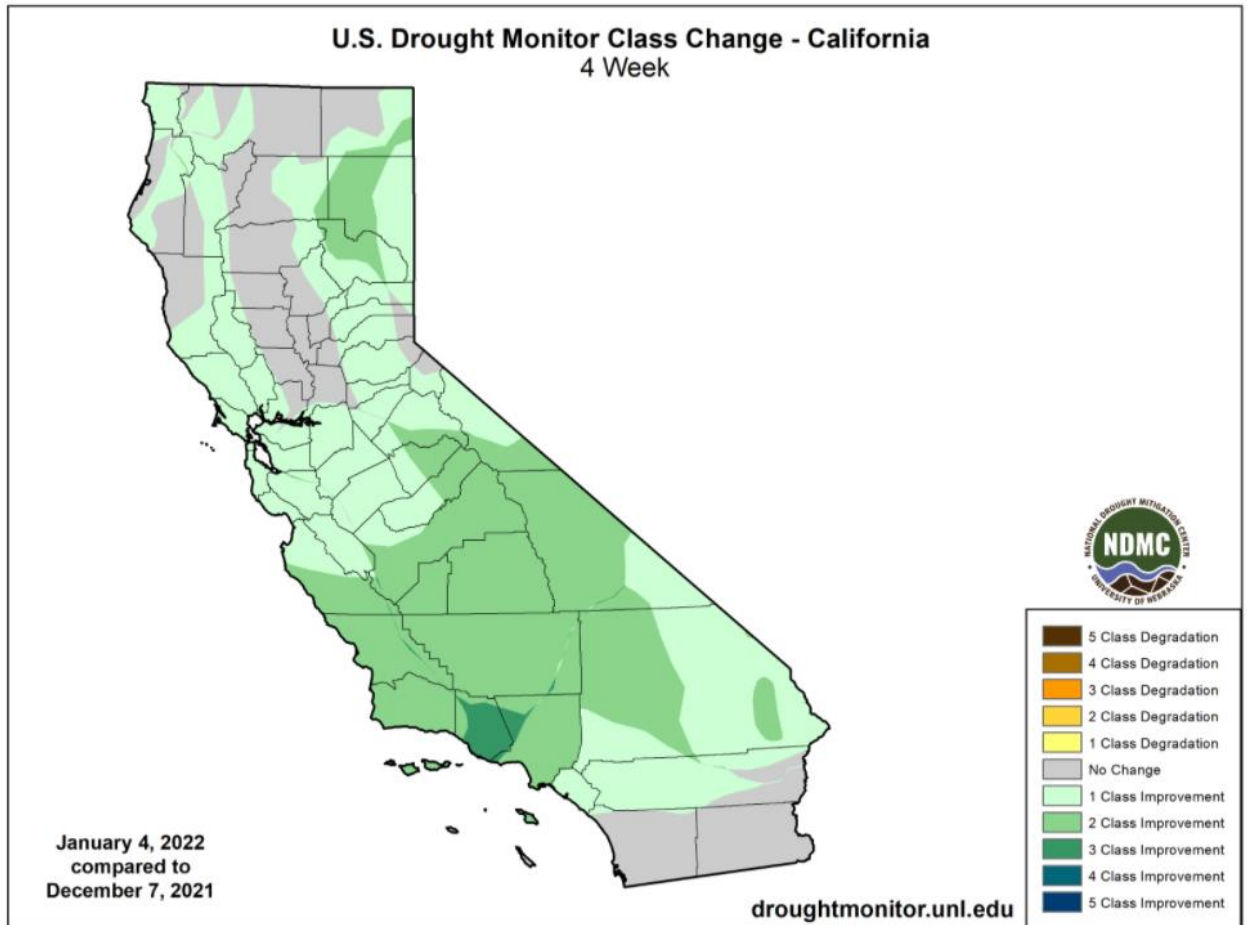


Fig 3. U.S. drought monitor class changes for December. Courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor.