



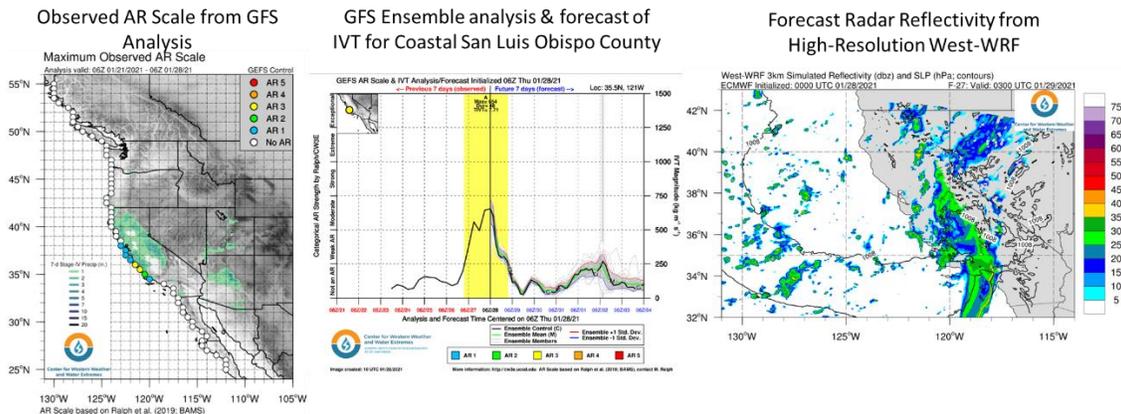
Latest update on Atmospheric River that Continues to Impact California

Updated: 28 Jan. 2021

The atmospheric river (AR) is forecast to propagate down the Southern California Coast after stalling over the Central Coast from Monterey to Point Conception.

Forecast Highlights:

- The upper-level trough that interacted with the AR as it was impacting the Central California Coast caused the AR to stall over the Big Sur region, prolonging the overall duration of the AR, and producing **AR 3** conditions.
- The core of the AR has begun to move southward over the coast and is forecast to bring AR conditions to a majority of Southern California today and into this evening.
- Most Coastal locations across Southern California are forecast to experience Integrated Vapor Transport (IVT) magnitudes between 300 and 500 kg m⁻¹ s⁻¹ for ~12 hours.
- Due to the weak IVT and short duration, it is unlikely that the AR will produce conditions that fall on the AR Scale over S. CA, though one or two GEFS members suggest that IVT could reach >500 kg m⁻¹ s⁻¹, resulting in AR 1 conditions.
- The CNRFC suggests rainfall accumulations will range from ~1.5–2.0 inches near the coast with 2–3 inches over the inland slopes and lower mountains south and east of Santa Barbara County.
- The National Weather Service (NWS) suggests snow levels could lower to around 4,500 feet later tonight, resulting in 4–10 inches of snow above 5,000 feet and >10 inches above 6,000 feet.



The AR that brought AR 3 conditions to the Big Sur Coast is forecast to move down the coast, bringing AR conditions and the potential for a Narrow Cold Frontal rainband to most of Southern California.

- While AR conditions are currently forecast to be weaker, mesoscale models are forecasting the development of a Narrow Cold Frontal Rainband as the front slides southeastward down the S. CA Coast, which could result in locally higher precipitation accumulations, flash flooding, and debris flows on recent burn scars.

Additional Considerations:

- The NWS Offices in Oxnard and San Diego, CA have issued Flash Flood Watches, Winter Storm Warnings, and Wind Advisories for Southern California.
- Visit weather.gov/ for point specific forecasts, watches, and warnings.

In-depth AR forecasts products can be found here:
<http://cw3e.ucsd.edu/iwv-and-ivt-forecasts/>

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Stay tuned to the CW3E webpage for a full AR Update