Latest Update on Atmospheric River Currently Impacting California

Updated: 13 December 2021

A quick look at the ongoing atmospheric river that will continue to impact California through Tuesday.

Forecast Highlights:
• An atmospheric river (AR) that made landfall over the Pacific Northwest on Saturday has temporarily stalled and begun to re-intensify over California
• Weak-to-moderate AR conditions (i.e., IVT 250–750 kg m\(^{-1}\) s\(^{-1}\)) are forecasted to continue over Central California and interior Northern California today
• The AR will gradually move southeastward, bringing weak-to-moderate AR conditions to Southern California and the Colorado River Basin tomorrow
• AR 2/AR 3 conditions are possible over the Bay Area and coastal Central California, and AR 1 conditions are forecasted over coastal Southern California
• Another weak system is forecasted to bring lighter precipitation to the region later this week
• As of 4 AM PT this morning, an estimated 3–5 inches of precipitation have already fallen in portions of the California Coast Ranges, the California Cascades, and the Northern Sierra Nevada
• An additional 5–10 inches of precipitation are possible in the Sierra Nevada and Central California Coast Ranges by Thursday morning
• At least 2–5 inches of precipitation are forecasted in the Southern California Transverse Ranges and Peninsular Ranges
• More than 4 feet of additional snowfall is possible over the higher terrain of the Sierra Nevada today through Thursday morning

Stay tuned to the CW3E webpage for a full AR Update
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Additional Considerations:
- In-depth AR forecasts products can be found here: http://cw3e.ucsd.edu/iwv-and-ivt-forecasts/
- Update provided by C. Castellano c1castellano@ucsd.edu