

## **Quick Look at the Low-Pressure System Forecast to Bring Precipitation to Southern California**

*Updated: 22 January 2025*

A low-pressure system associated with a mid-level trough digging down over the US West Coast is forecast to bring much needed precipitation to Southern California this weekend.

### Forecast Highlights:

- A low-pressure system is forecast to propagate slowly down the US West Coast late this week through the weekend as a mid-level trough digs down from Canada.
- This colder system will bring much needed precipitation to Southern California following another period of potentially dangerous fire conditions late this week. Although the expected precipitation is not substantial enough to eliminate the ongoing drought, it will likely facilitate fire containment efforts as well as deter additional fires from igniting.
- There is uncertainty in the forecast track of the low-pressure system, which will impact the amount of Pacific moisture the system would be able to tap into. The GFS is favoring a more inland track of the low-pressure system and associated mid-level trough compared to the ECMWF.
- EPS mean precipitation (~0.5 in.) is slightly greater than GEFS mean precipitation (~0.3 in.) over coastal Southern California watersheds in the next 10 days.
- Several EPS ensemble members indicate the chance for precipitation to exceed 5% of annual totals in some coastal Southern California watersheds (i.e. San Diego and San Luis Rey-Escondido).
- The NWS Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is forecasting 0.8-2.0 inches of precipitation over Southern California, with the highest totals over the Transverse Ranges.
- Latest NWS forecasts have noted the potential for thunderstorms with this event. Localized heavy downpours in the vicinity of burn scars could result in post-fire debris flows, which the state of California are already preparing for ahead of this event.
- Freezing levels are forecast to fall across California during the duration of this event due to the northerly origin of this colder system. Freezing levels are forecast to be around 4000-5000 feet in Southern California, bringing the potential for snow at higher elevations.
- AR activity is expected to remain quiet over the US West Coast through the end of January.

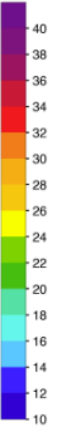
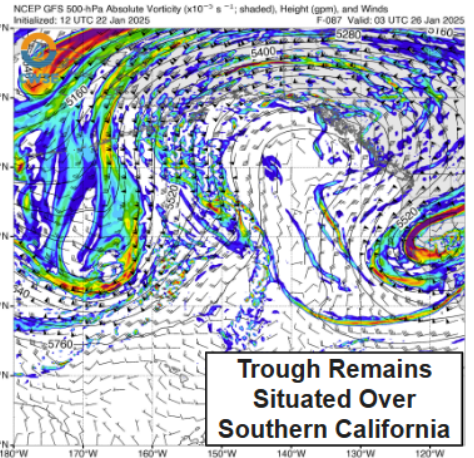
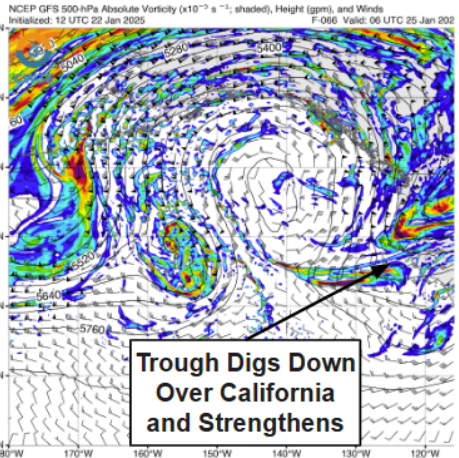
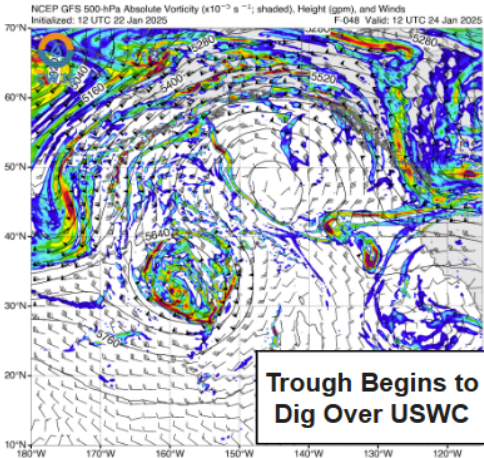
**Stay alert to official NWS forecasts, watches, and warnings at [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) and follow guidance from local emergency management officials**

**Stay tuned to the CW3E webpage for a full AR Update**

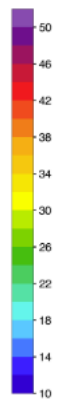
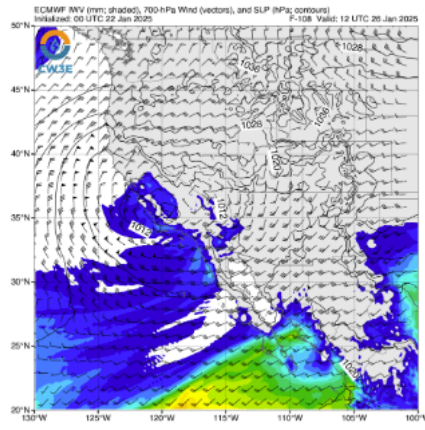
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Valid: 10 PM PT Fri 24 Jan

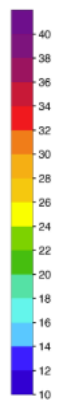
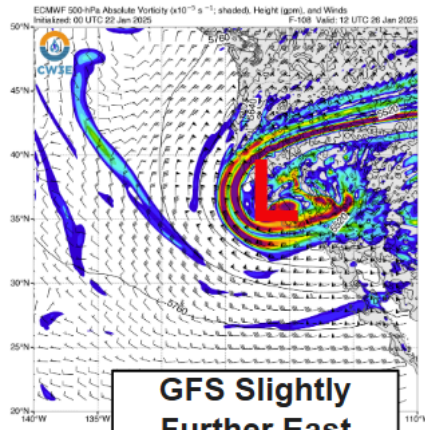
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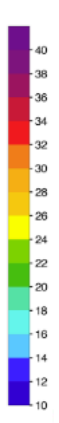
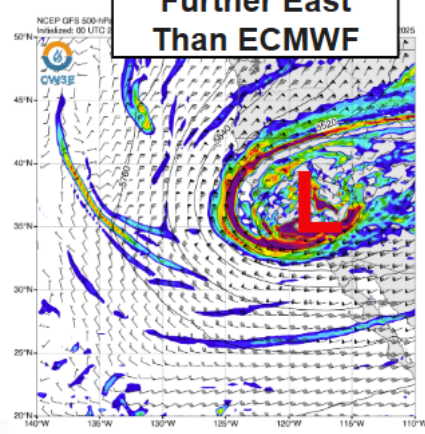
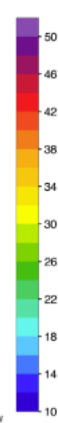
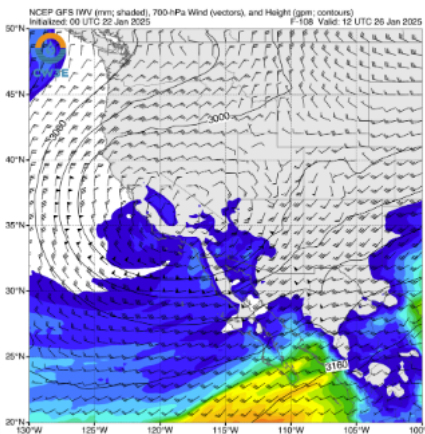
ECMWF



GFS Slightly Further East Than ECMWF

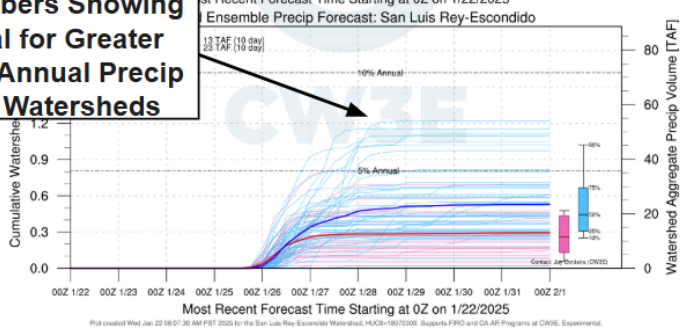
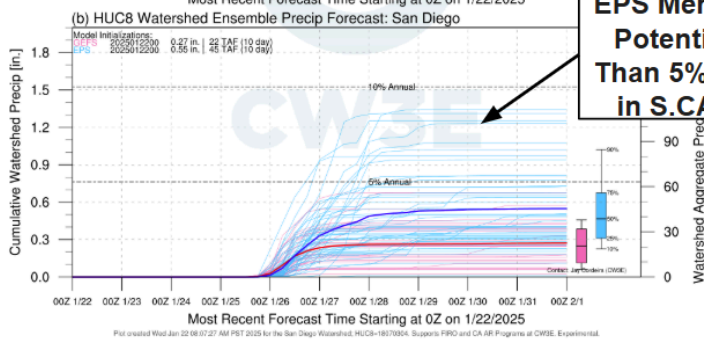
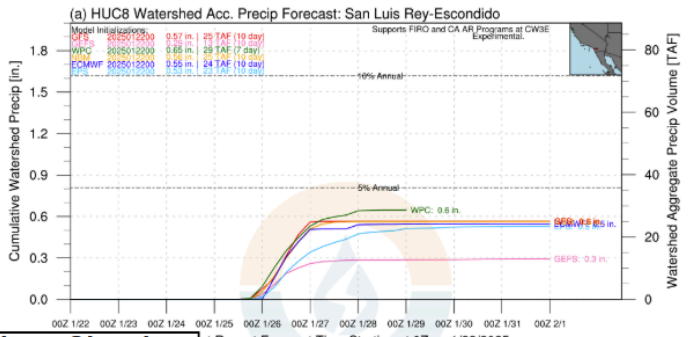
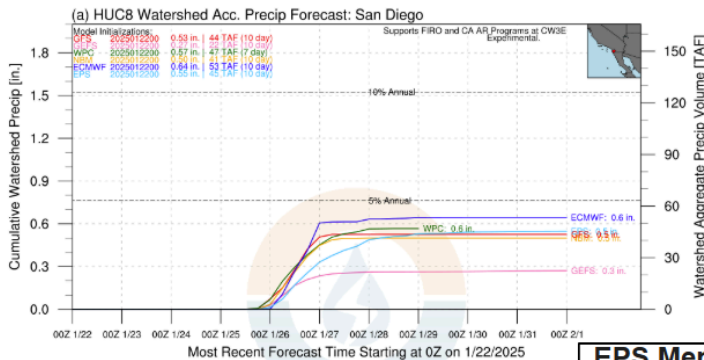
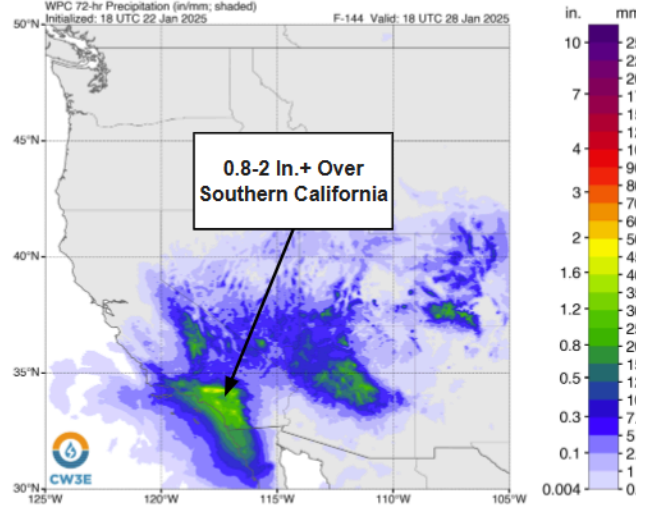
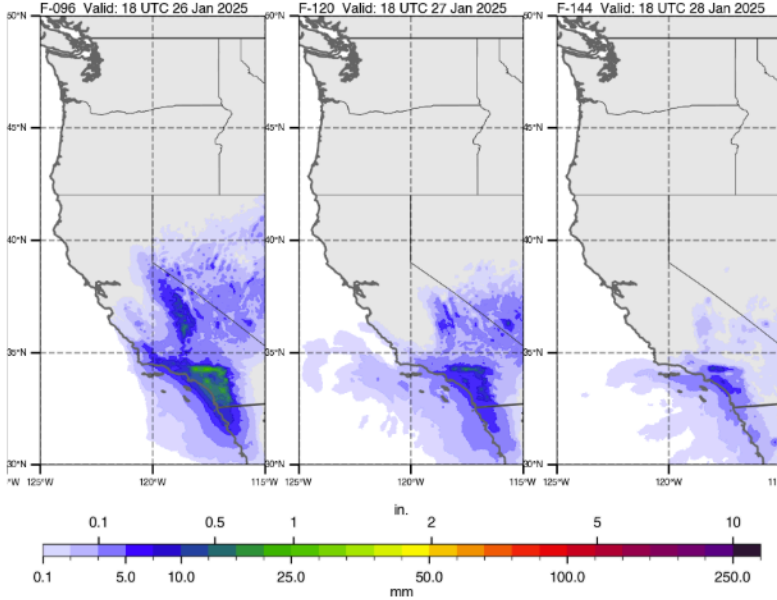


GFS

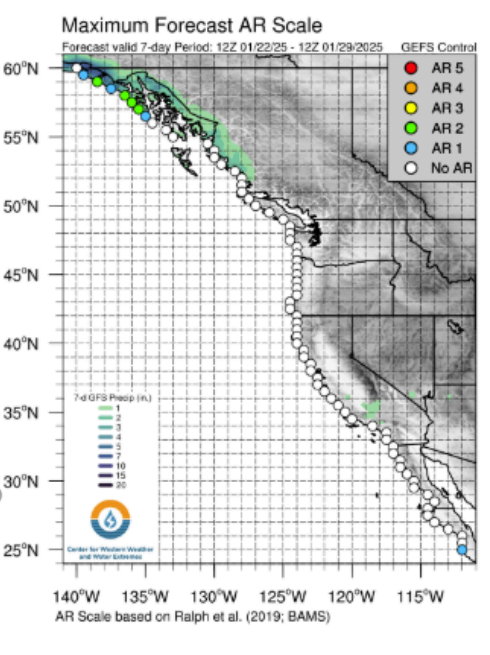
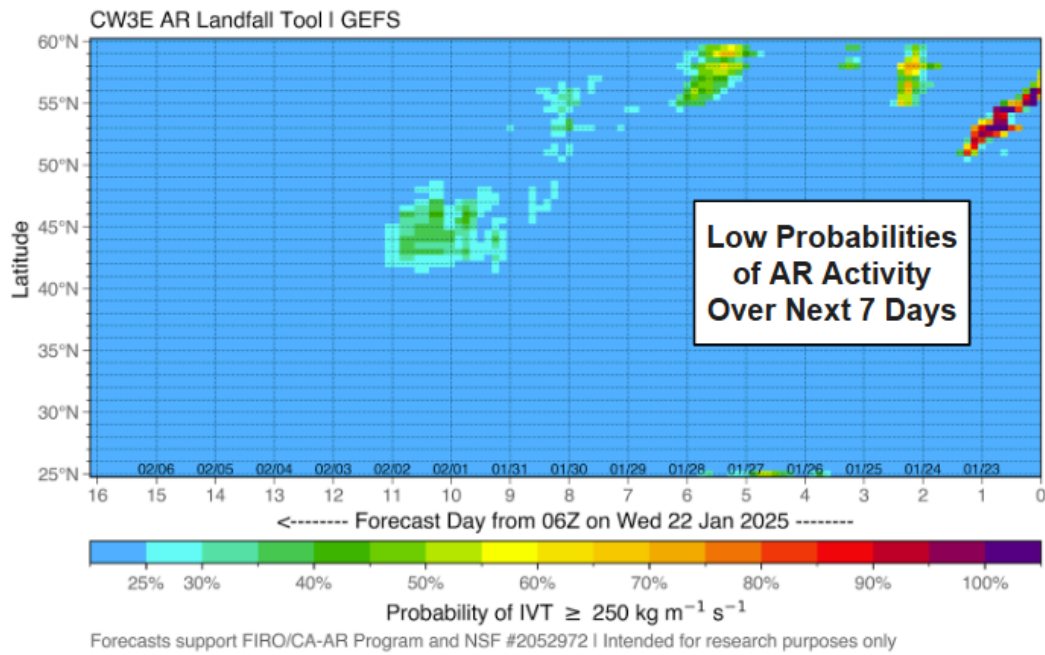
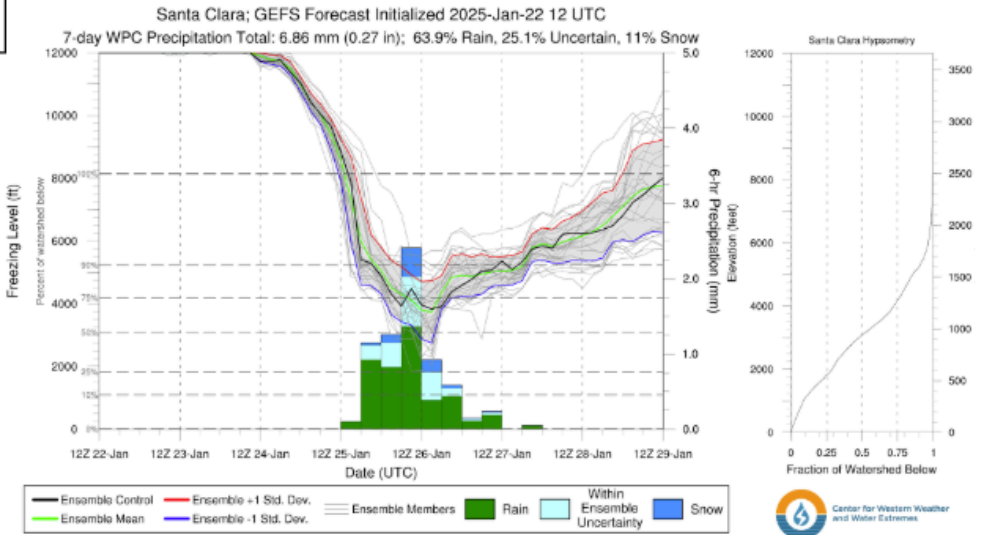
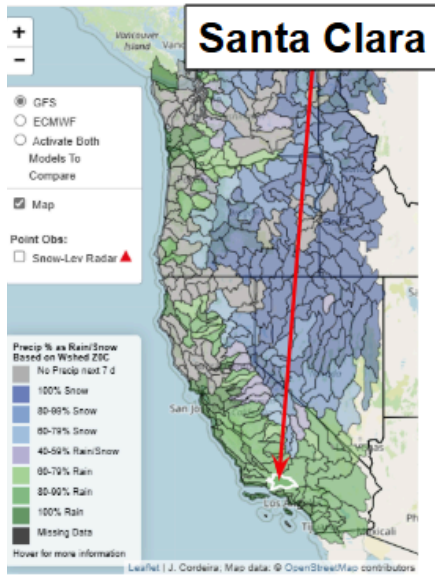


**WPC Days 4-6 QPF: Periods Ending 10 AM PT 26-28 Jan**

**WPC 3-Day QPF: Period Ending 10 AM PT Sun 28 Dec**



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Additional Considerations:

- Visit <https://www.weather.gov/cnrfc/> for specific river and stream forecasts and <https://www.weather.gov/> for point specific watches, warnings, and forecasts.

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

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