



Quick Look at Storms Forecast to Impact California

Updated: 5 March 2025

A pair of shortwave troughs are forecast to bring precipitation to California today into early Friday.

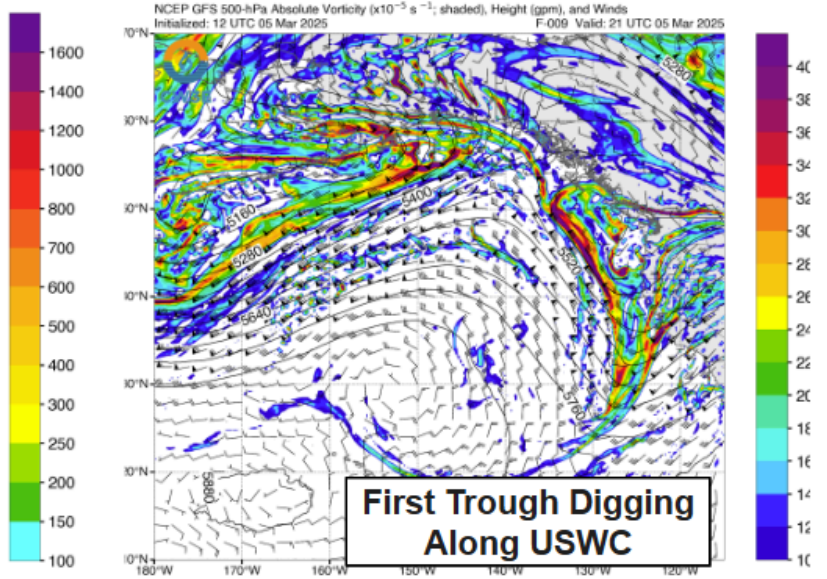
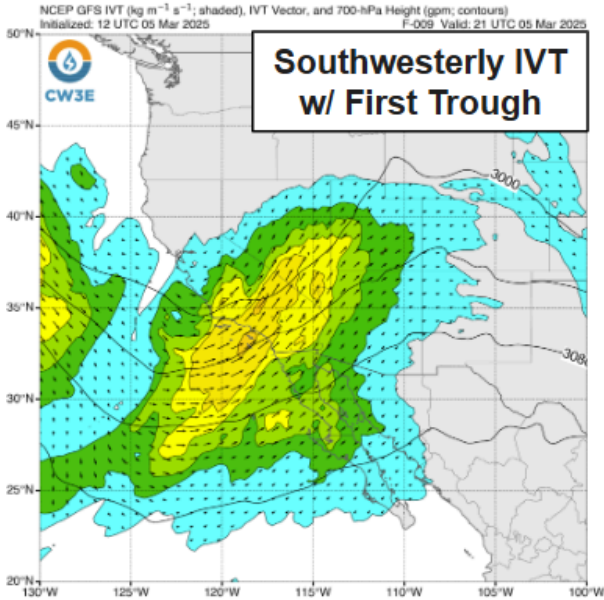
Forecast Highlights:

- A trough is forecast to deepen in the Northeast Pacific as it approaches the US West Coast over the next 24 hours.
- This trough is forecast to bring a short period of AR Conditions ($IVT \geq 250 \text{ kg m}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$) to the Southern California coast later today, beginning a period of precipitation across the region.
- While the magnitude of IVT remains weak ($IVT \leq 500 \text{ kg m}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$), the southwesterly orientation of moisture transport into the mountain ranges of Southern California are optimal for orographic precipitation enhancement.
- A second shortwave trough is forecast to develop as the initial trough moves over California, extending precipitation in Southern California.
- Precipitation from these two events should be beneficial to the region given the current drought conditions and below-average snowpack over the Central and Southern Sierra Nevada.
- The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is forecasting 1-2 inches of precipitation across much of Southern California, coastal Central California and the Sierra Nevada. The highest totals are expected over the Southern Sierra Nevada, Transverse and Peninsular Ranges, where 2-3 inches are expected through 4 AM PST Sat 8 Mar.
- The WPC has issued a **marginal risk** excessive rainfall outlook (level 1 of 4, >5% chance for flooding) for days 1 and 2 (periods ending 4 AM PST 6 and 7 Mar) over coastal Southern California and the Central and Southern Sierra Nevada foothills.
- Low forecast freezing levels are expected over the Sierra Nevada during the duration of these events. The National Weather Service is forecasting ~12-24 inches of snowfall over the Central and Southern Sierra Nevada by early morning Sat 8 Mar. Additionally, there is potential for heavy snow (> 8 inches) above 6,000 feet in the Transverse and Peninsular Ranges with the second trough.

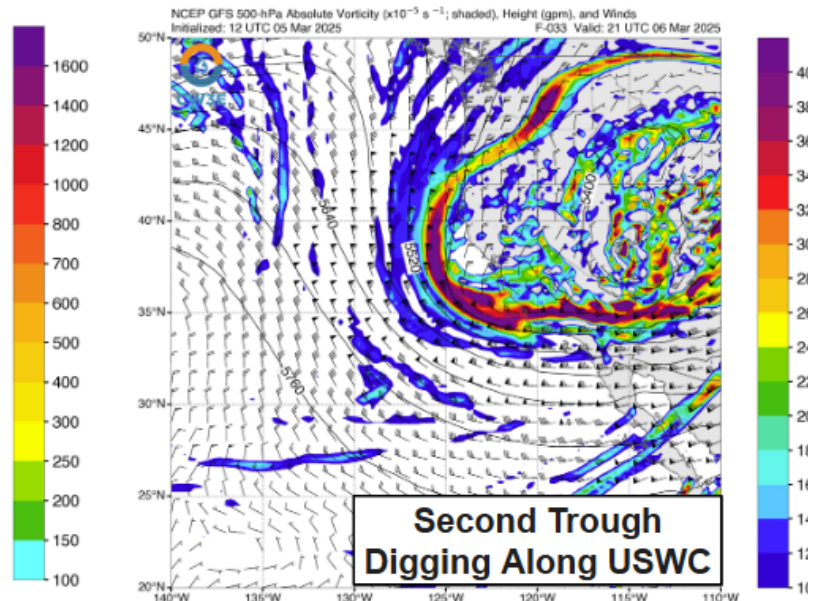
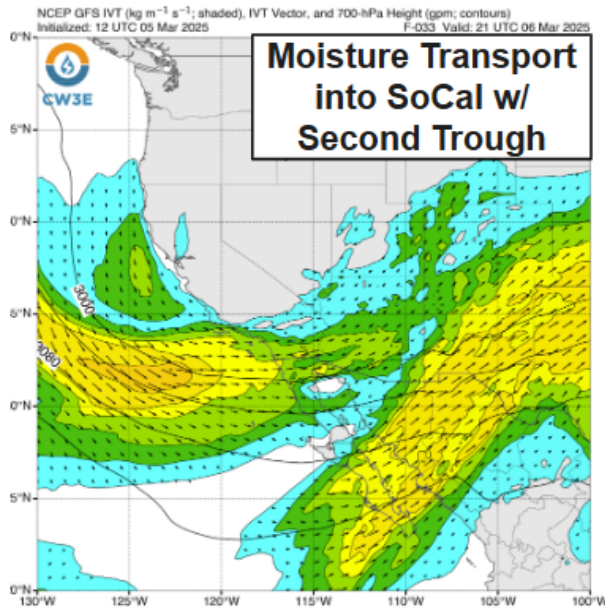
Stay alert to official NWS forecasts, watches, and warnings at [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) and follow guidance from local emergency management officials

Stay tuned to the CW3E webpage for a full AR Update

GFS IVT and 500 hPa Heights and Vorticity Valid: 1 PM PST Wed 5 Mar



GFS IVT and 500 hPa Heights and Vorticity Valid: 1 PM PST Thu 6 Mar



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US Drought Monitor for California

U.S. Drought Monitor
California

February 25, 2025
(Released Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



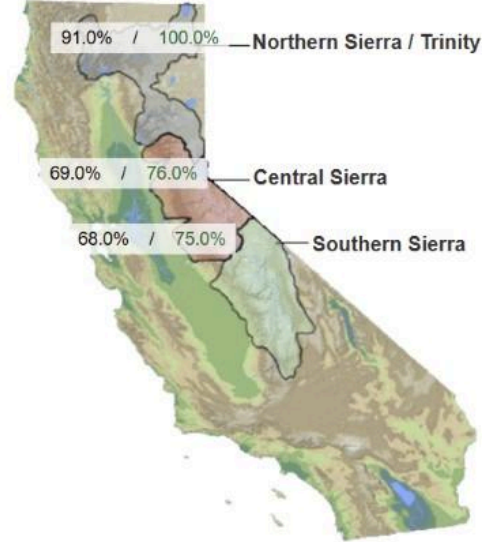
Intensity:
 None
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Moderate Drought
 D2 Severe Drought
 D3 Extreme Drought
 D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-in conditions. Local conditions may vary. For information on the Drought Monitor go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.asp>.

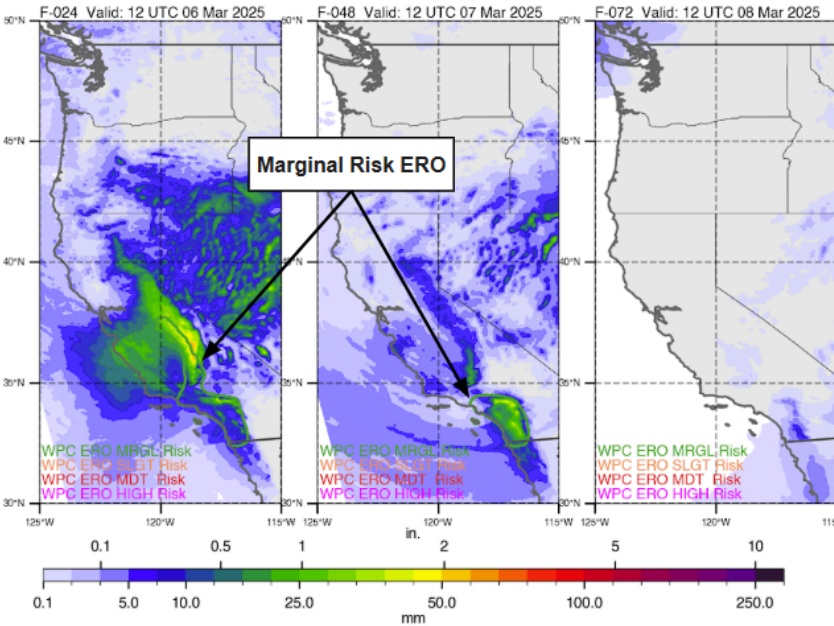
Author:
 Brian Fuchs
 National Drought Mitigation Center
 USDA, NDMC, NOAA, NWS, USACE
 droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Current Snowpack Percentages

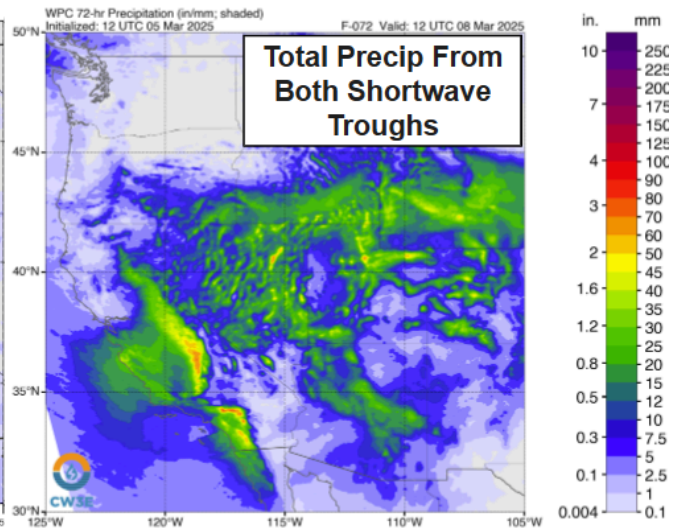
Data For: 04-Mar-2025
% Apr 1 Avg. / % Normal for this Date



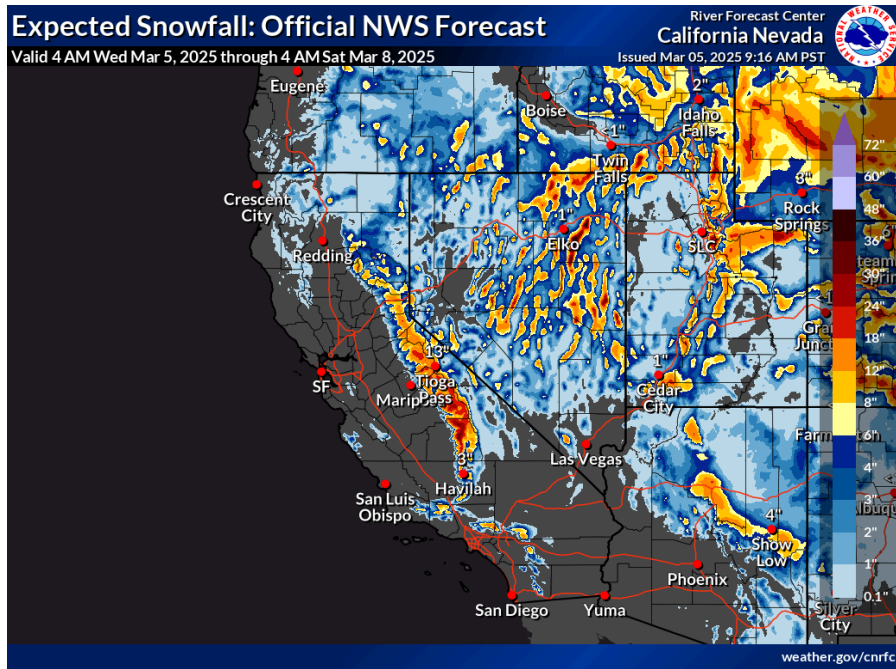
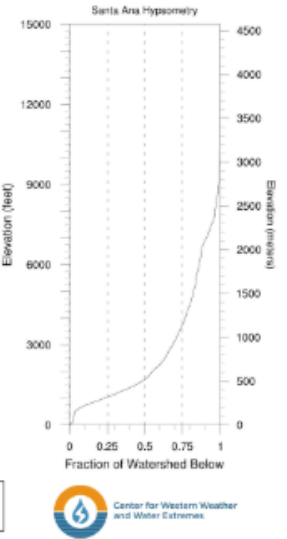
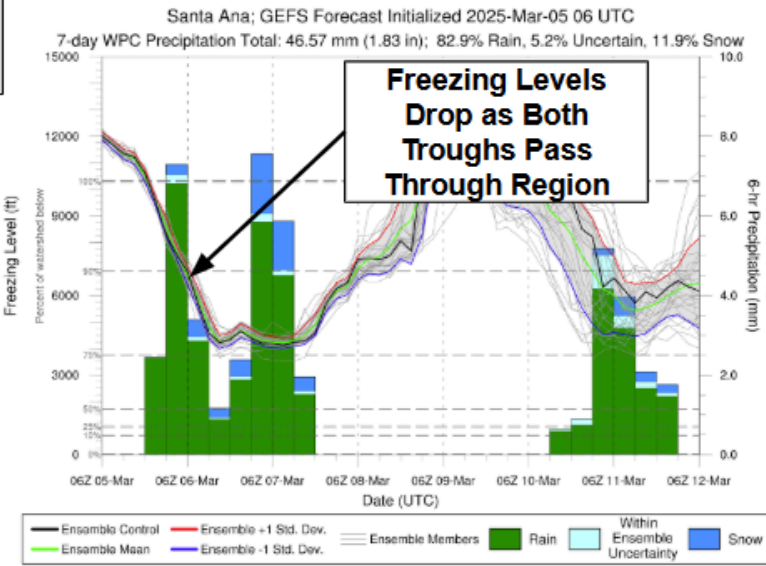
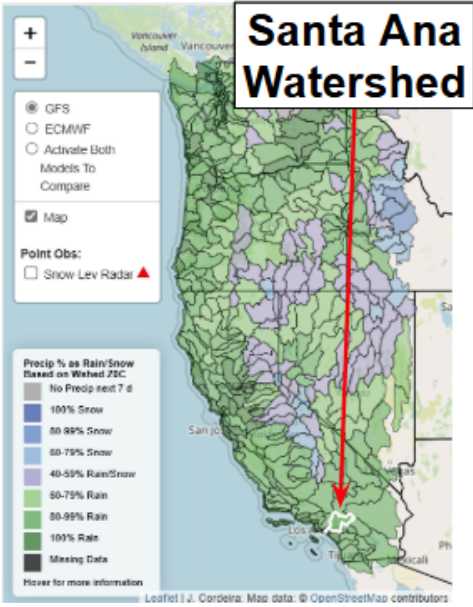
WPC Days 1-3 QPF: Periods Ending 4 AM PT 6-8 Mar



WPC 3-Day QPF: Period Ending 4 AM PT 8 Feb



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Additional Considerations:

- Visit cnrfc.noaa.gov for specific river and stream forecasts and 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/>

Update by M. Steen

msteen@ucsd.edu

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