

Quick Look at the Precipitation Events Forecast to Impact US West Coast

Updated: 19 November 2025

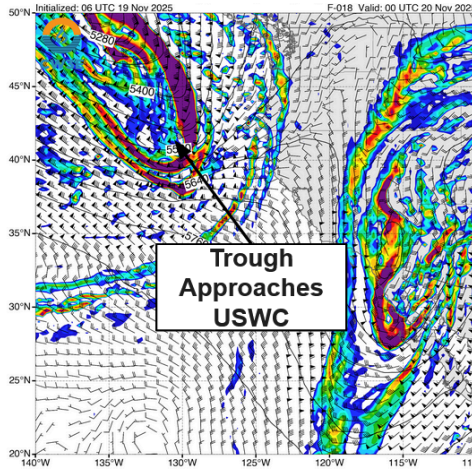
A mid-level trough is forecast to deepen along the US West Coast and develop into a cutoff low, driving precipitation across California through Sat 22 Nov. Model guidance indicates the potential for an atmospheric river (AR) to impact the Pacific Northwest through Mon 24 Nov.

Forecast Highlights:

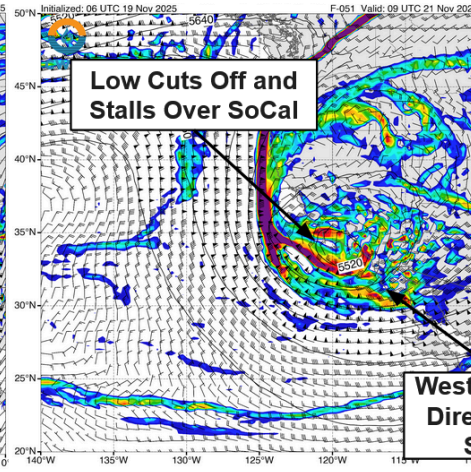
- A mid-level trough is forecast to deepen and propagate southeastward along the US West Coast over the next 24 hours.
- As the trough deepens along the coast, it is forecast to become a cutoff low and stall near Southern California through Sat 22 Nov.
- The cutoff low will help focus weak moisture transport into Southern California, driving moderate precipitation over Southern California and southwestern Arizona.
- The National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is forecasting 1–2 inches of precipitation across Southern California and the Central to Southern Sierra Nevada and ~0.5–1 inch over the Northern California coast for the 72 hours ending 4 AM Sat 22 Nov.
- The WPC has issued a **marginal risk** excessive rainfall outlook (ERO) over coastal Southern California, California desert regions and southwestern Arizona for the 24-hour periods ending 4 AM PT Fri 21 and Sat 22 Nov. While hourly rainfall rates may not reach extreme thresholds, the WPC notes the risk for flash flooding given recent heavy rainfall.
- The California-Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC) is forecasting stream levels to rise across Southern California, however no gauges are forecast to exceed **action stage**.
- Ensembles are indicating the potential for AR activity in the Pacific Northwest late this week into this weekend. Both the GEFS and EPS have ~40–60% of ensemble members forecasting at least AR1 conditions (according to the Ralph et al. 2019 AR Scale) over the Washington coast between Fri 21 Nov and Mon 24 Nov.
- There is uncertainty in the duration of AR conditions over the Washington coast, with some ensemble members forecasting continuous AR conditions for >48 hours.
- The WPC is forecasting ~2–4 inches of precipitation over the Olympic Peninsula and Washington Cascades for the 72-hour period ending 4 PM Mon 24 Nov associated with the AR.

Stay alert to official NWS forecasts, watches, and warnings at [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)

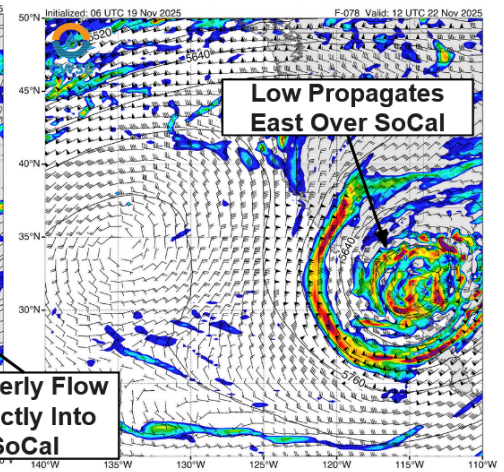
GFS 500-mb Abs. Vort
Valid: 4 PM PT Wed 19 Nov



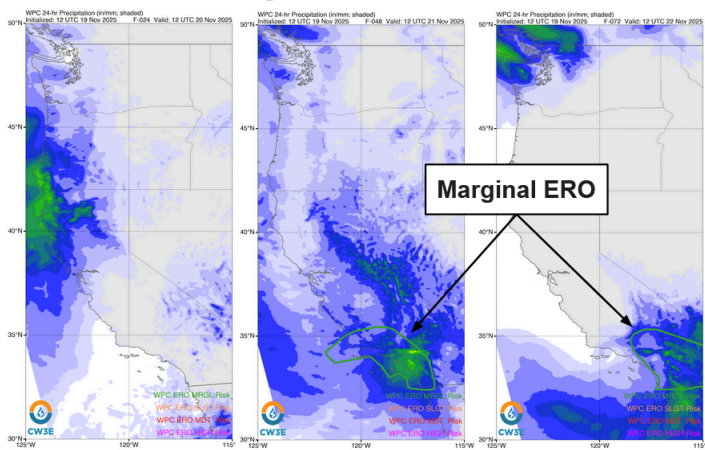
GFS 500-mb Abs. Vort
Valid: 1 AM PT Thu 21 Nov



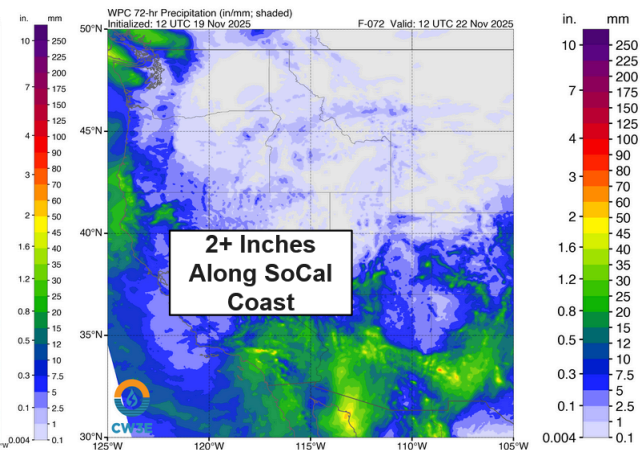
GFS 500-mb Abs. Vort
Valid: 4 AM PT Sat 22 Nov



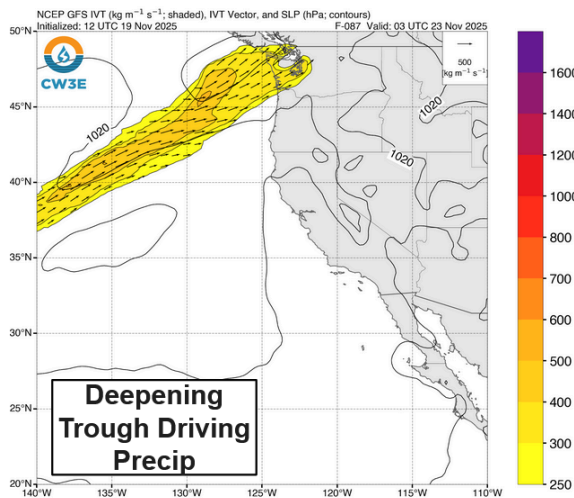
WPC Days 1-3 QPF: Periods
Ending 4 AM PT 20-22 Nov



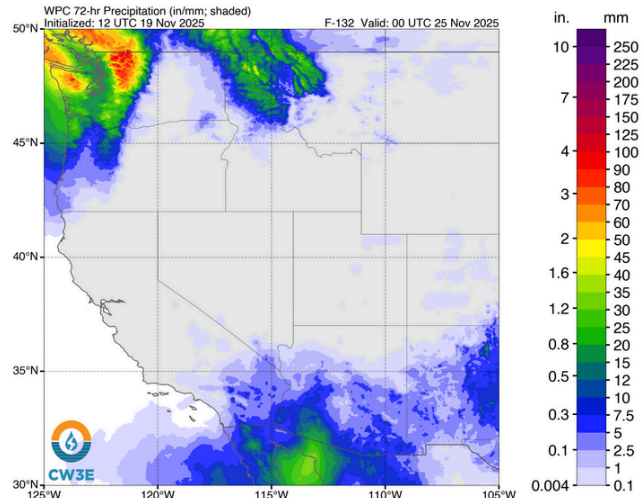
WPC 72-Hour QPF: Period
Ending 4 AM PT 22 Nov

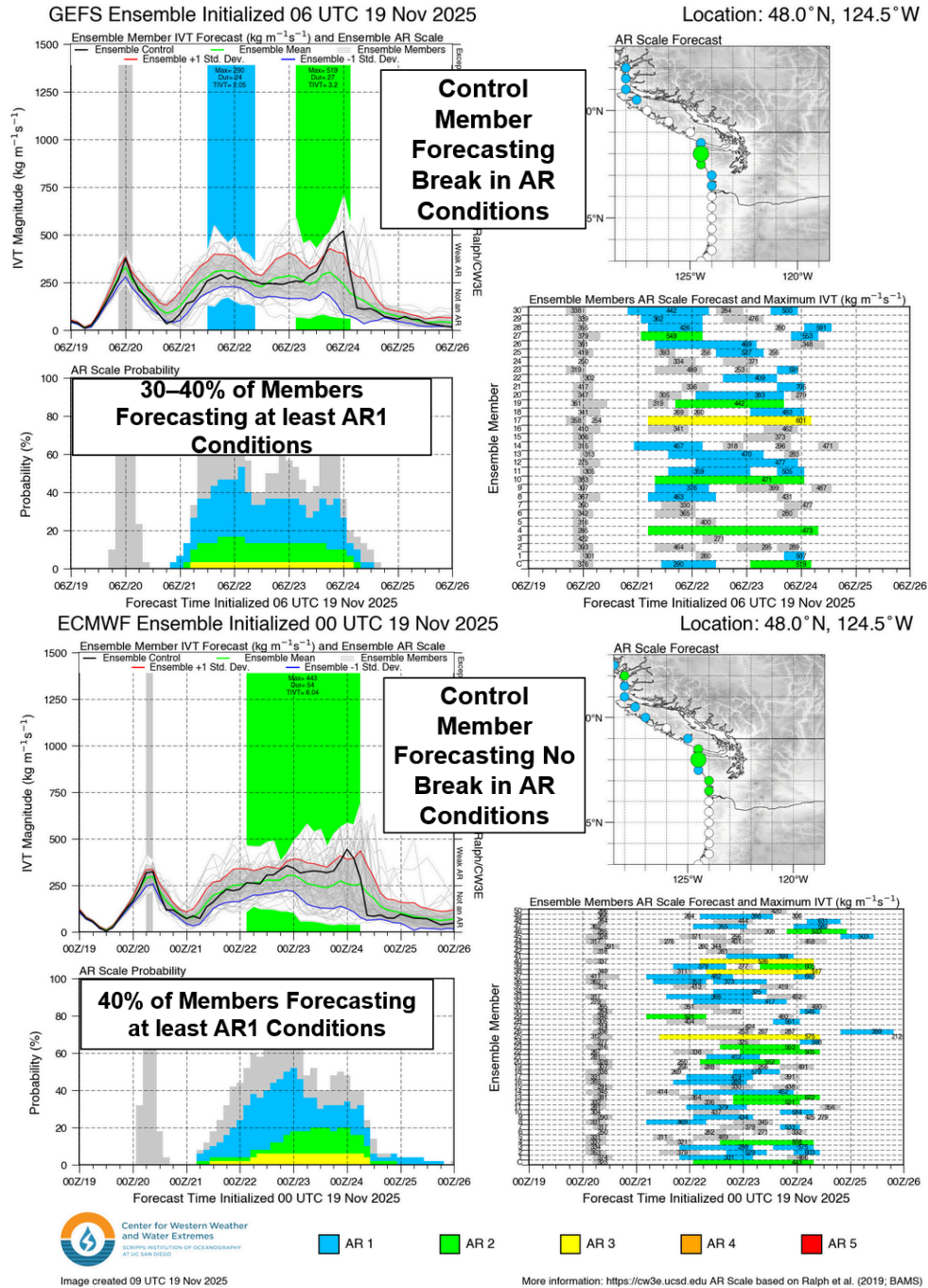


GFS IVT:
Valid 7 PM PT 22 Nov



WPC 72-Hour QPF:
Period Ending 4 PM PT 24 Nov





Additional Considerations:

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

In-depth AR forecasts products can be found here:

<http://cw3e.ucsd.edu/iwv-and-ivt-forecasts/>

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