



Quick Summary of Two Recent Periods of Precipitation over the Southwestern US

Updated: 25 November 2025

Two deepening troughs off the US West Coast developed into mid-level cutoff lows over California, each resulting in multi-day precipitation events over the Southwestern US.

16–19 Nov 2025

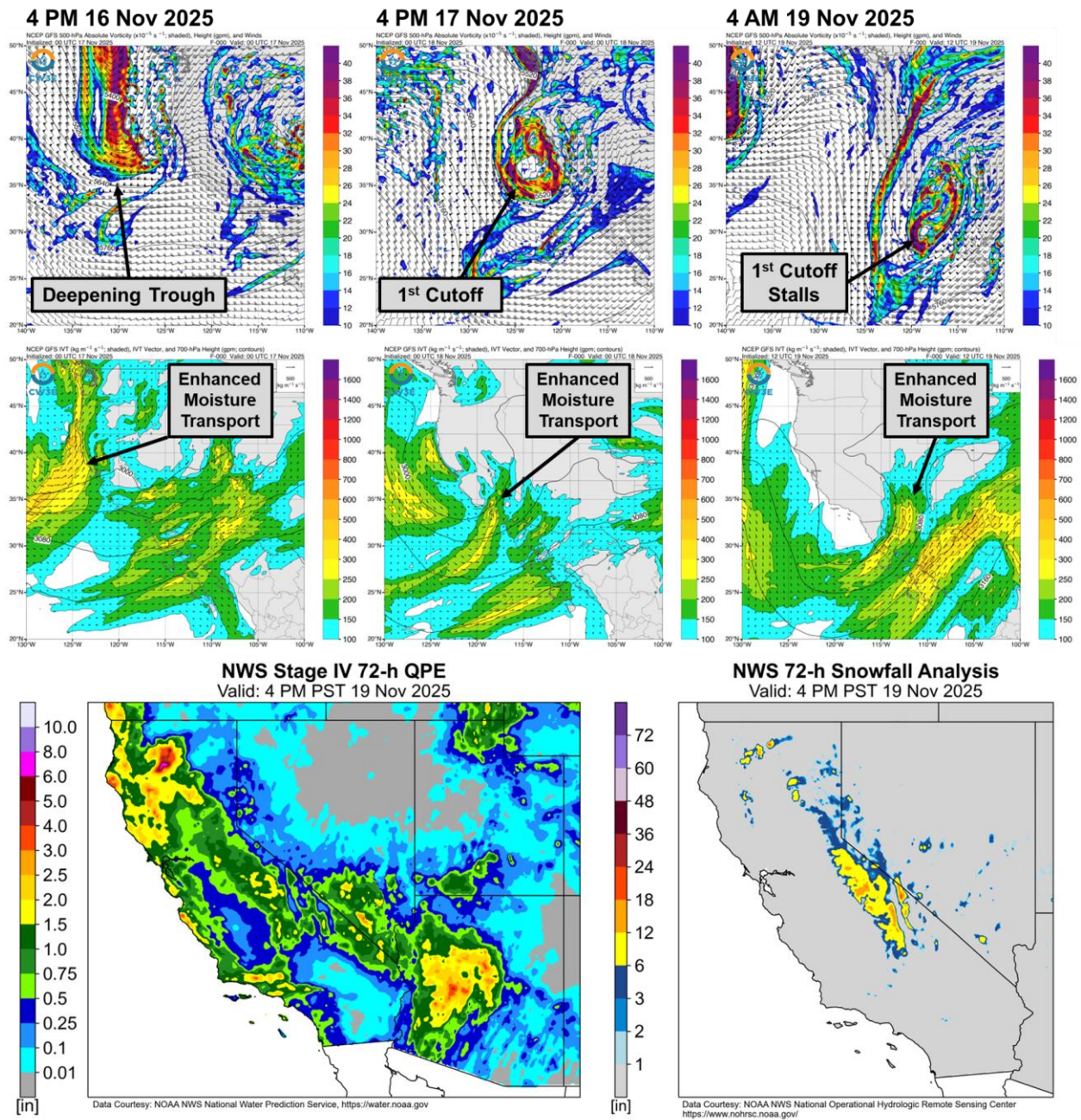
- The first system began as a mid-level trough over the North Pacific that deepened along the US West Coast and developed into a closed low offshore of California on Mon 17 Nov. The low stalled and became cut off over California on Tue 18 Nov.
- This trough and cutoff low interacted with a narrow plume of moisture along the US West Coast, and the combination of favorable forcing for ascent and orographic enhancement along terrain resulted in significant precipitation across California.
- 72-hour precipitation totals for the period ending 4 PM 19 Nov were highest over the Klamath Mountains where 4–8 in. of rain fell, followed by the Coast Ranges of Northern and Central California, and over Arizona where 2–4 in. occurred. Additionally, 6–18 in. of snow fell across the higher terrain in the central and southern Sierra Nevada.

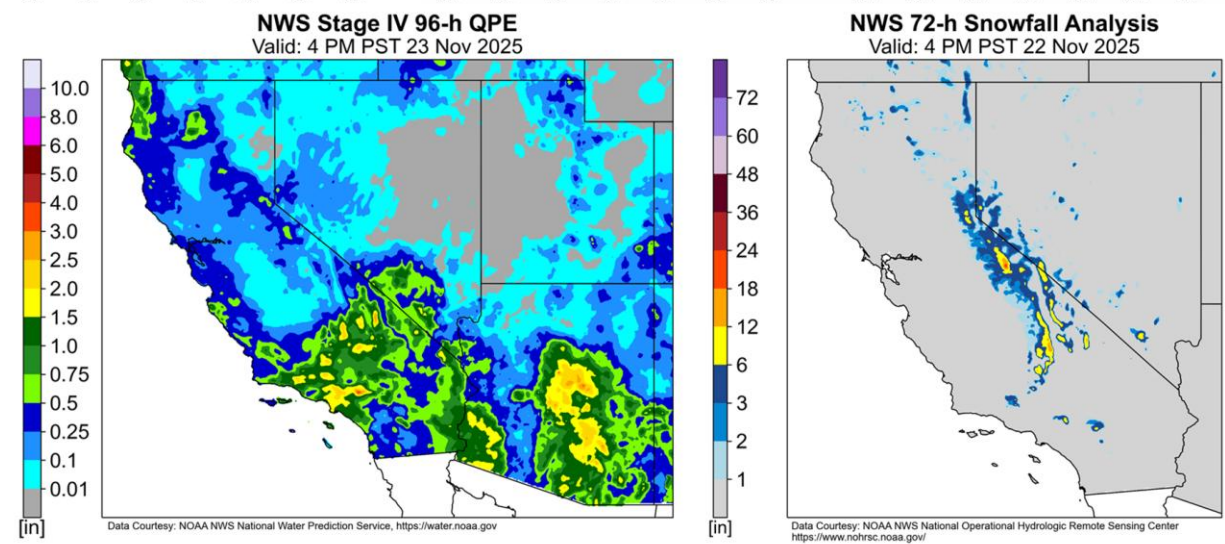
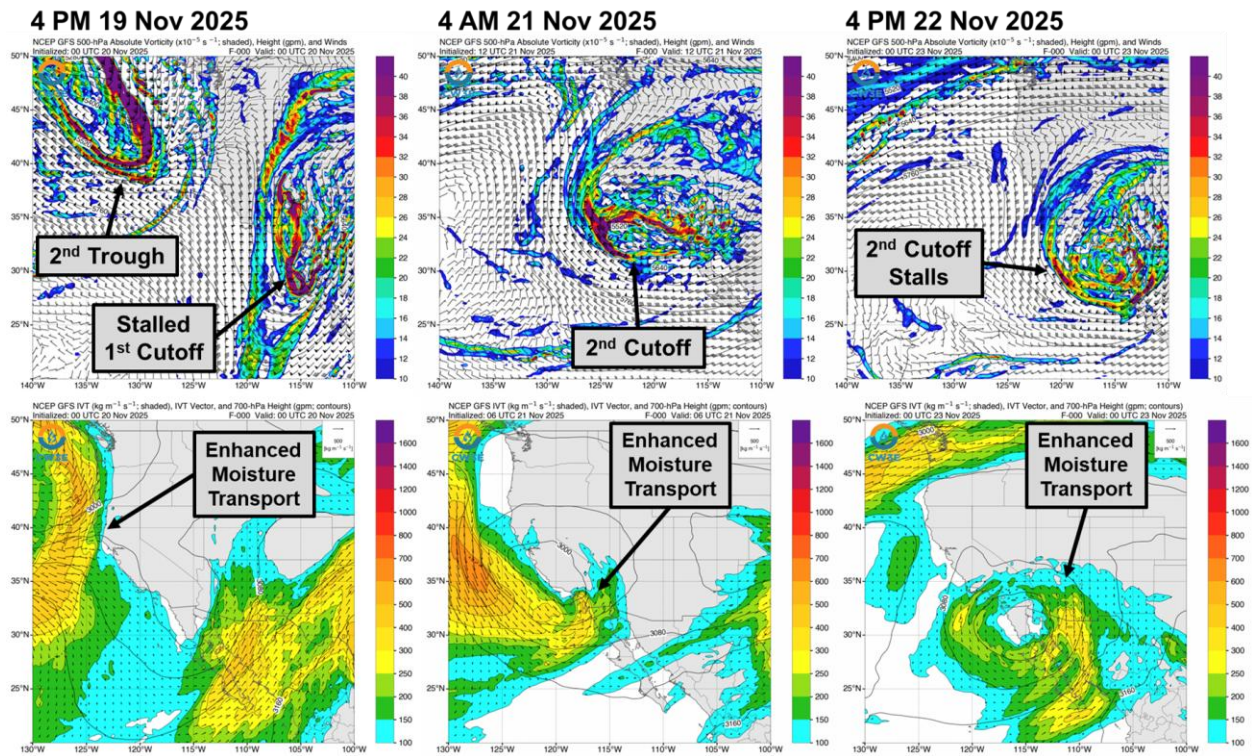
20–23 Nov 2025

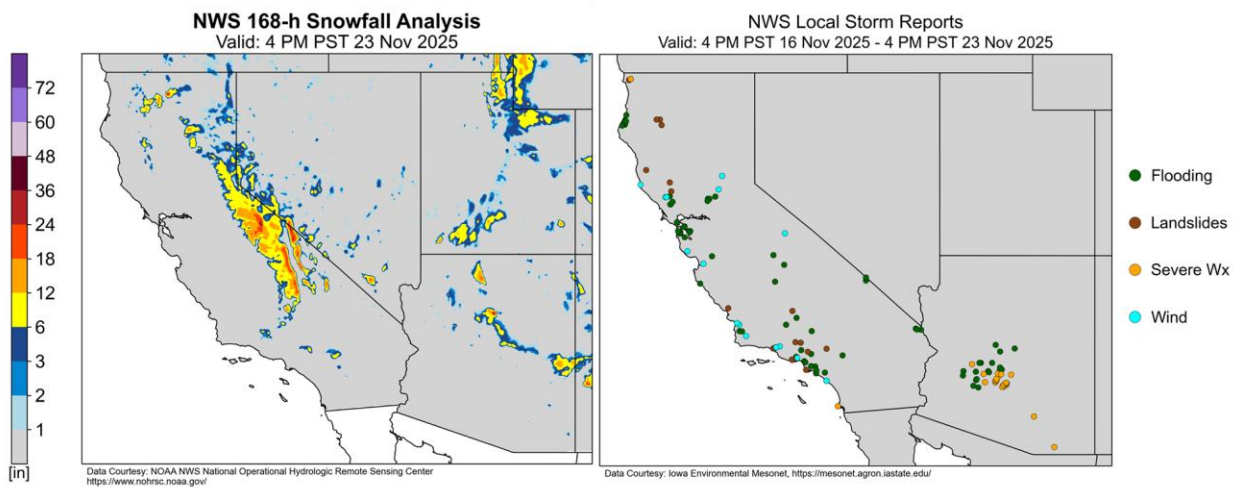
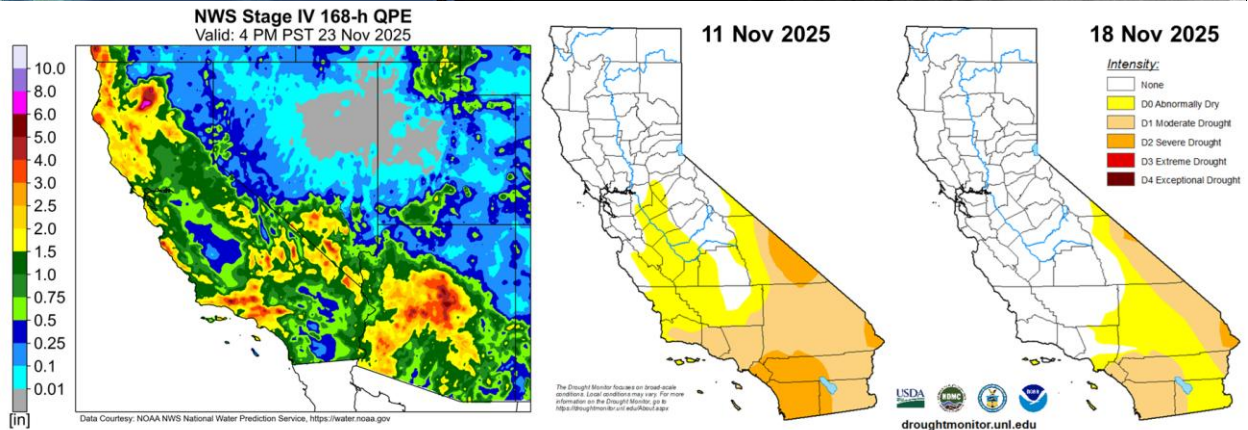
- The second system similarly began with a trough deepening offshore of the US West Coast which developed into a closed low on Thu 20 Nov. This closed low eventually became a cutoff low on Fri 21 Nov, stalling over Southern California through the weekend.
- As the trough and eventual cutoff shifted south along the US West Coast, it tapped into a plume of moisture offshore, resulting in precipitation over California and Arizona.
- 96-hour precipitation totals of 2–4 in. for the period ending 4 PM 23 Nov were highest over the Transverse Ranges in southern California and over central Arizona. Snowfall was minimal during this period, with 6–12 in. totals isolated to the peaks of the Sierra Nevada.

Overall Impacts

- 7-day precipitation totals from these two systems ranged from 6–8 in. in northern California over the Shasta-Trinity Mountains to 2–6 in. over the Northern and Central Coast Ranges, Transverse Ranges, and Central Arizona.
- The precipitation from these storms likely provided additional improvement in drought conditions over California on top of recent improvements that have been noted in the US Drought Monitor which came from the previous storm between 12–16 Nov 2025.
- Numerous flooding, landslide, and wind Local Storm Reports were received by the National Weather Service (NWS) in coastal Humboldt County, around the Bay Area, in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles Counties, and across central Arizona.
- The NWS also received reports of severe weather in central Arizona, including several reports of hail >0.5 inches and a weak EF-0 tornado reported in Forepaugh, AZ (northwest of Phoenix) on 18 Nov 2025.









Preliminary Damage Survey

November 24, 2025
10:02 AM

Tornado occurred on 11/18/2025



Tornado

Maricopa County - 10 E Aguila

Rating: EF-0 (65-85 mph)

Time: 4:23 PM MST (based on radar)

A tornado briefly touched down near Forepaugh, AZ resulting in EF-0 damage to a property along U.S. HWY 60 and N 439th Ave. Maximum wind speeds were estimated up to 80-85 mph.

Left: Screenshot of the tornado in progress
source: Donald Carruthers

Right: RV trailer flipped over, additional property damage (not pictured) included minor damage to other vehicles and a roof torn off of a garage.
source: Donald Carruthers






National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

**National Weather Service
Phoenix, AZ**