

WY2026 Recap + 2026 Summer Outlook

Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee

Scott Rowe | Senior Service Hydrologist

Weather Forecast Office
Sacramento, CA

Wednesday, May 27

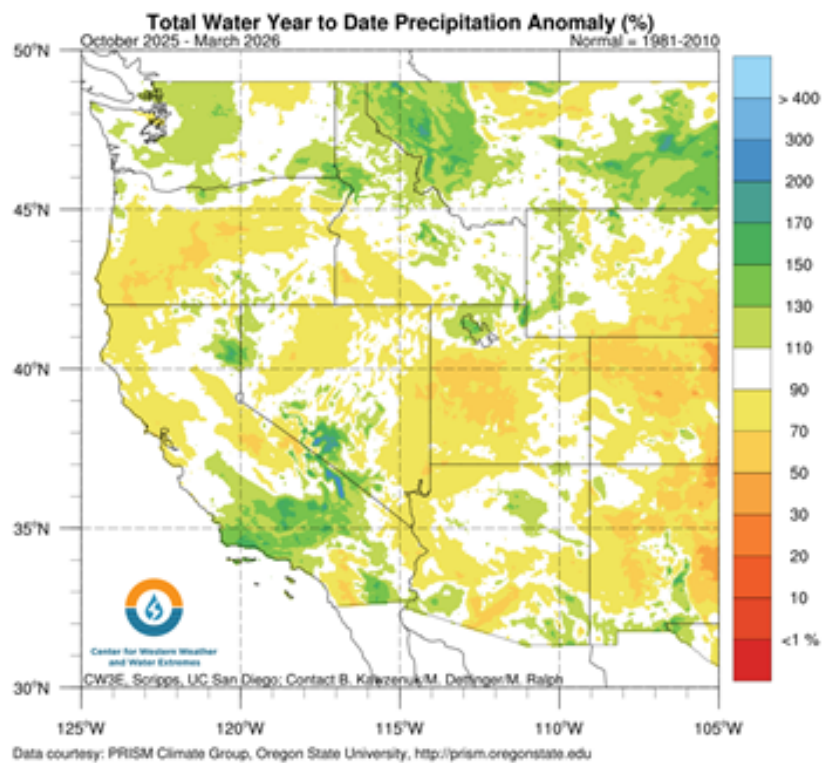




Recap of the Winter

The Atmospheric Rivers of Water Year 2026

CA Breakdown by Strength	
Strength	Number of ARs (West)
Weak	14 (20)
Moderate	12 (19)
Strong	5 (12)
Extreme	2 (5)
Exceptional	0 (0)
Total	33 (56)

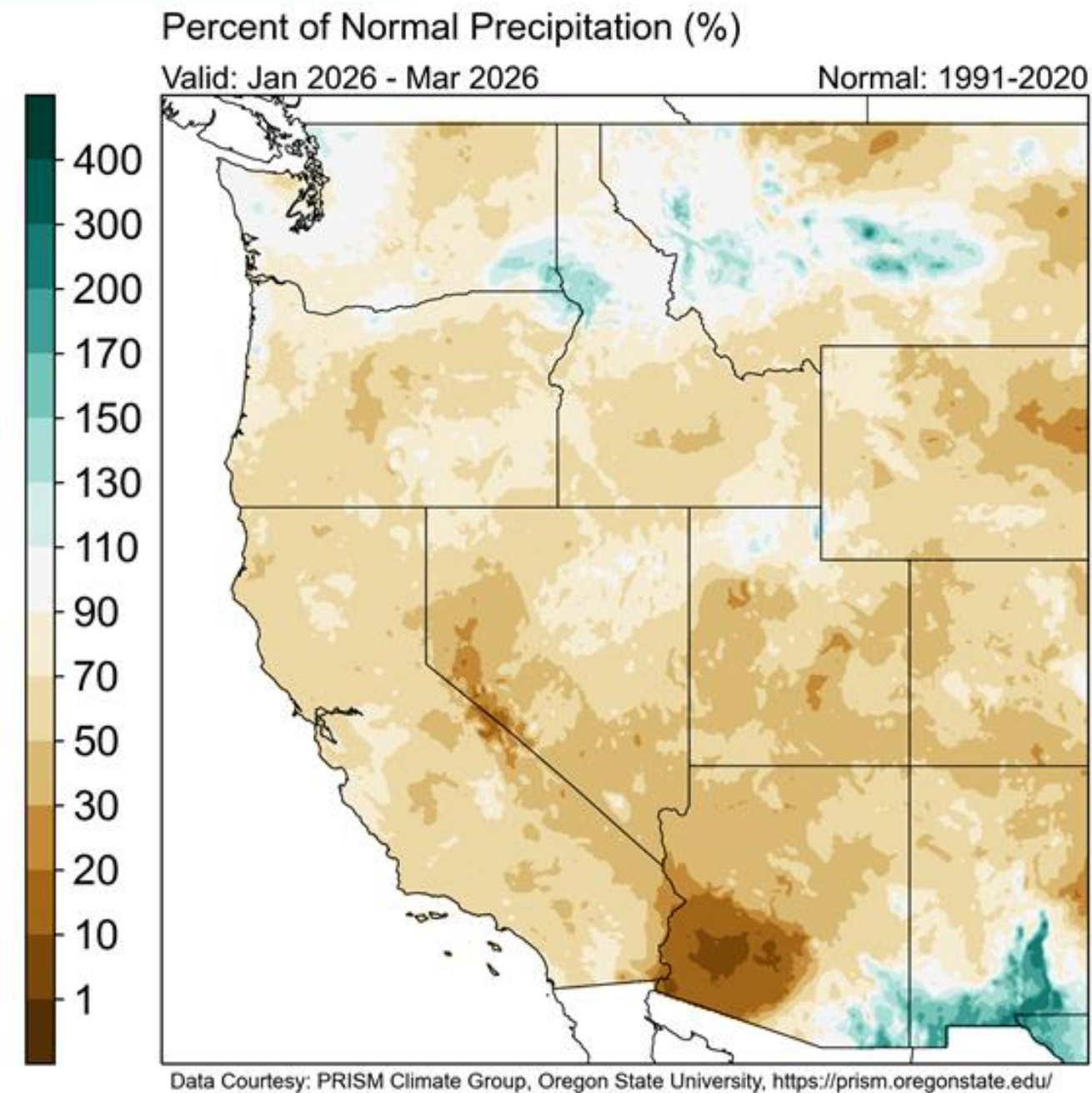
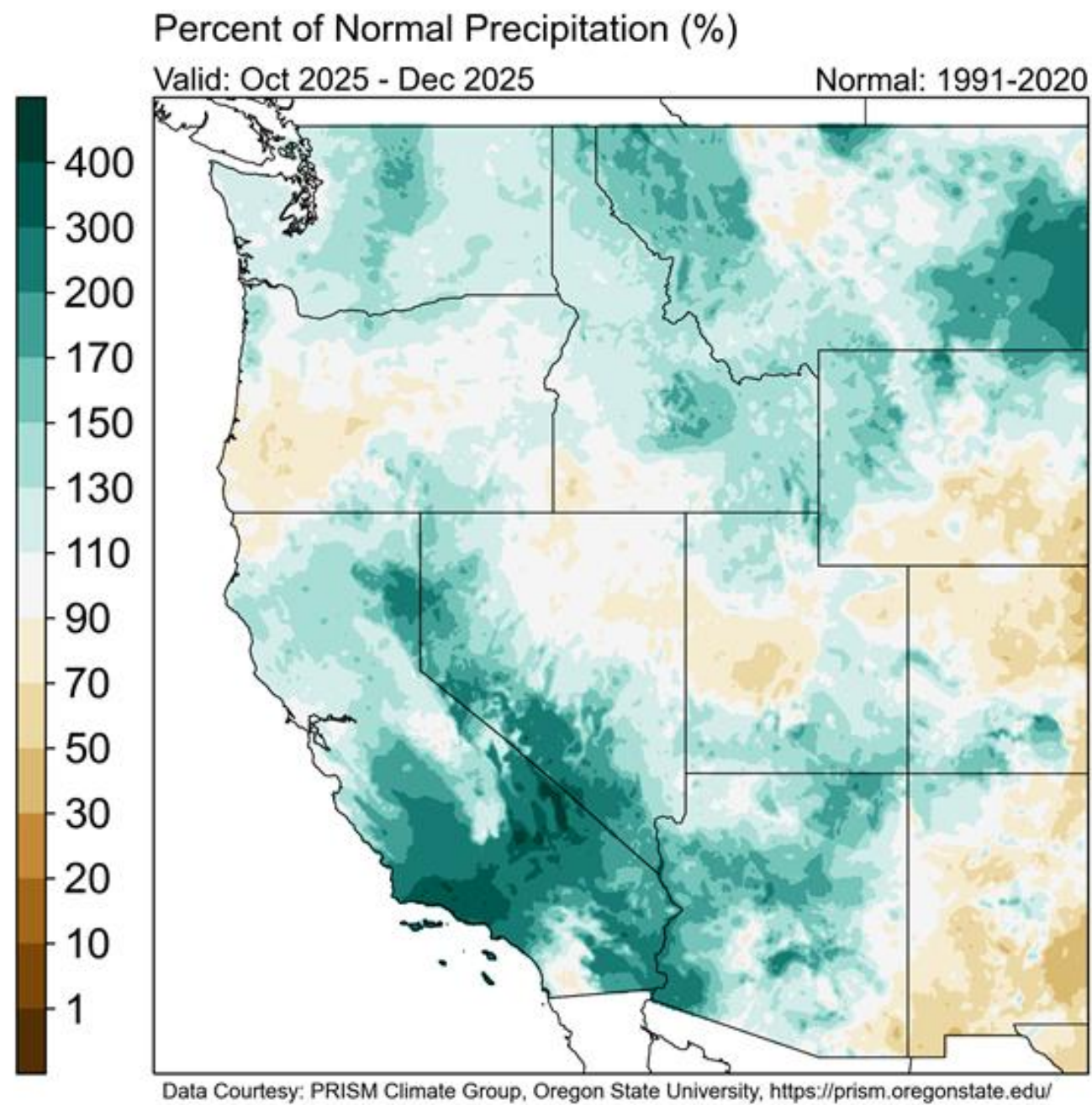


33 atmospheric rivers impacted California (**56 West Coast**)
between October 1st 2025 and February 28th 2026



Storm track
mainly aimed at
Pacific NW into
northern CA

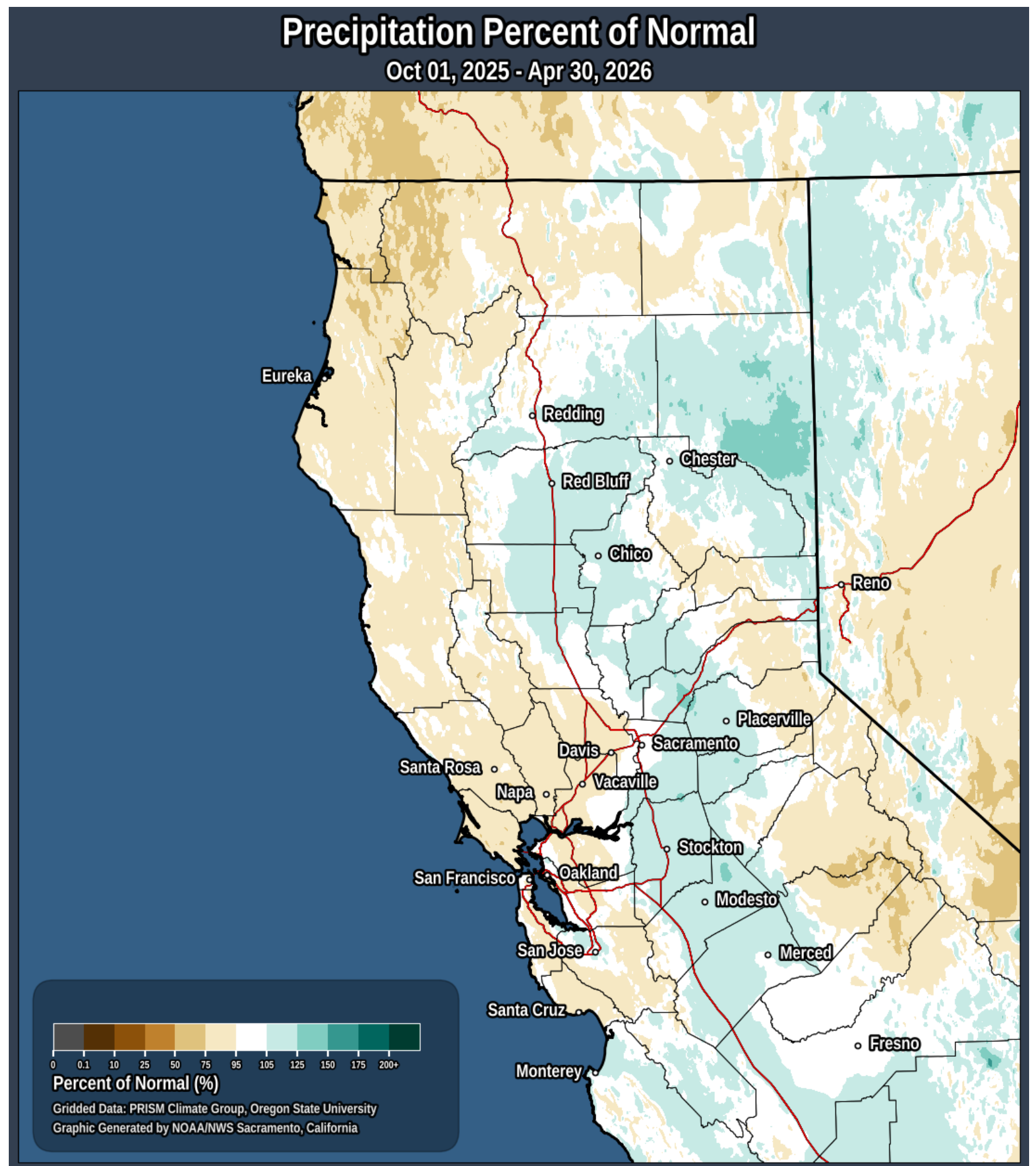
The Atmospheric Rivers of Water Year 2026 – OND vs. JFM





Recap of Winter 2025-2026

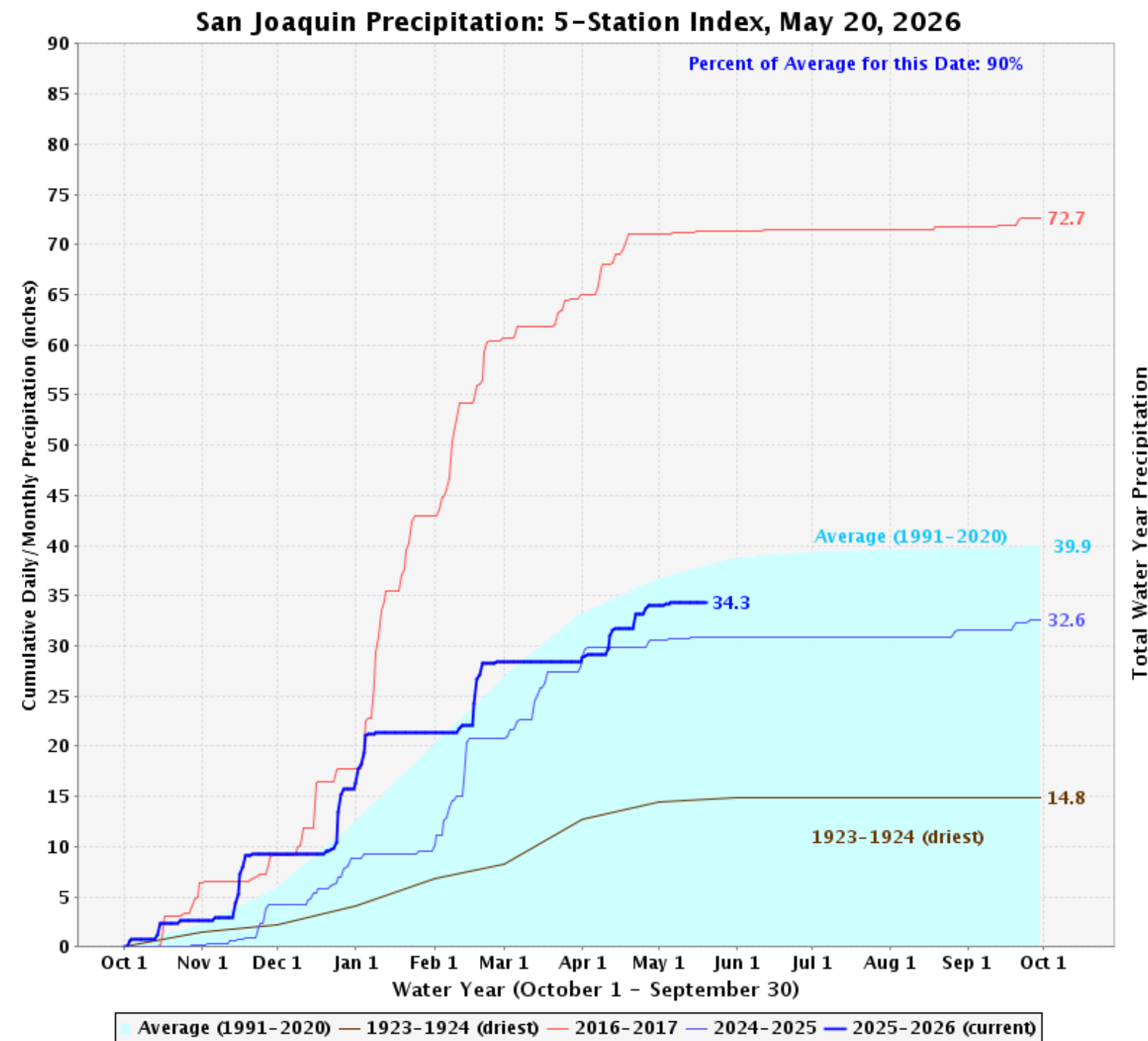
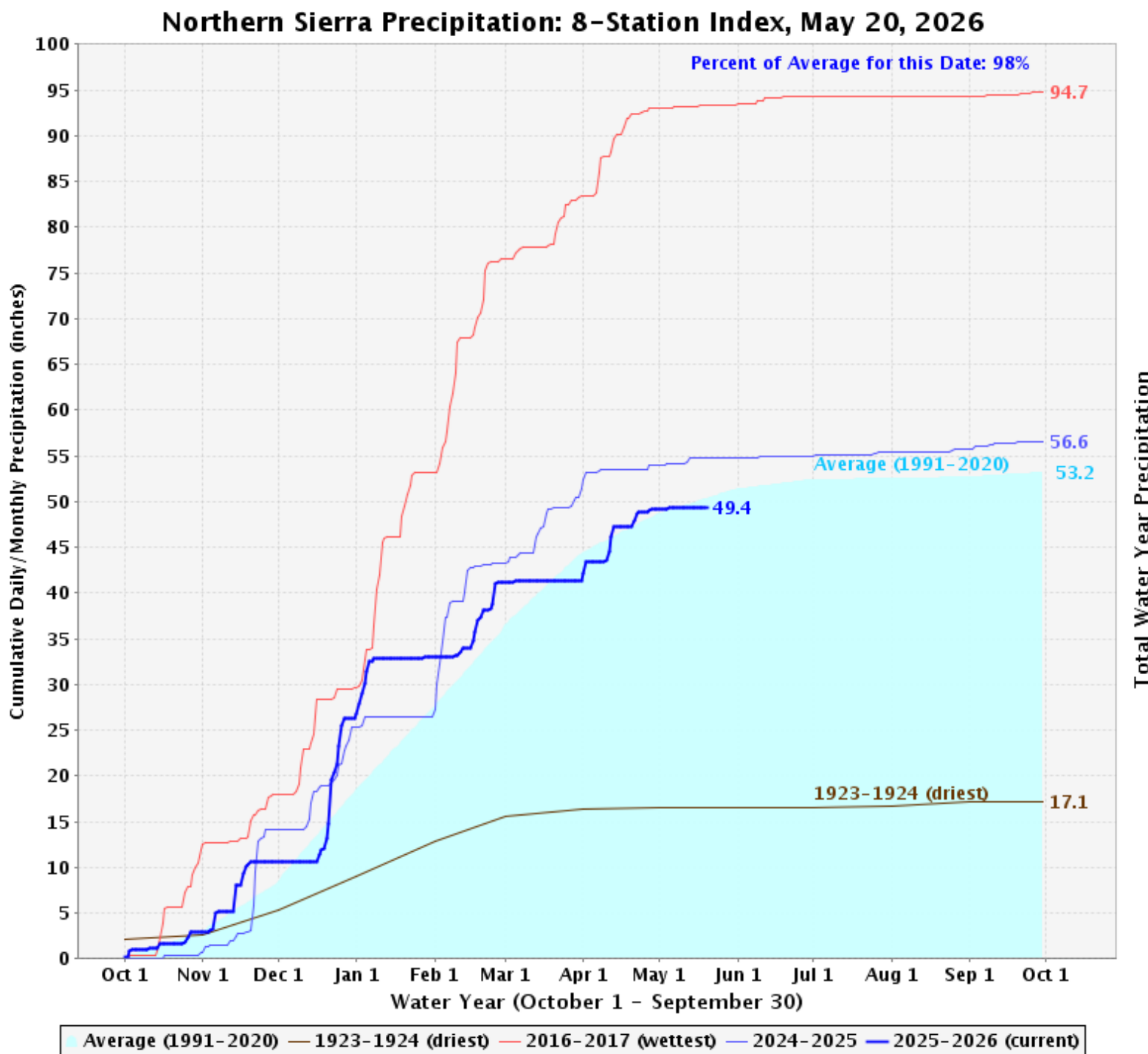
Weather Forecast Office
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Wednesday, May 27





Recap of Winter 2025-2026

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Net Result: Near Normal - 4th wettish winter in a row!



Recap of Winter 2025-2026

Weather Forecast Office
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 Wednesday, May 27

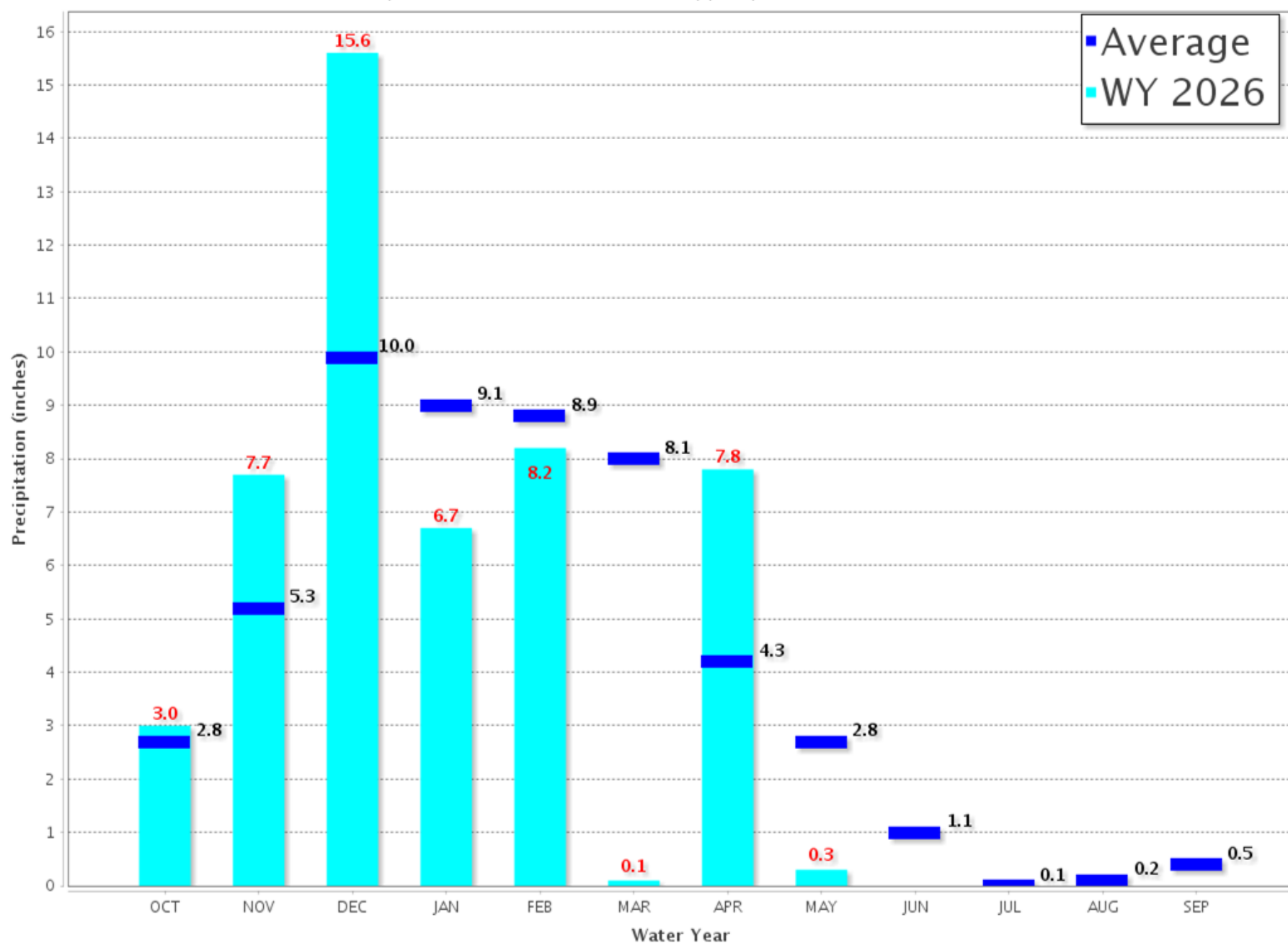


Northern Sierra 8-Station

Precipitation Index for Water Year 2026 - Updated on May 20, 2026 09:48 PM

Note: Monthly totals may not add up to seasonal total because of rounding

Water Year Monthly totals are calculated based on Daily precipitation data from 12am to 12am PST

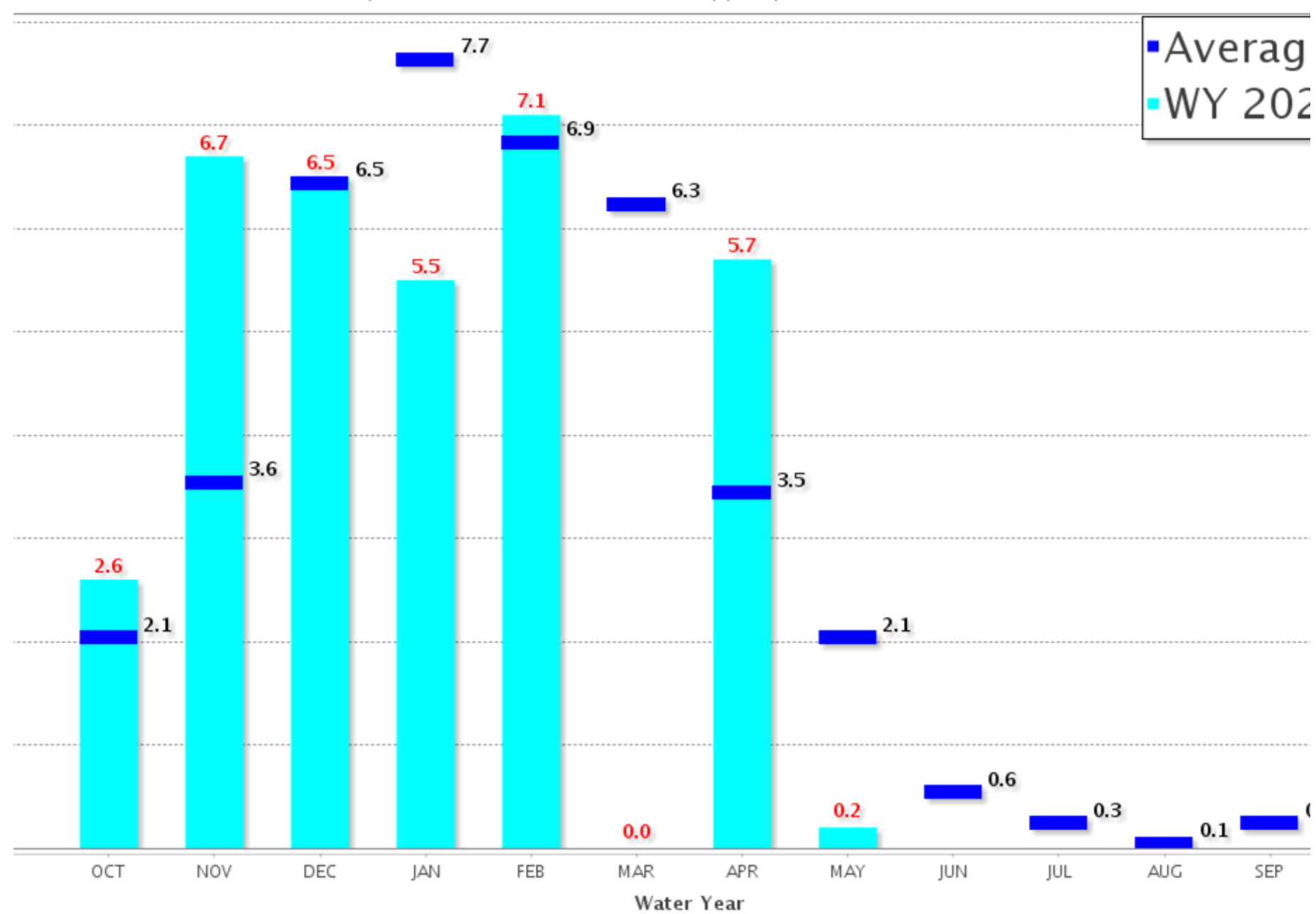


San Joaquin 5-Station

Precipitation Index for Water Year 2026 - Updated on May 20, 2026 09:49 PM

Note: Monthly totals may not add up to seasonal total because of rounding

Water Year Monthly totals are calculated based on Daily precipitation data from 12am to 12am PST

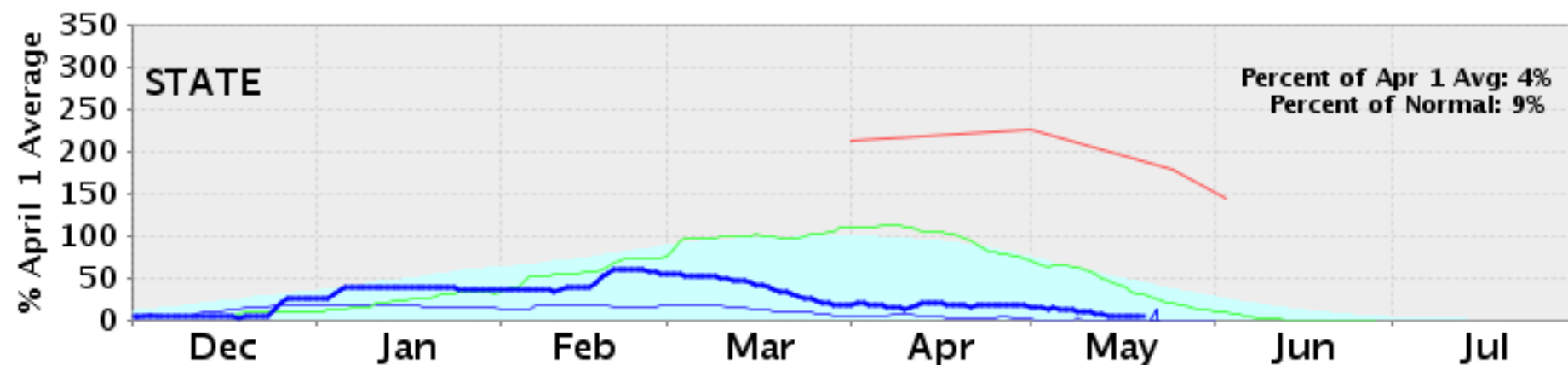
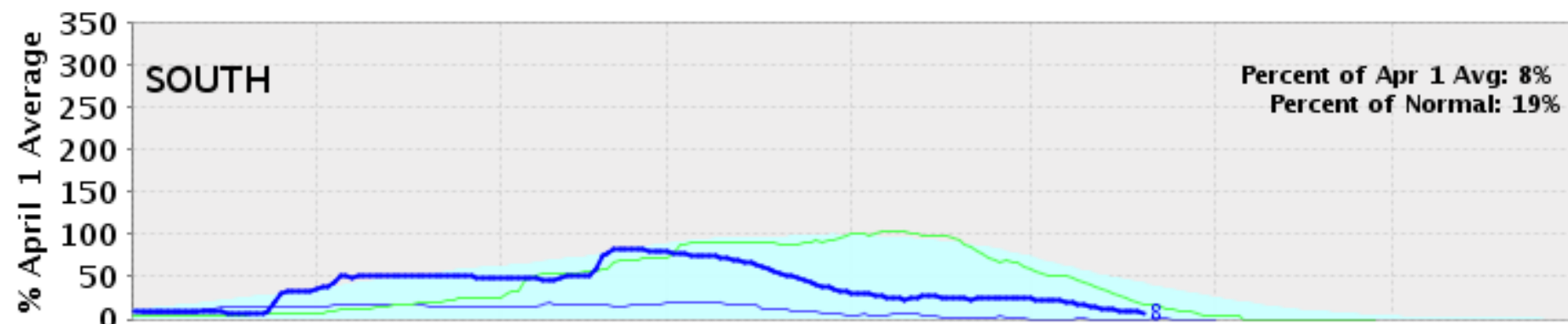
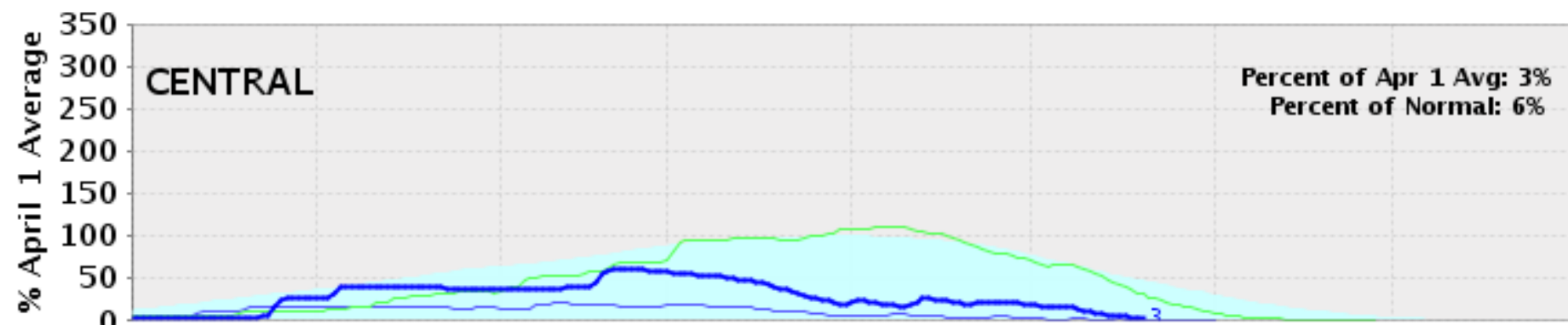
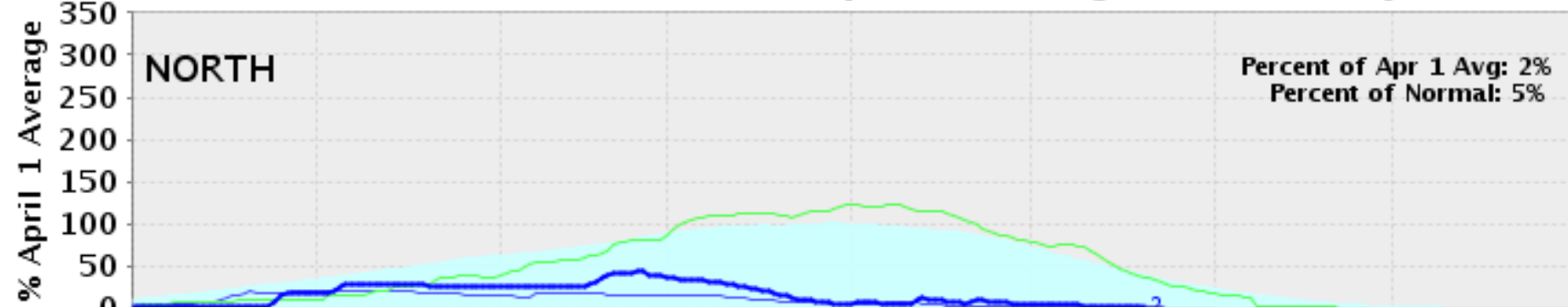


Fair share of wet months and dry months in the water year



Snow Drought of WY2026

CA Snow Water Content - Percent of April 1 Average For: 20-May-2026



Average — 1982-1983 (max) — 2014-2015 (min) — 2023-2024 — 2025-2026 (current)

This water year has been dominated by **warm storms.**

Throughout the wet season, many mountain locations observed precipitation in the form of rain vs snow.

The record-warm temperatures in March resulted in a rapid melt in the Sierra snowpack.

Peak snowpack occurred in late February vs the normal climatological peak on April 1.

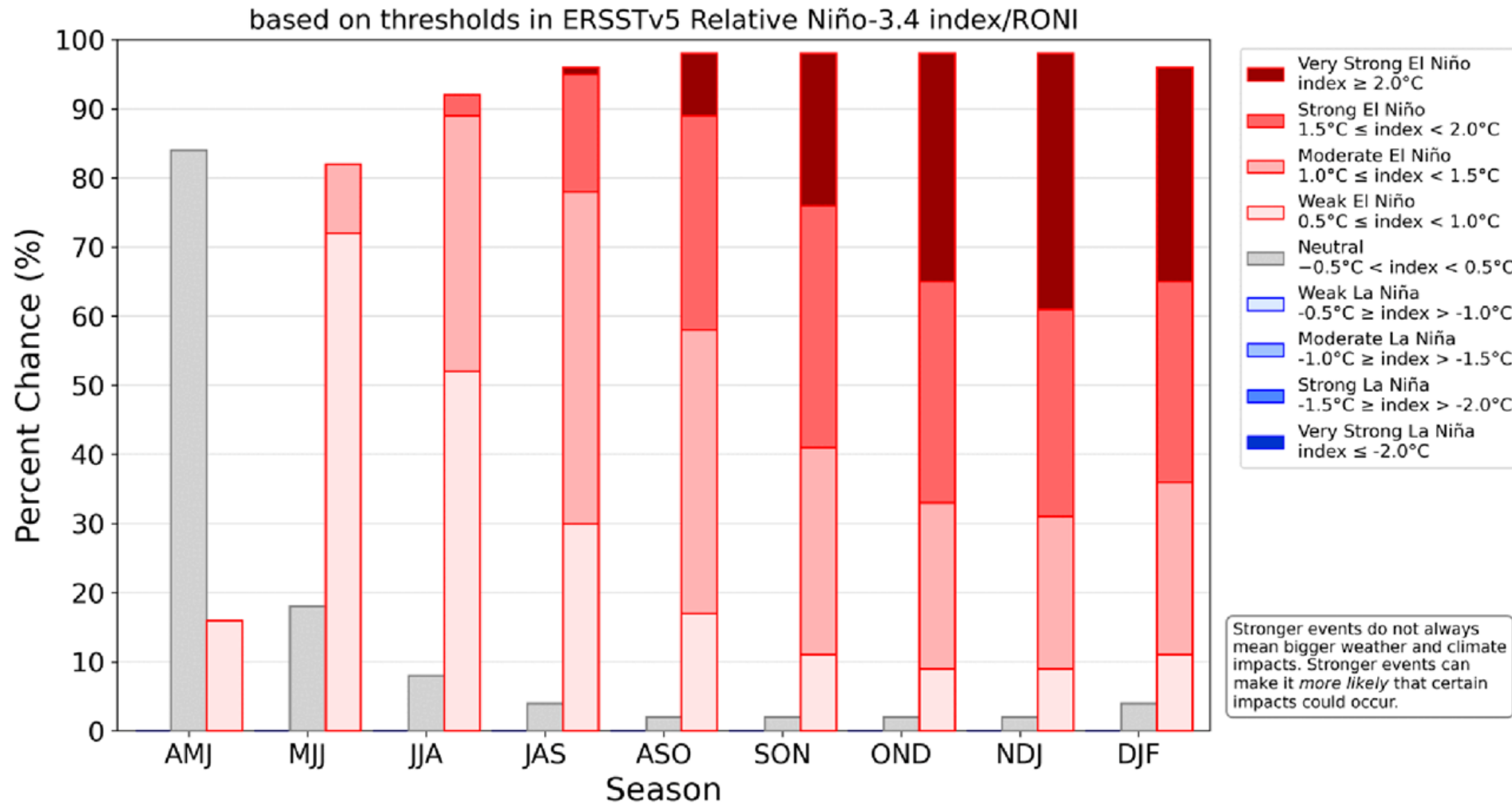


Outlooks



ENSO Neutral → El Niño

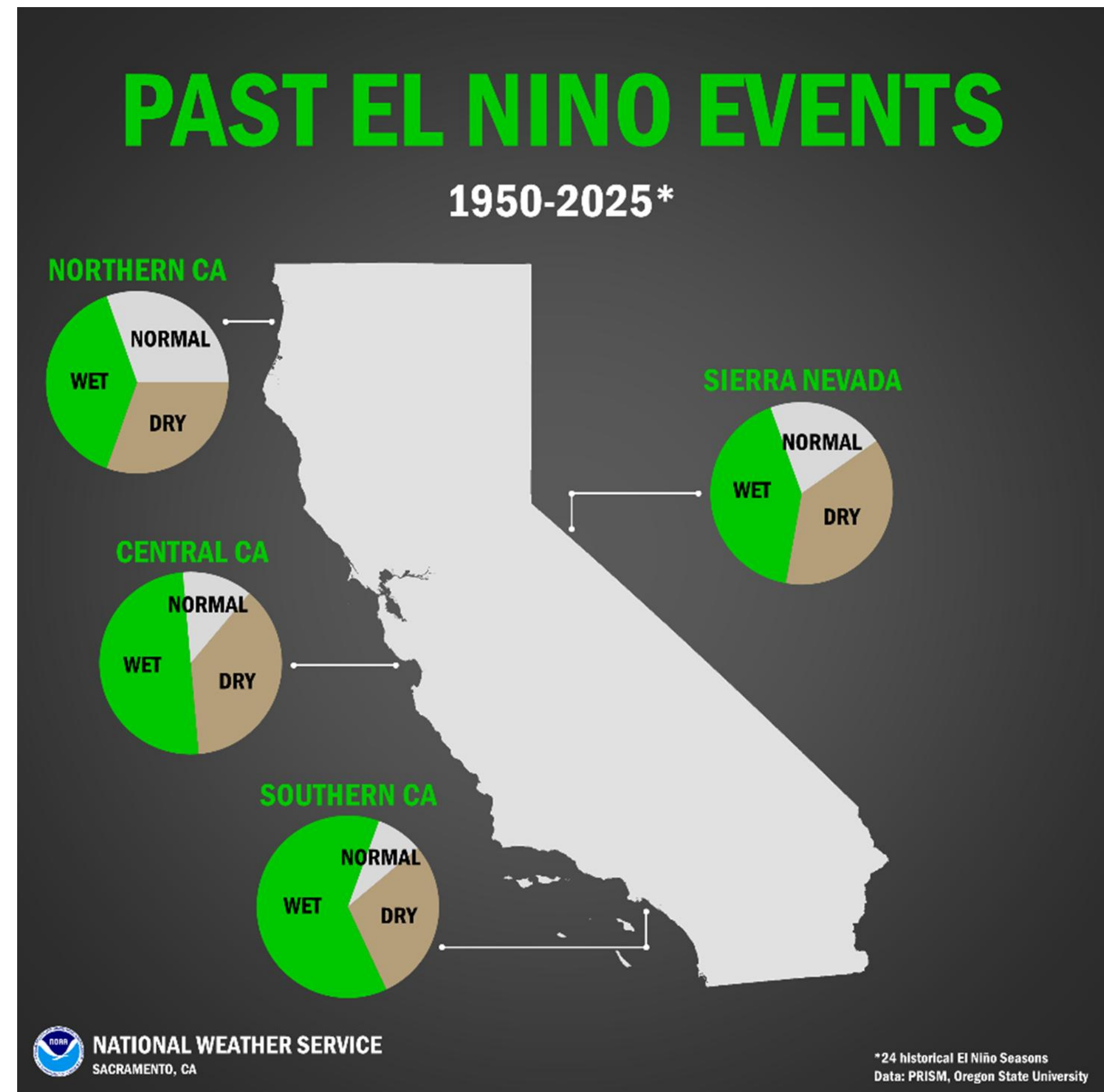
NOAA CPC ENSO Strength Probabilities (issued May 2026)



ENSO-neutral conditions are present today, but...

- Transition to El Niño soon; 82% chance in May-June-July.
- 96% chance of it continuing into next winter (December-January-February 2026-2027)
- 67% chance of it becoming “strong” or “very strong”

- During El Niño, above normal precipitation is generally favored across Southern California.
- Signals are more mixed across Northern and Central California.
- **Remember, local impacts are dependent on individual or series of atmospheric river storms! We cannot predict that seasons in advance.**

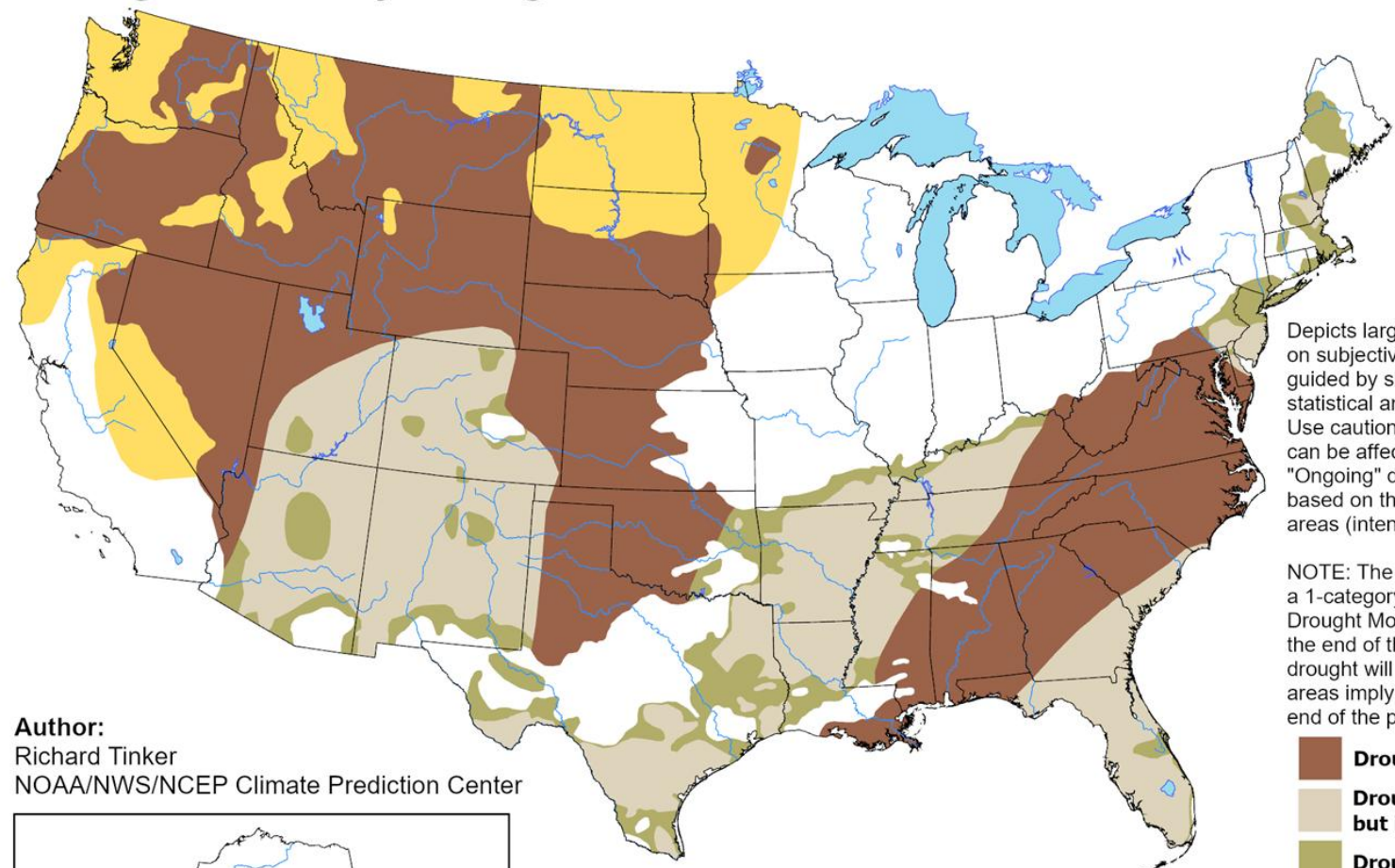




Seasonal Drought Outlook

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for May 21 - August 31, 2026
Released May 21, 2026

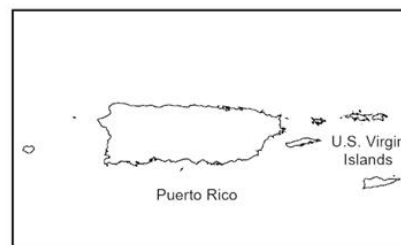
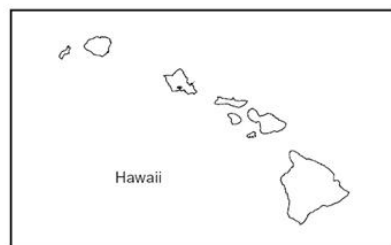


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought

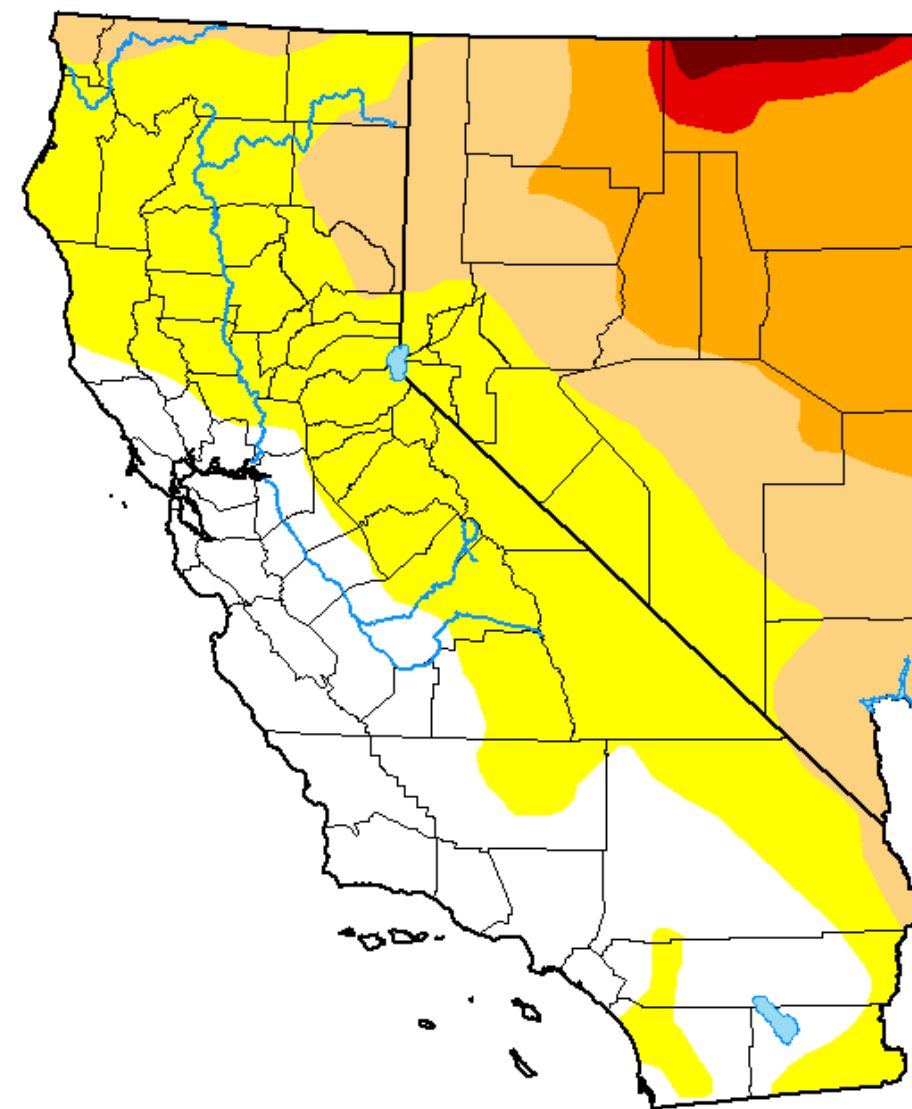
Author:
Richard Tinker
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

U.S. Drought Monitor California-Nevada DEWS

May 19, 2026
(Released Thursday, May 21, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	23.39	76.61	37.15	16.86	2.40	0.75
Last Week 05-12-2026	23.39	76.61	35.12	16.64	2.40	0.42
3 Months Ago 02-17-2026	72.47	27.53	8.70	0.79	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	82.94	17.06	9.60	1.14	0.10	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	17.16	82.84	54.94	29.25	4.15	0.00
One Year Ago 05-20-2025	38.47	61.53	44.05	28.77	11.64	0.63

Intensity:

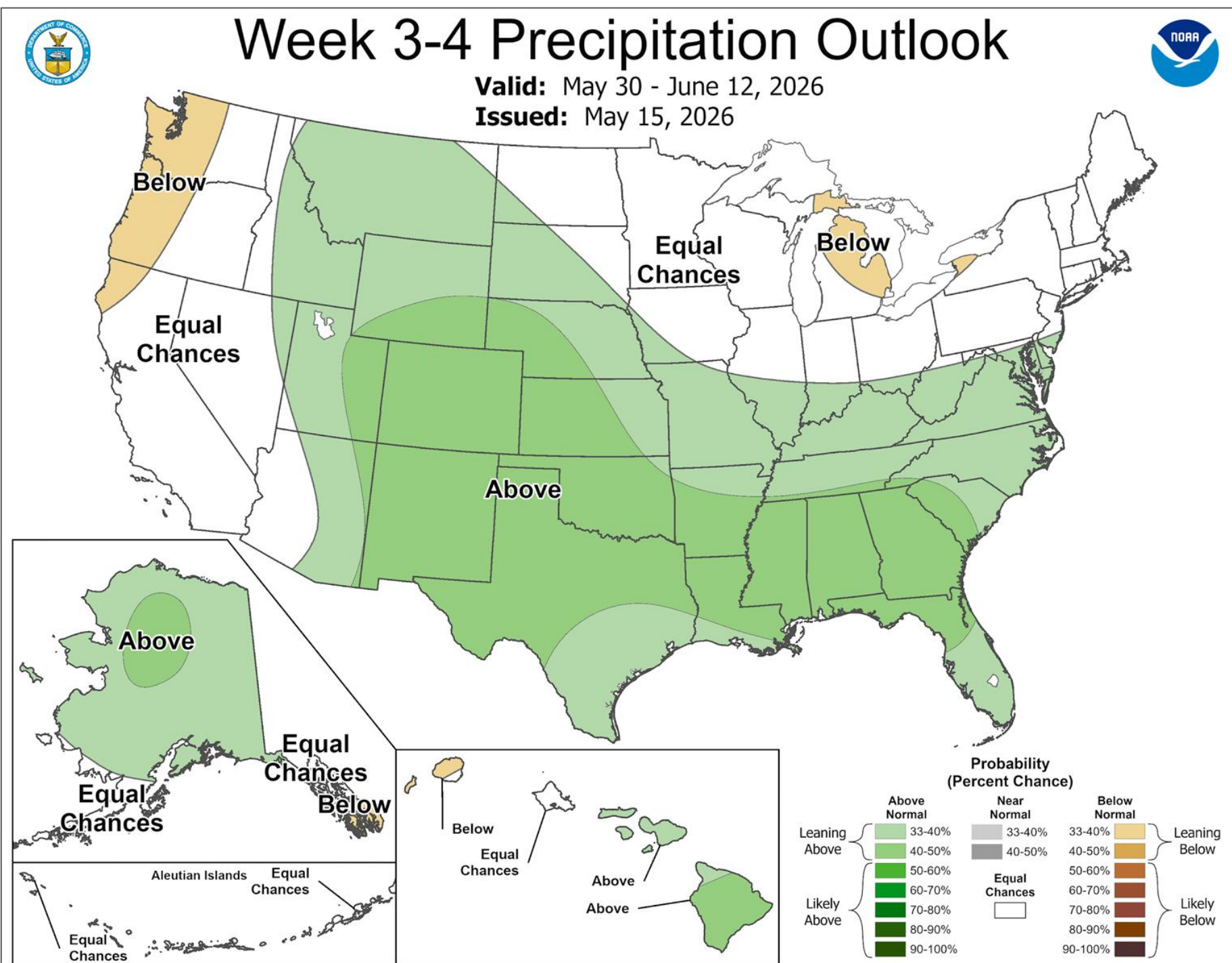
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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

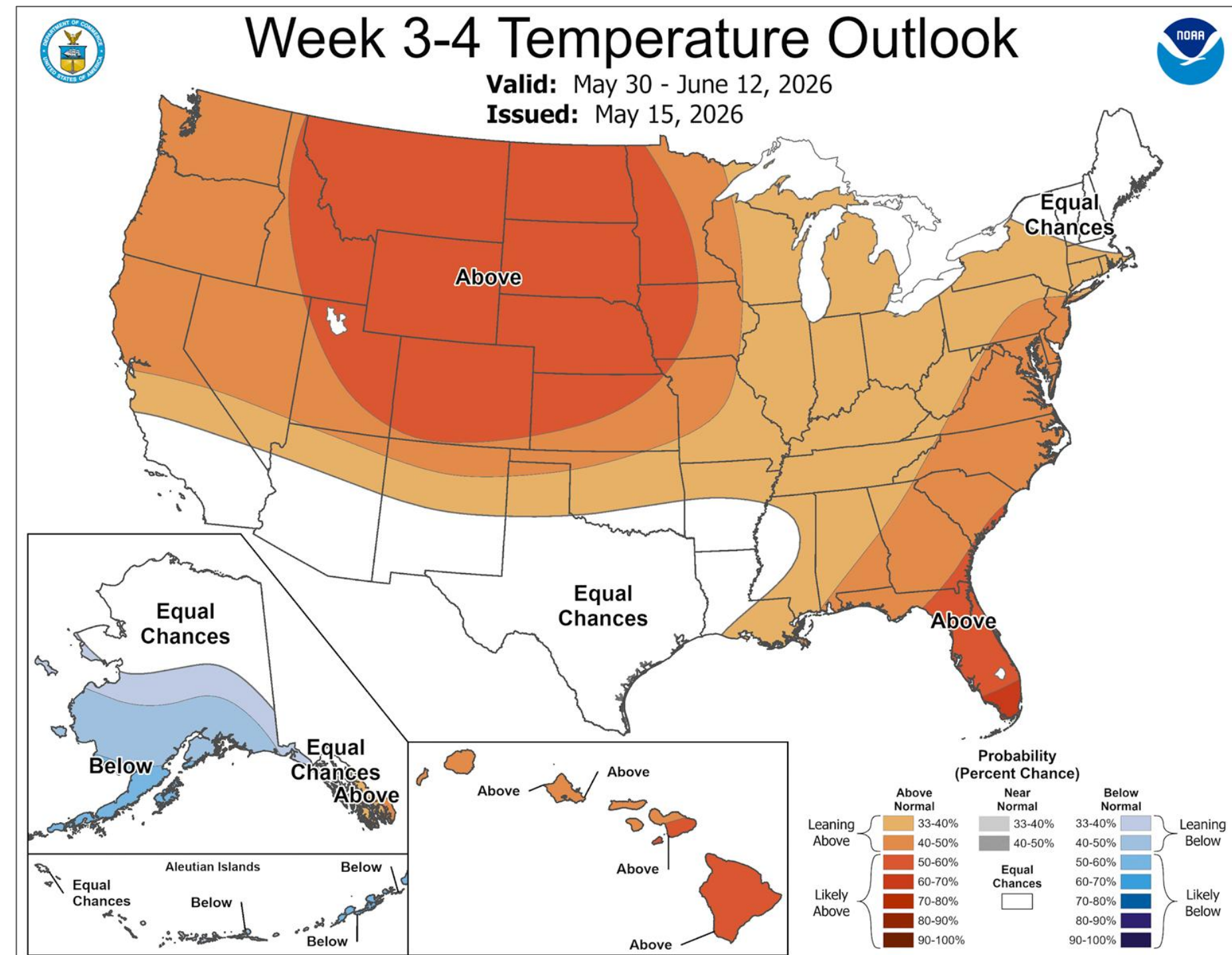
Author:
Rocky Bilotta
NCEI/NOAA



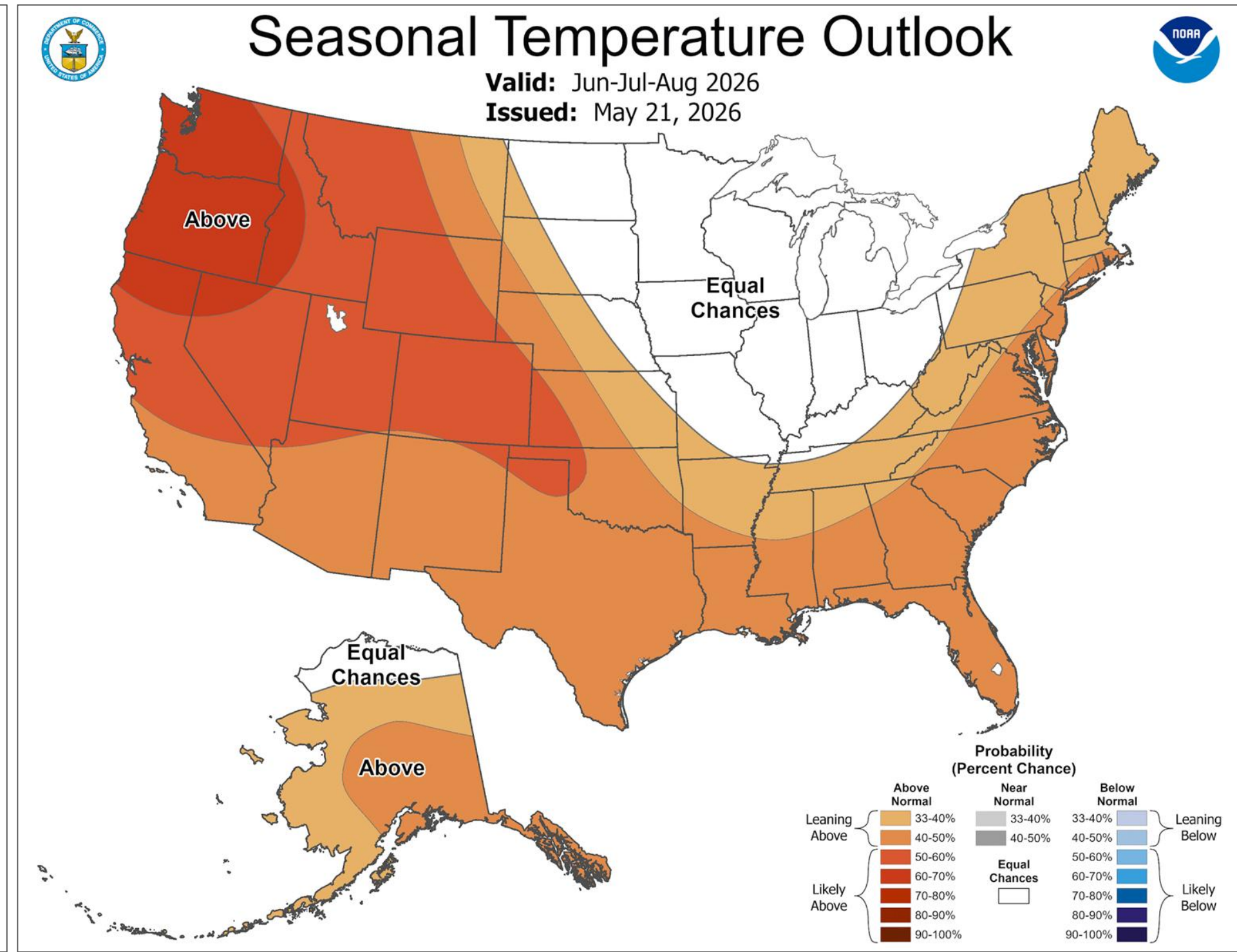
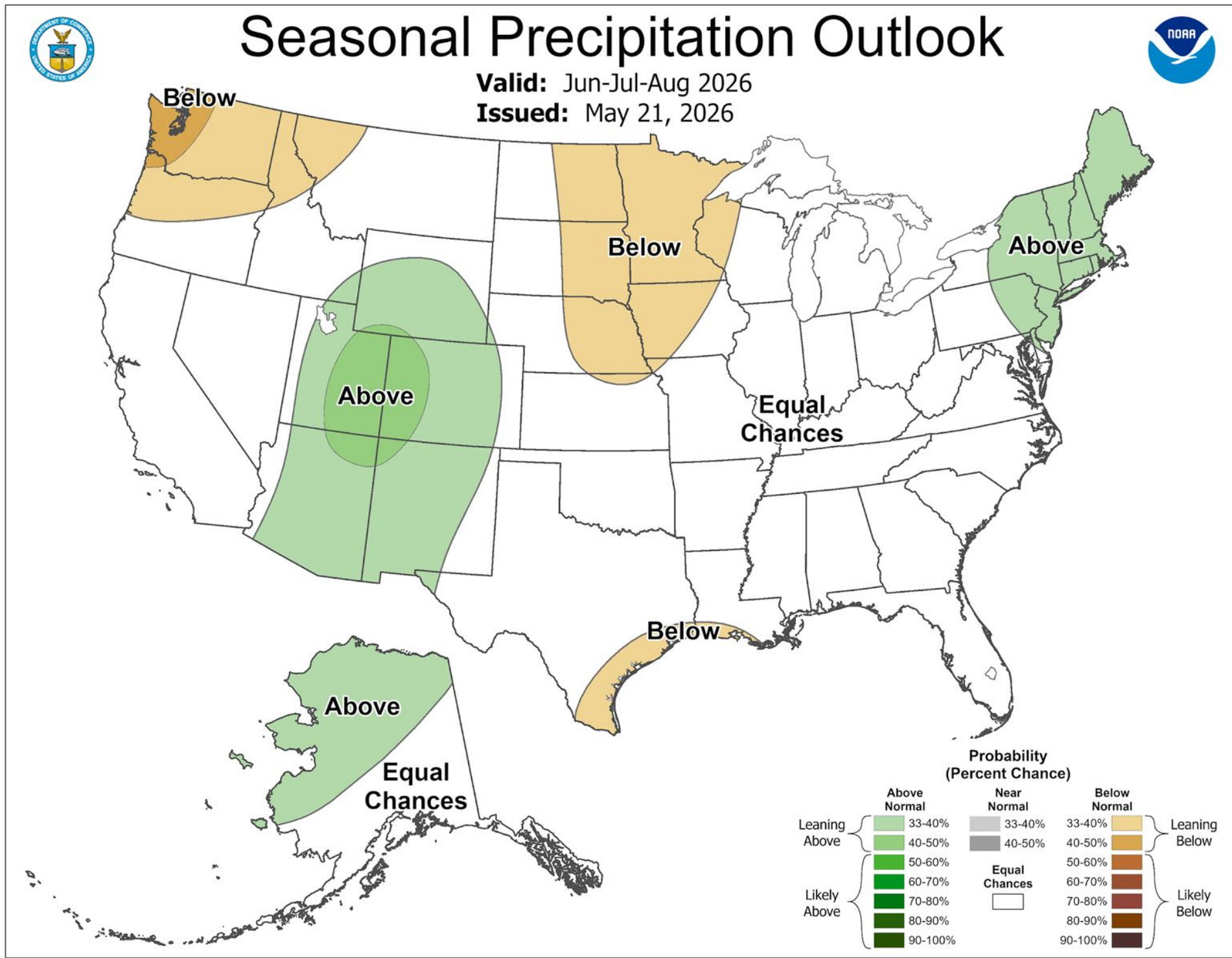
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Odds: equal chances



Odds: **above normal**



Odds: near normal

Remember normal ~0 this time of year

Odds: likely **above normal**



EXTREME HEAT WATCH

An Extreme Heat Watch is issued when **dangerous heat is possible**.

Reschedule outdoor activities in the coming days. Make sure that children, the elderly, and pets have a place to cool off during the heat.

Be Prepared.



weather.gov

EXTREME HEAT WARNING

An Extreme Heat Warning is issued when **dangerous heat is happening or about to happen**.

Avoid heavy activity & direct sunlight. Stay hydrated, find a cool indoor place, and check on children, elderly & pets.

Take Action!



The NWS HeatRisk is a color-numeric-based index that provides a forecast risk of heat-related impacts to occur over a 24-hour period.

HeatRisk takes into consideration:

- How unusual the heat is for the time of the year
- The duration of the heat including both daytime and nighttime temperatures
- If those temperatures pose an elevated risk of heat-related impacts based on data from the CDC

Category	Risk of Heat-Related Impacts
Green 0	Little to no risk from expected heat.
Yellow 1	Minor - This level of heat affects primarily those individuals extremely sensitive to heat, especially when outdoors without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration.
Orange 2	Moderate - This level of heat affects most individuals sensitive to heat, especially those without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts possible in some health systems and in heat-sensitive industries.
Red 3	Major - This level of heat affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts likely in some health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.
Magenta 4	Extreme - This level of rare and/or long-duration extreme heat with little to no overnight relief affects anyone without effective cooling and/or adequate hydration. Impacts likely in most health systems, heat-sensitive industries and infrastructure.



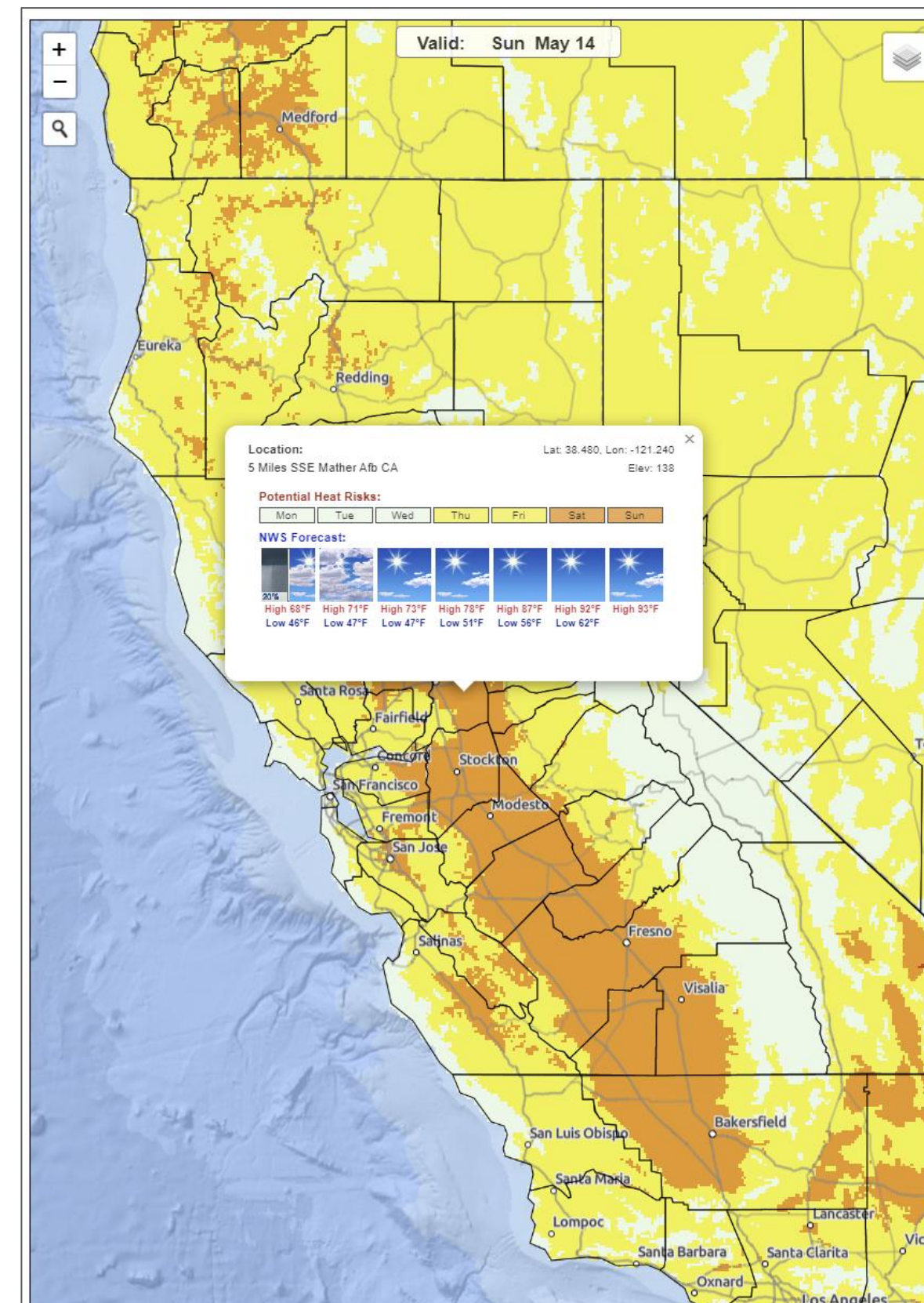
How Can You Utilize This?

Available 7 days out and is based on the most updated forecasts.

If you see **orange/red** days, start messaging and preparing even if a product is not out yet.

Extreme Heat Watches & Warnings are issued when heat risk is widespread **red** and/or **magenta**.

Heat Advisories are issued when heat risk is widespread **orange** and/or **red**.



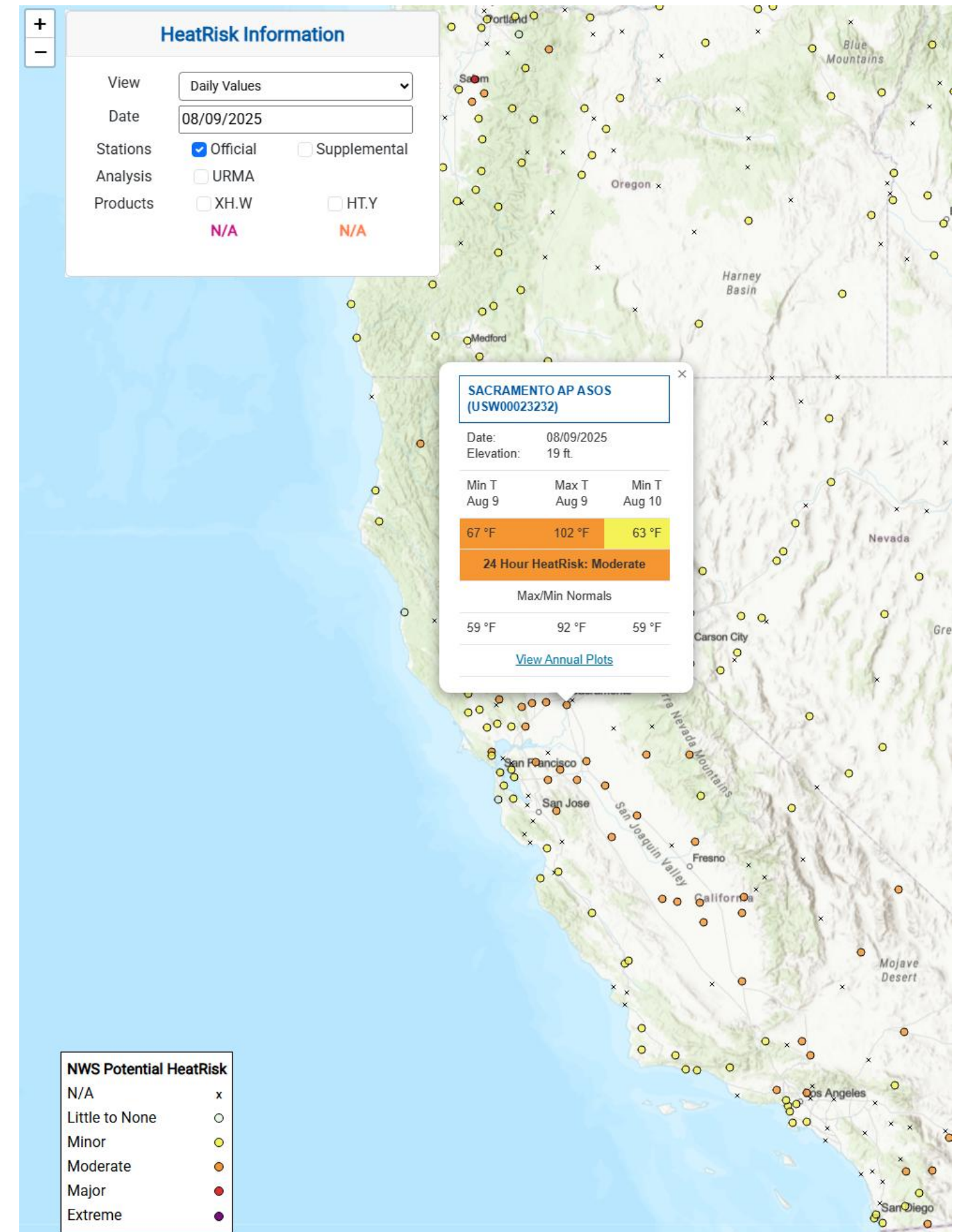
[English Link](#)
[Spanish Link](#)



● Current HeatRisk Forecasts

● Statewide HeatRisk Maps

● Historical HeatRisk Data





Other Products & Services



Webpage Resources

Weather Forecast Office
 Sacramento, CA
 Wednesday, May 27

<https://www.weather.gov/forecastpoints>

Table updated: 949 am PDT Fri. 5/26/2023 (Last Update: 27 minutes ago)

Click for Text Forecast
 STO Forecast Discussion
 1 miles NW of Sacramento, CA

Weekly Summary

	Fri May 26	Sat May 27	Sun May 28	Mon May 29	Tue May 30	Wed May 31	Thu Jun 1
Max Temp, °F	77	81	77	78	79	79	79
Min Temp, °F	60	53	55	53	54	53	53
Max Heat Index, °F	77	80	76	78	79	78	78
Max Wind, mph	12	12	12	14	15	14	14
Min Wind, mph	8	7	7	7	7	9	8
Max Wind Gust, mph	17	18	18	20	23	22	21
Max Prob. of Precip., %	3	1	2	1	1	5	5
Max Dew Point, °F	54	55	53	51	53	53	52
Min Dew Point, °F	51	49	51	49	50	49	49
Max RH, %	74	88	86	88	86	89	89
Min RH, %	42	40	45	39	38	41	40
Max Cloud Cover, %	9	39	67	34	27	36	47
Min Cloud Cover, %	0	3	14	9	13	24	11
Min Snow Level, x1000ft.	9.3	8.6	8.2	8.4	9.4	9.2	8.8

Outlooks

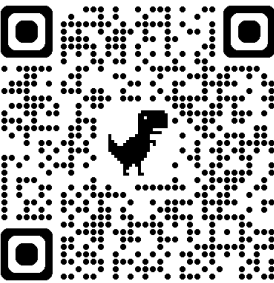
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Severe Thunderstorm	Non-Severe Thunderstorms	Not Expected	Not Expected
Excessive Rainfall	Not Expected	Not Expected	Not Expected

Hourly Table

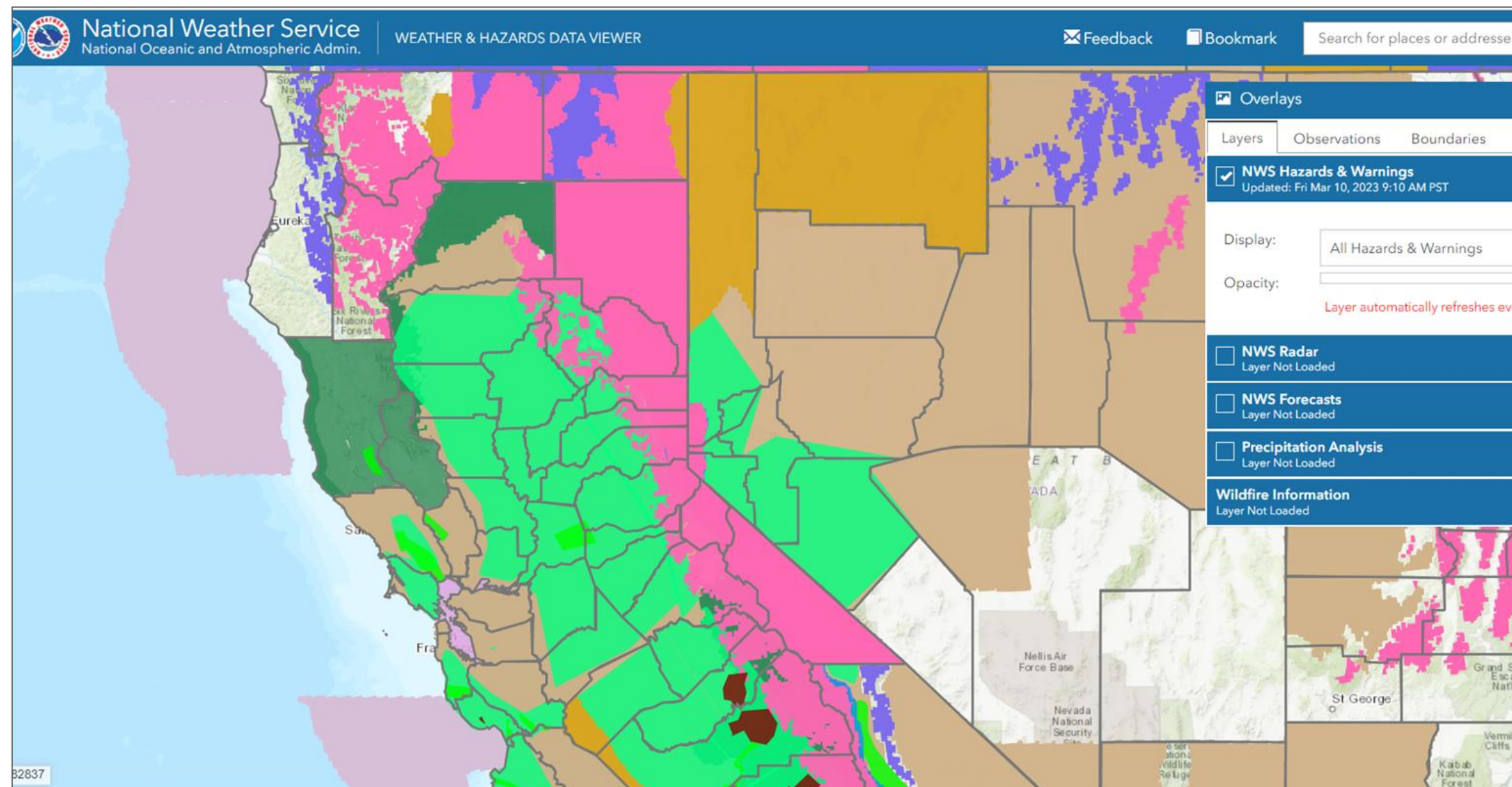
Day of week:	Friday 5/26													Saturday		
Time:	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM	1AM
Weather:	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀
Temperature (°F):	63	66	70	73	75	76	77	76	76	73	68	64	61	60	58	57
Heat Index, °F:	63	66	70	73	75	76	77	76	76	73	68	64	61	60	58	57
Wind Speed (mph):	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	12	12	12	12	12	12	8	8	8
Wind Gust (mph):	12	14	14	14	15	15	15	17	17	17	16	16	16	13	13	13
Wind Direction (°):	190	210	210	210	220	220	220	220	220	210	210	210	190	190	190	190
Wind Direction:	↗	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖
Prob. of Precip. (%):	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Prob. of Thunder (%):	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Precip. Amount (in.):	0.00			0.00						0.00						0.00
Snow (in.):	0.0			0.0						0.0						0
Dew Point (°F):	52	52	53	53	54	52	52	52	52	52	53	52	52	51	50	51
RH (%):	67	61	54	50	48	43	42	43	43	48	58	64	70	74	76	80
Sky Cover (%):	9	3	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	8	3	1	4	2	3	4
Snow Level (x1000 ft.):	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.5	9.5	9.5

⚙️ Configure Plot Order ⚙️ Configure Plot Look

Hourly Graphs
 Temperature, °F



<https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/map/?wfo=sto>



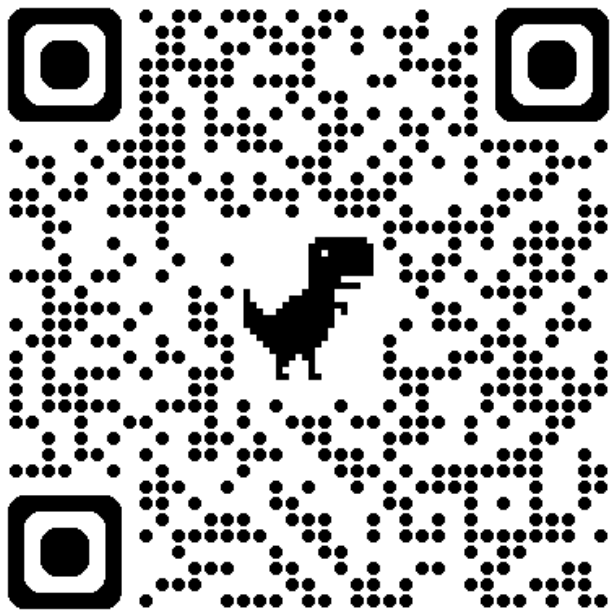



NWS Partner Emails

Weather Forecast Office
Sacramento, CA
Wednesday, May 27

Now online at

<https://www.weather.gov/sto/briefing>




National Weather Service
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

 Weather Forecast Office
 Sacramento
 Friday, Oct 22, 2021

Significant Rain and Snow this Weekend into Early Next Week

KEY POINTS

- Periods of moderate to locally heavy rain could cause small stream and urban flooding
- Possible debris and ash flows on recently burned areas
- Breezy winds Sunday
- Winter Storm Watch in effect Sunday evening into Tuesday

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS BRIEFING

- Winter Storm Watch issued for Sunday night into early Tuesday
- Flood Watch in effect from Late Saturday night through Sunday



WEATHER RISK OUTLOOK

Risk levels incorporate potential impacts from weather hazards and likelihood of occurrence.

	Fri 10/22	Sat 10/23	Sun 10/24	Mon 10/25	Tue 10/26	Wed 10/27	Thu 10/28
Valley	Rain	Rain	Rain/Wind	Rain	Rain	Rain	
Foothills	Rain/Debris Flows	Rain	Rain/Wind/Debris Flows	Rain	Rain	Rain	
Mountains	Rain/Debris Flows	Rain	Rain/Wind/Debris Flows	Snow	Snow	Rain	

Risk Levels	Little to None	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme
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DETAILS

Valley, Foothills, Mountains	
 Rain	<p>Impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate to heavy rain may lead to roadway ponding and minor flooding of poor drainage areas, creating difficult commute conditions • Periods of heavy rain with ash and debris flows possible on recently burned areas <p>Timing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through this afternoon <p>Confidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High
 Snow	<p>Impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain travel delays and chain controls possible <p>Timing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday <p>Confidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium



Thank You!

Weather Forecast Office
Sacramento, CA
Wednesday, May 27

If you have questions, please contact:

Scott Rowe

Senior Service Hydrologist & Meteorologist

scott.rowe@noaa.gov

A Forecaster can be reached 24/7

 **(916) 979-3045**



nws.sacramento@noaa.gov



(916) 979-3045



weather.gov/sacramento

