

Latest Update on Easter Weekend Storm

Updated: 28 March 2024

An active weather pattern over the Western US will continue through the holiday weekend, with another storm forecast to bring heavy rain and snow to portions of California tomorrow Fri 29 Mar into Sun 31 Mar.

Forecast Highlights:

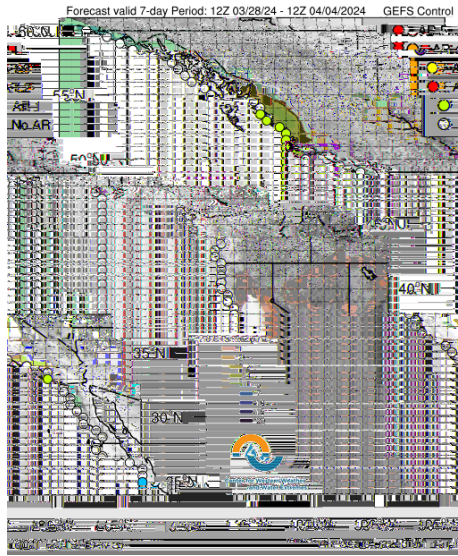
- An upper-level trough currently over the Northeast Pacific is forecast to deepen and propagate southeastward over the next several days, providing a focus for widespread precipitation over the southwestern US.
- Meanwhile, a weak atmospheric river (AR) associated with a developing surface low-pressure system is forecast to make landfall downstream of the upper-level trough over Central and Southern California on Fri 29 Mar.
- Southwesterly oriented moisture transport will likely support orographic enhancement of precipitation in the Transverse Ranges of Southern California.
- The Global Ensemble Forecast System (GEFS) control run is currently forecasting AR1 conditions (based on the Ralph et al. 2019 AR Scale) over coastal San Diego County.
- The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is forecasting 2–5 inches of storm-total precipitation in the Transverse Ranges, 1–3 inches of precipitation elsewhere in coastal Southern California, and 1–2 inches of precipitation in Central Arizona.
- WPC has issued a slight risk (level 2 of 4) Excessive Rainfall Outlook (ERO) in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties for the 24-hour period ending 5 AM PT Sat 30 Mar and most of coastal Southern California for the 24-hour period ending 5 AM PT Sun 31 Mar.
- A marginal risk (level 1 of 4) ERO has been issued for portions of the Lower Colorado River Basin for the 24-hour periods ending 5 AM PT Sun 31 Mar and 5 AM PT Mon 1 Apr.
- The San Diego River at Mission Valley is forecast to rise above monitor/action stage on Sun 31 Apr.
- This storm is also expected to produce heavy mountain snow, with 1–3 feet of total snowfall possible in the higher terrain of the Central Sierra Nevada, Southern Sierra Nevada, and Transverse Ranges.
- **Major** winter storm impacts are possible in portions of the Southern Sierra Nevada and Transverse Ranges Sat 30 Mar into Sun 31 Mar due to heavy snow.

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

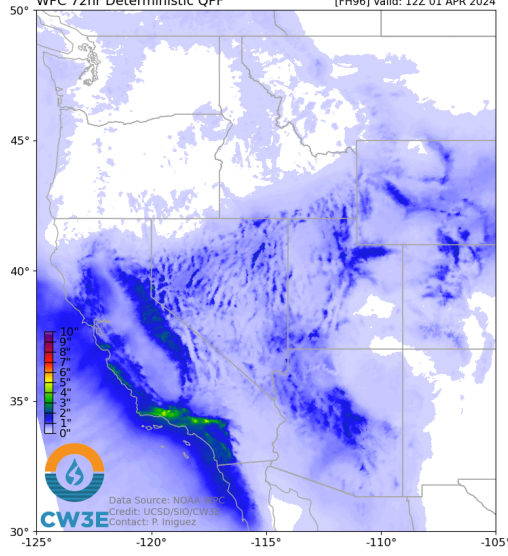
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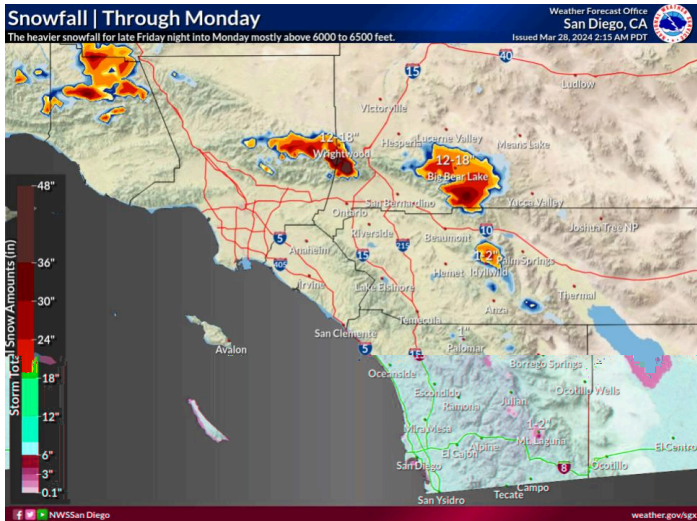
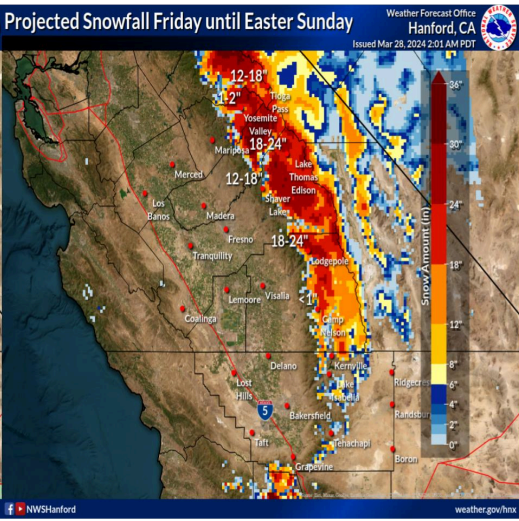
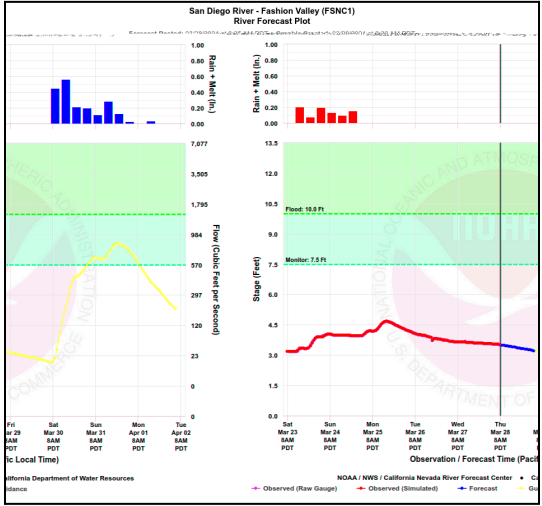
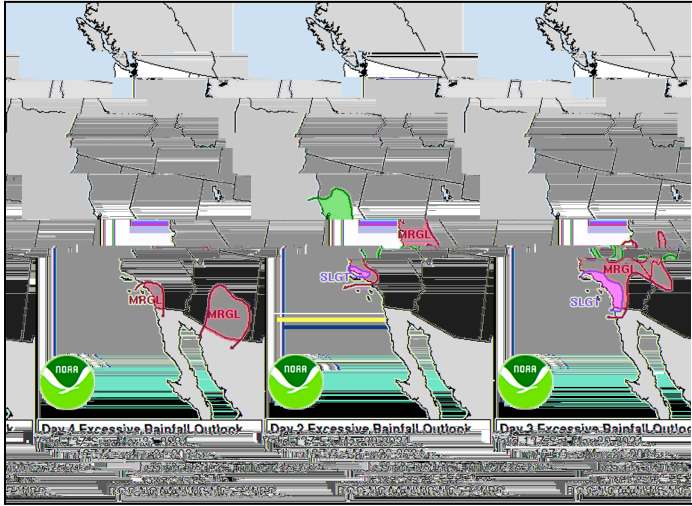


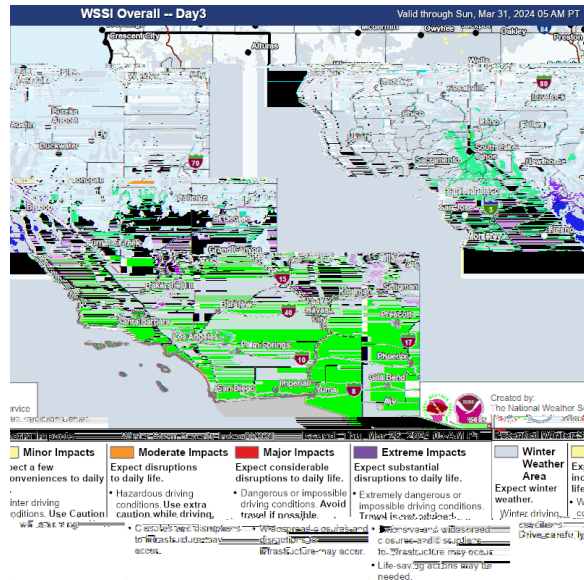
Maximum Forecast AR Scale



WPC 72hr Deterministic QPF







Additional Considerations:

- Visit cnrfc.noaa.gov/ and cbrfc.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:
<https://cw3e.ucsd.edu/iwv-and-ivt-forecasts/>

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