## Latest update on Atmospheric River Forecast to impact most of California this Week
*Updated: 12 Feb. 2019*

Global forecast models indicate the potential for a strong atmospheric river to make landfall in Southern California as early as Wednesday, Feb. 13.

Forecast Highlights:

- The AR is forecast to make landfall over Northern CA this afternoon before making landfall over Southern California tomorrow morning.

- Models currently suggest maximum integrated vapor transport (IVT) magnitudes could be >750 kg m$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$ (strong) over a large portion of coastal Southern California

- The current forecast AR magnitude and duration from this event would equate to an AR-Cat 4 event over California based on the recently published AR Category Scale (Ralph et al. 2019)
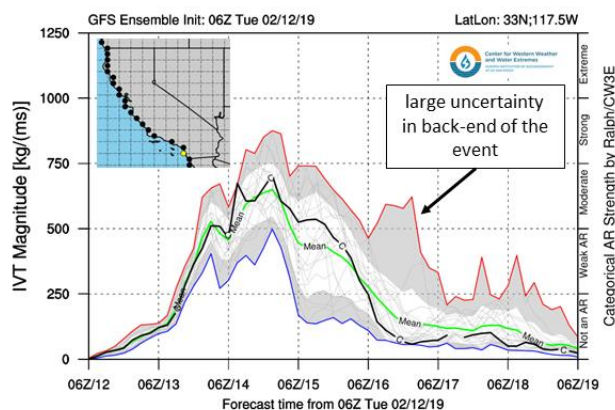


GFS Ensemble Forecast IVT Magnitude for San Diego County
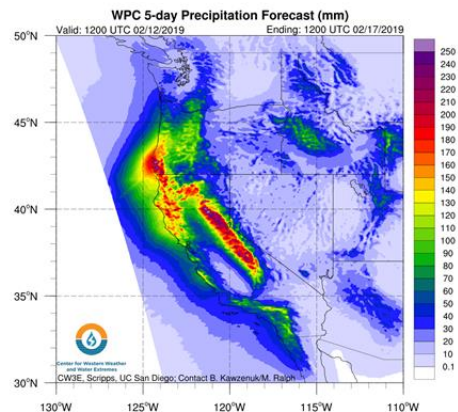


WPC 5-day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast valid 12Z 12 Feb (4 AM) to 12Z 17 Feb (4 AM)

*Large ensemble variability in IVT magnitude at the end of the event introduces uncertainties in the overall duration of the event.*

- NOAA Weather Prediction Center is currently forecasting as much 3–7 inches of precipitation over high elevations during the next 5-days.
- Higher precipitation amounts are forecast for Northern California as the parent low-pressure system associated with this AR is forecast to move inland and remain situated over N. CA for ~48 hours

Additional Considerations:

- High freezing-levels (~4,000 feet), combined with the recent heavy snowfall in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, increases the potential for rain on snow at lower levels and introduces the concern for high run-off and flooding in the Central Valley and Sierra Foothills

- Visit https://cnrfc.noaa.gov/ for specific river and stream forecast and weather.gov for point specific watches and warnings

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In-depth AR forecasts products can be found here:
http://cw3e.ucsd.edu/iwv-and-ivt-forecasts/

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**Stay tuned to the CW3E webpage for a full AR Update**