

## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MISSION

The National Weather Service mission is to provide weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas for the protection of life and property, and the enhancement of the national economy.



The National Weather Service (NWS) is a federal agency under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is part of the Department of Commerce (DOC).

NOAA/National Weather Service  
Weather Forecast Office Los Angeles/Oxnard  
520 North Elevar Street  
Oxnard, California 93030

(805) 988-6615

[www.weather.gov/losangeles](http://www.weather.gov/losangeles)

NOAA/National Weather Service  
Weather Forecast Office San Diego  
11440 West Bernardo Court, Suite 230  
San Diego, California 92127

(875) 675-8700

[www.weather.gov/sandiego](http://www.weather.gov/sandiego)

NOAA/National Weather Service  
California-Nevada River Forecast Center  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Room 227  
Sacramento, CA 95821-6373

(916) 979-3056

[www.cnrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov)

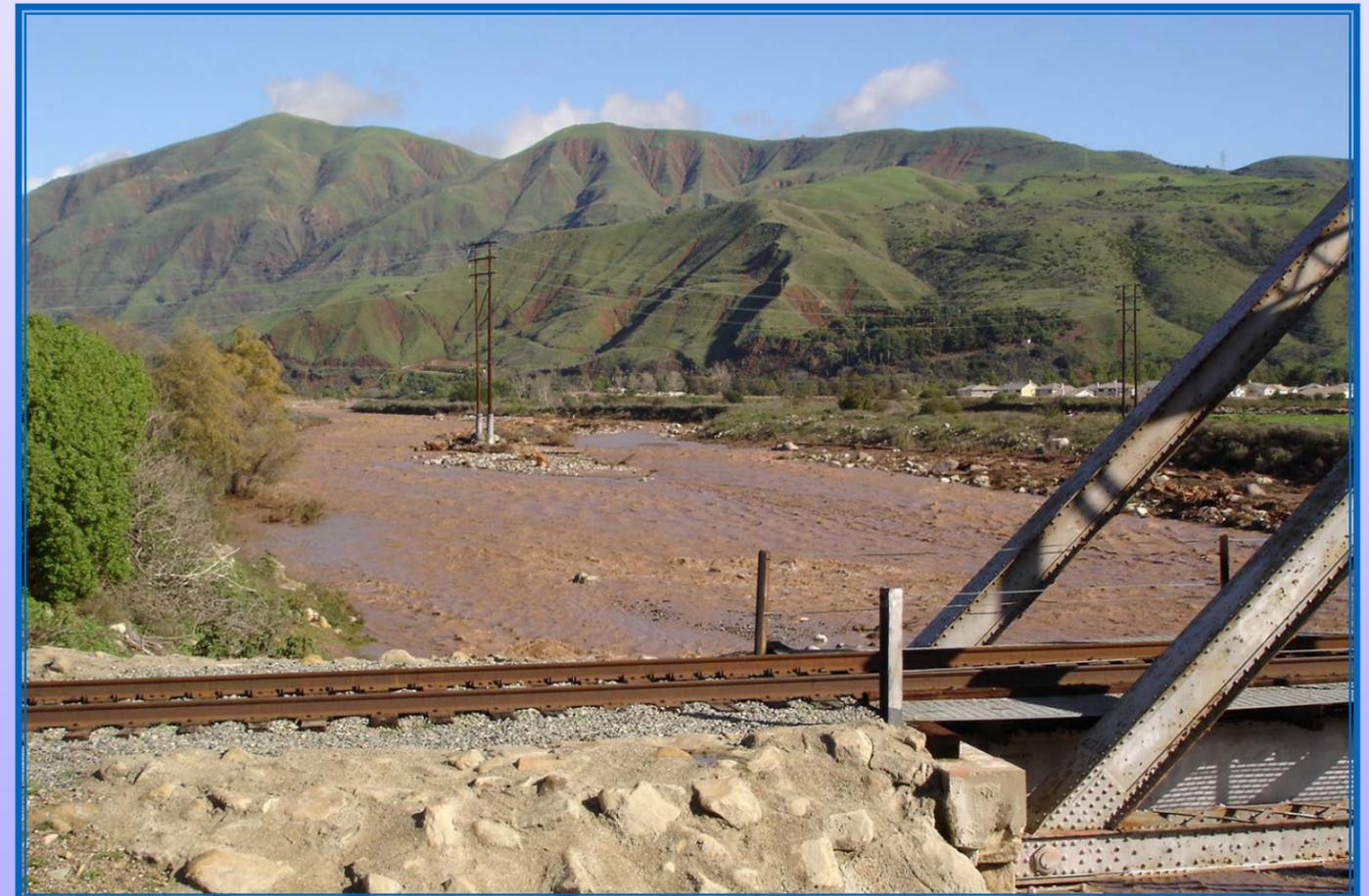
**Water Predictions  
for  
Life Decisions**



*The National Weather Service*

# ADVANCED HYDROLOGIC PREDICTION SERVICE

*for Southern  
California*



*Sespe Creek near Fillmore*

# Hydrologic Services

An agency within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Weather Service (NWS) is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States. As a key part of the NWS charter to protect life and property, the NWS Hydrologic Services Program focuses on providing forecasts, watches and warnings for river and flash flooding. The Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC) prepares and issues national forecasts of accumulating (quantitative) precipitation, heavy rain, heavy snow, and highlights areas with the potential for flash flooding.

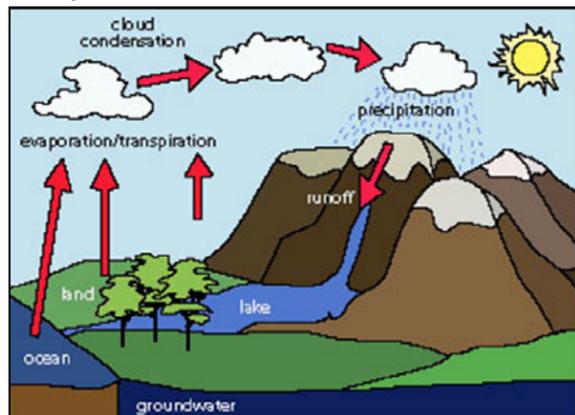
[www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/](http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/)

The California-Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC) provides continuous hydro-meteorological data assimilation, river basin modeling, and hydrologic forecast preparation for California and Nevada.

[www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/](http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/)

## WHAT IS HYDROLOGY

Science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water on and below the earth's surface and in the atmosphere.



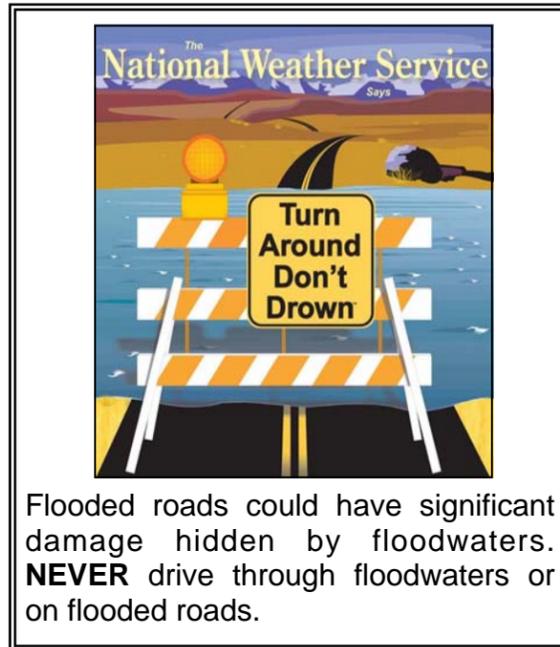
The Water Cycle

## ADVANCED HYDROLOGIC PREDICTION SERVICE (AHPS)

The Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) is a web-based suite of information-rich graphical forecast products. These products enable emergency managers to make informed decisions about risk based policies and actions to mitigate the dangers of flooding.

AHPS products cover forecast periods ranging from hours to months, including graphical information about the chances of flooding. The hydrograph information shows the probability of a river reaching minor, moderate, or major flooding.

Additional information on AHPS can be found at: [www.weather.gov/ahps/](http://www.weather.gov/ahps/)



Flooded roads could have significant damage hidden by floodwaters. **NEVER** drive through floodwaters or on flooded roads.



Flash flooding near Borrego Springs, CA

## DROUGHT

Drought is a normal, recurrent feature of climate. It occurs almost everywhere, although its features vary from region to region. Defining drought is therefore difficult; it depends on differences in regions, needs, and disciplinary perspectives.

For more information on drought, please visit:

[www.drought.noaa.gov/](http://www.drought.noaa.gov/)

[www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html)



Flood forecasts are produced for 11 locations throughout Southern California by the California-Nevada River Forecast Center.



Calleguas Creek Stream gage

Mojave River Stream Gage

<http://ahps2.wrh.noaa.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=lox>

<http://ahps2.wrh.noaa.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=sgx>

## NOAA/USGS DEBRIS FLOW EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM

Once the smoke clears from a wildfire, the danger is not over!! Other hazards, such as flash floods and debris flows, now become the focus. Areas recently burned by wildfires are particularly susceptible to flash floods and debris flows during rainstorms.

The National Weather Service (NWS) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have established a flash-flood and debris-flow early-warning system for recently burned areas in southern California. Advisory Outlooks, Watches and Warnings are then disseminated to emergency management personnel.



To find out more about this project visit:

[www.weather.gov/losangeles/debris\\_flow.php](http://www.weather.gov/losangeles/debris_flow.php)



Country Club Drive - Burbank, CA

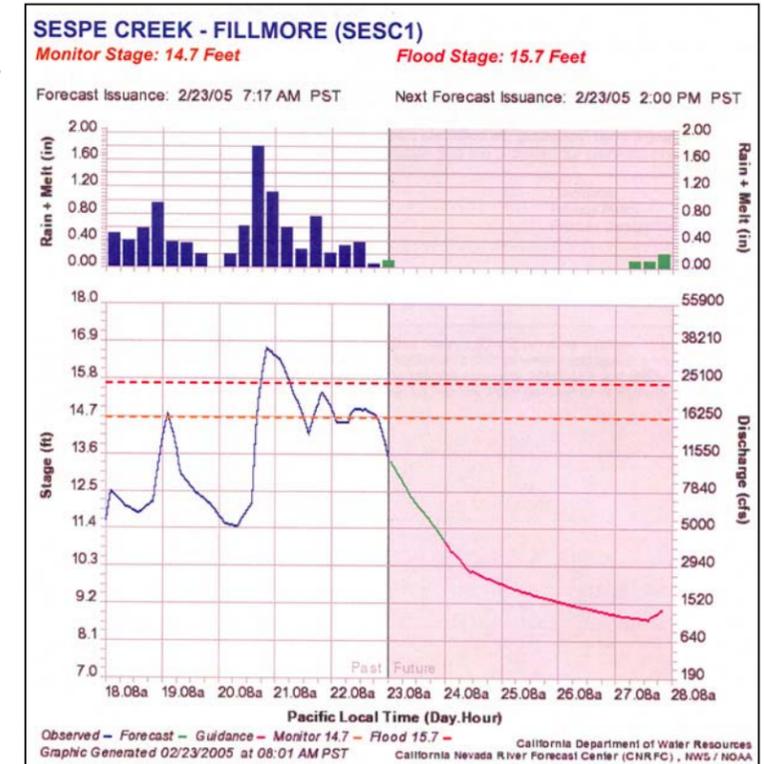
## QUANTITATIVE PRECIPITATION FORECASTS (QPF)

The National Weather Service (NWS) issues site-specific rainfall forecasts during the rainy season for areas within Southern California. The products include a precipitation forecast in inches for the next 24 hours as well as a synopsis and day 1 and day 2 discussion. The products are issued seasonally from November 1st to April 30th.

[www.weather.gov/losangeles/hydrology.php](http://www.weather.gov/losangeles/hydrology.php)

[www.wrh.noaa.gov/sgx/hydro/hydro\\_fcst.php?wfo=sgx](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sgx/hydro/hydro_fcst.php?wfo=sgx)

[www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/rainfall\\_data.php](http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/rainfall_data.php)



Sample river forecast showing observed rainfall and river stage on the left of the graph and a 5 day forecast for rainfall, snowmelt, and river stage on the right of the graph. Official river stage forecast is shown in green and 4 days of river stage guidance in magenta.

[www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/](http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/)