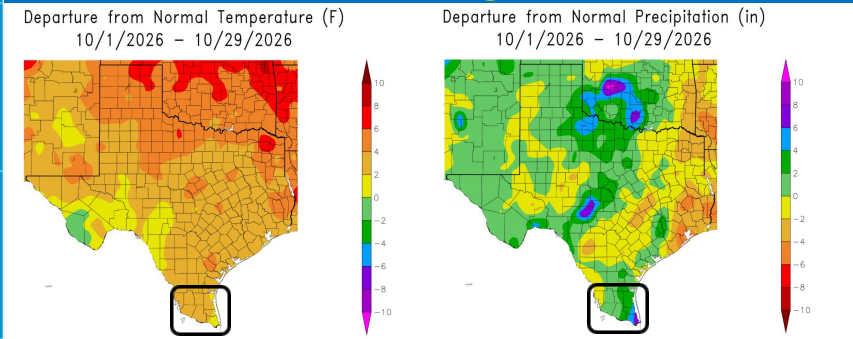
November-January 2026/2027 Outlook: Perspective for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas Region

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

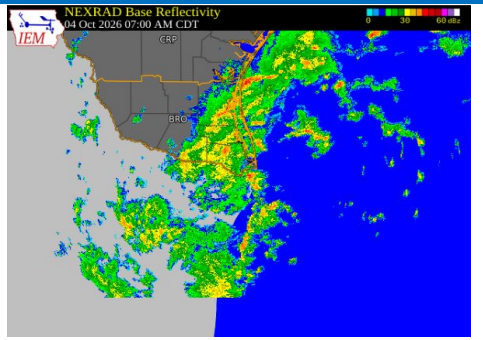
October 31, 2026

Andrei Evbuoma, Barry Goldsmith, & Rodney Chai
NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, Texas

Normal to warmer than normal conditions are favored through the remainder of the Fall into the upcoming Winter Season; mainly dry; marine/coastal, drought, fire weather, & water supply issues are in focus







October 2026: Top 5 Warmest and Top 10 Wettest On Record; Heavy Rain Early On Helped To Put Dent Into The Exceptional Drought

Maximum 29-Day Mean Avg Temperature for BROWNSVILLE S PADRE ISLAND INTL AP, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	82.9	2025-10-29	0
2	81.7	2026-10-29	6
3	80.6	2021-10-29	0
4	80.5	1962-10-29	0
5	80.4	2004-10-29	0
6	80.4	2023-10-29	0
7	80.3	2016-10-29	0
8	80.3	1919-10-29	0
9	79.5	1931-10-29	0
10	79.2	1984-10-29	0

Period of record: 1898-12-01 to 2026-10-29

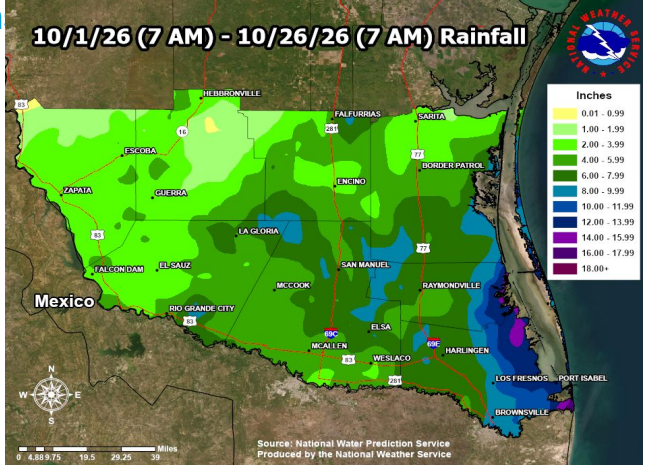
Maximum 29-Day Mean Avg Temperature for MCALLEN MILLER INTL AP, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

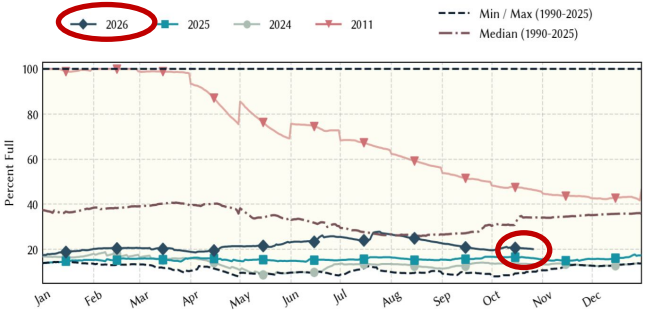
Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	83.7	2025-10-29	0
2	83.0	2016-10-29	0
3	81.7	2004-10-29	0
4	81.3	2026-10-29	1
5	81.0	2021-10-29	0
6	80.8	2015-10-29	0
7	80.8	2024-10-29	0
8	80.6	2009-10-29	0
9	80.4	1962-10-29	0
10	80.3	2019-10-29	0

Period of record: 1961-01-14 to 2026-10-29

- After months of intense heat and deepening drought, the heavens finally opened up in early October. An influx of deep tropical moisture from both the **Equatorial Pacific and Gulf source regions** coupled with a stalling frontal boundary over central Texas and multiple upper level disturbances resulted in rounds of showers and thunderstorms across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley.
- This wet pattern, which had El Nino written all over it, persisted for days (during the first week) in early October across the region. Respectable amounts of rain fell across much of the region with areas near the coast most favored (see top right map). Most areas saw anywhere from **3-8 inches of rainfall with locally higher amounts between 10-15 inches**, which again was located along/near the Lower Texas Coast.
- These rainfall amounts were not only well above the monthly average, but **helped to bring many locations closer to the seasonal and annual averages, if not surpass**. As of October 31st, Brownsville has **7.90" of rain for the month**, **4.15" above normal**. Harlingen's **7.87" of rain for the month** is **5.24" above normal**. Finally, McAllen's **3.65" for the month** is **1.61" above normal**. These amounts ranks amongst the Top 10 wettest on record for October.
- As far as temperatures, **October was a very warm month, top 5 warmest in many locations** (see table above).

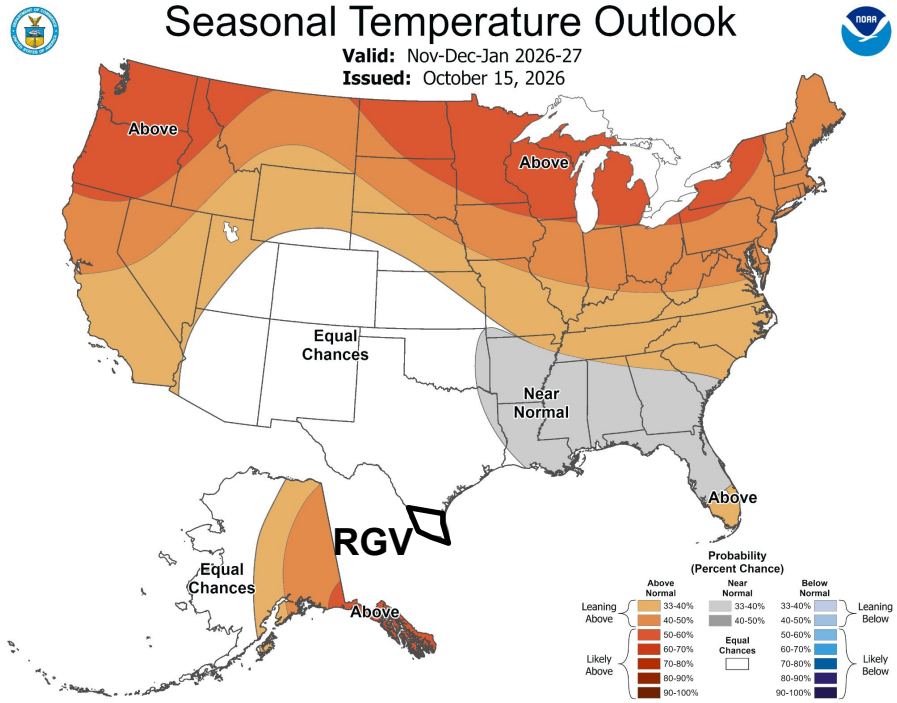


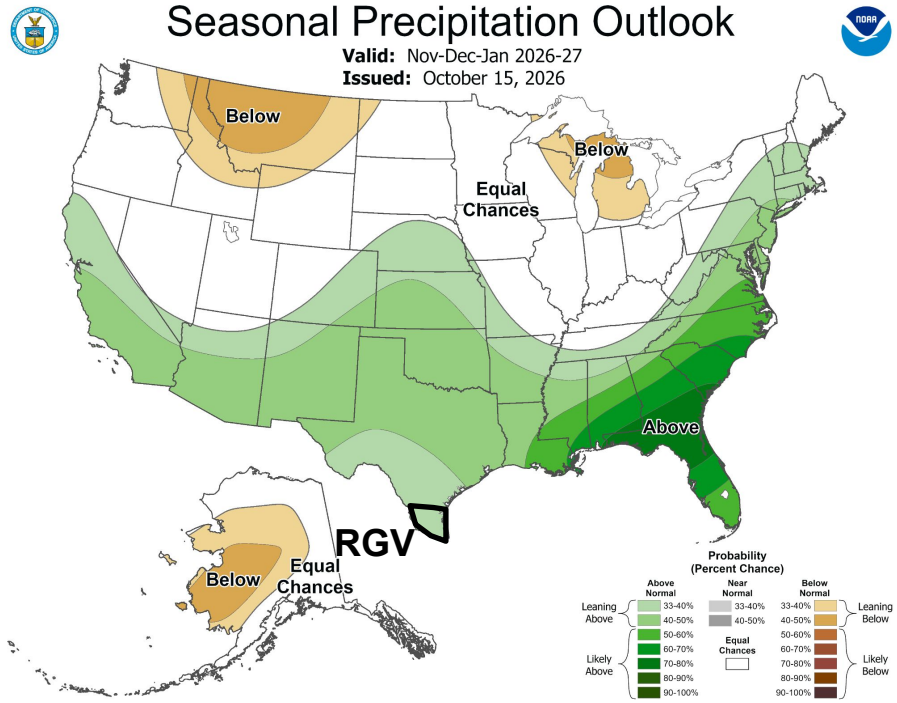
Top Image: Month to date rainfall footprint across Deep South Texas (from October 1-26, 2026). The heavy rainfall event that occurred early in the month (October 1-7, 2026) accounted for nearly 100% of our total rainfall for the month in many places and placed monthly averages well above normal levels.



Bottom Image: Latest data from the **Rio Grande Reservoirs (Texas Share)** indicates that October 2026 levels remained steady from late September and remains above 2025 levels. Month-over-month shares have remained steady from 20.0% to 20.1%. **Credit:** Texas Water Development Board

Seasonal Forecast, November 2026-January 2027 USA





<u>Confidence:</u> Equal Chances or "Toss-up" for **hotter, cooler, or normal temperatures** during the November-January (NDJ) period, <u>though odds more favor a normal to warmer than normal outcome vs a cooler than normal outcome</u>. **Low-Medium chances (20-40%) for a wetter than normal precipitation pattern** during the November-January (NDJ) period.

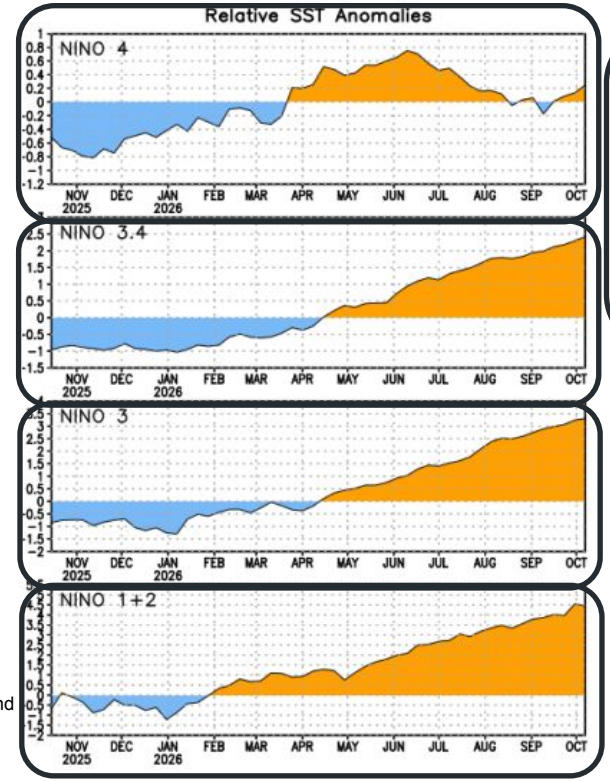
Key Takeaways: November 2026-January 2027 Outlook

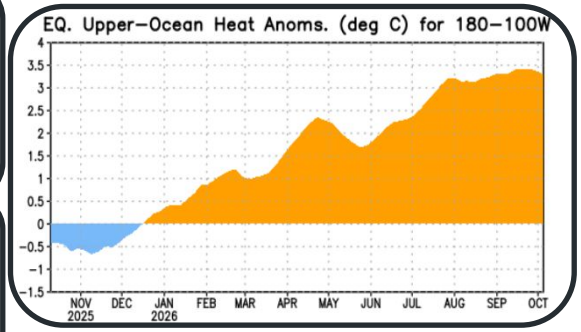
- There is a low-medium (20-40%) chance for a wetter than normal pattern during the **November-January period**. **Downsloping** is one of the primary reasons why we have lower confidence in a wetter than normal pattern. There is an equal chance for warmer, normal, or cooler than normal temperatures during the November-January period. **Note:** November is one of our fastest cooling months (where avg temps drop the fastest from the beginning to the end of the month). However, that said, **confidence** for a normal to warmer than normal pattern is **greater** than a normal to cooler than normal pattern for Deep South Texas/RGV during the November-January period.
- **Drought conditions** have improved across the RGV/Deep South Texas since late September due to the heavy rains that fell in early October. Drought conditions have since remained steady through the month of October.
- As of October 29th, **D1 (Moderate) Drought** to **D3 (Extreme) Drought** was reported across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley (see slide 8 for more information). Slight changes in drought conditions (either improvements or worsening) could take place through January with lower evaporation rates, mainly dry conditions, and a few shots of rain.
- Amistad Int'l Reservoir remained **at very low seasonal lows at the end of October**. **Confidence remains near-certain (~100%) on total storage remaining just above record lows through December.** Little change to slight decreases are possible by the end of November with limited rainfall expected.
- Cool fronts are expected to become more and more pronounced and frequent November through January. These cool fronts could result in an increase in coastal (tidal/surf) and marine (dangerous boating) situations as we progress through the Autumn Season and into the upcoming Winter Season.
- **One or two Texas Gulf Lows** may form behind these fronts along the Lower Texas coast, increasing strong northerly winds ('Northers') bringing rain with the chill - with temperatures potentially down in the low to mid 40s and wind chills between 30 and 35 in **December and January**. Slight icing is also possible, favoring the ranchlands.

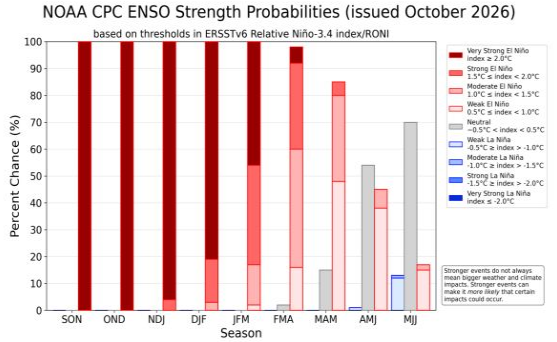
The "Why" of the Forecast: Very strong El Niño, topography, soil moisture, long-term trends, and other key climate teleconnections to play a role

- **A Very Strong El Niño (Nino 3.4 region temp of 2.5°)** is currently in place and is expected to persist into the **upcoming Winter Season**.
- Despite an El Nino pattern with the jet stream tracking across the Southern U.S., there are emerging concerns that **1)** downsloping (drying) off the Sierra Madre, **2)** our latitudinal position compared to the mean jet stream, and **3)** limited tropical moisture from the equatorial Pacific, could limit rainfall production over the region during the November-January timeframe.
- **Longer range climate models** are hinting at the **effects of downsloping** during the November-January period.

Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
2023	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.5
2024	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1
2025	-1.1	-0.9	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0
2026	-0.9	-0.8	-0.4	0.0	0.5	1.0	1.4	1.7				

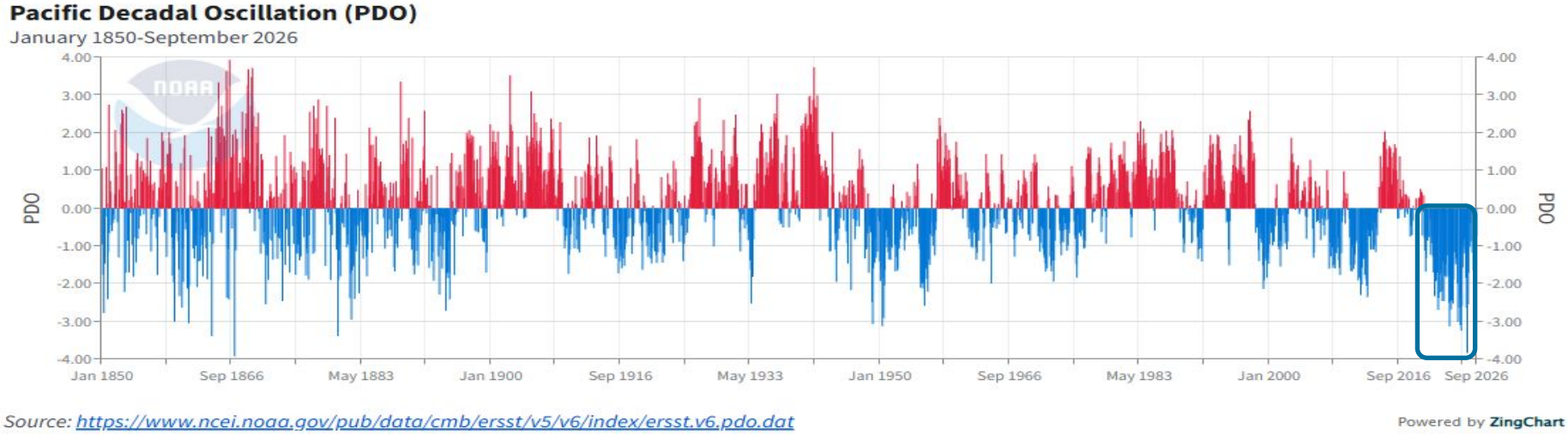






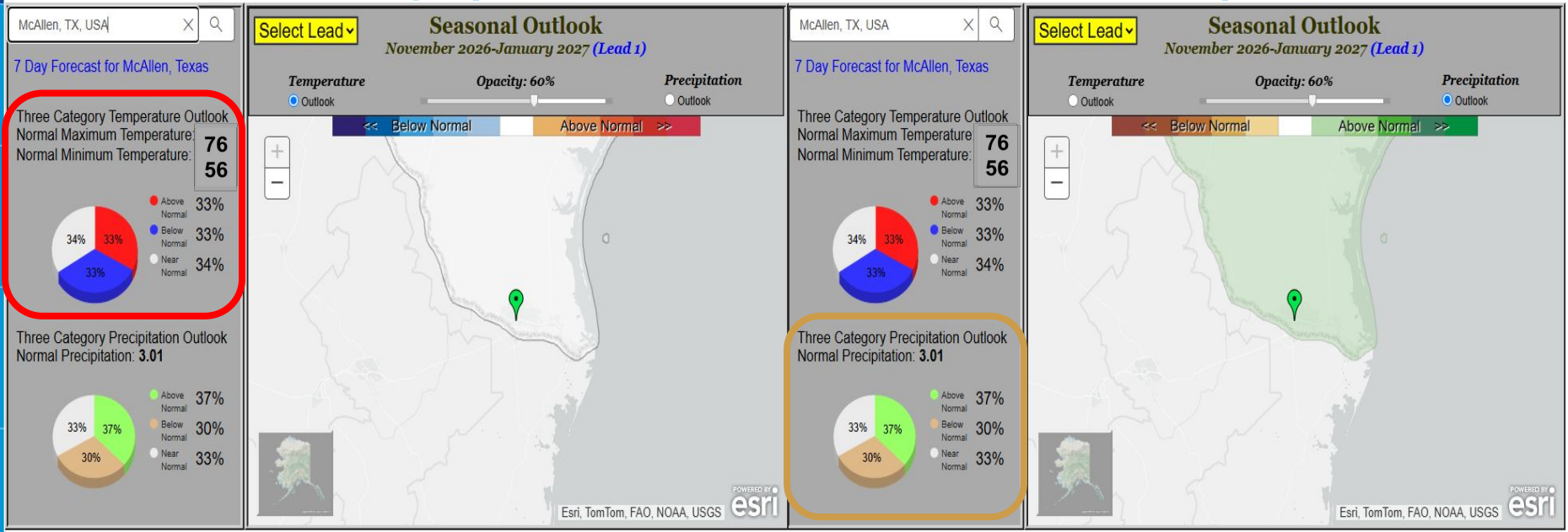
*Above right: Oceanic Niño Index. A weak to moderate La Nina has persisted through the second half of 2025 into early 2026. Values between -0.5 and -1.0 (blue) indicates a weak La Nina, and -1.0 and -1.5 a moderate La Nina. February-May 2026 ENSO Neutral conditions developed. Values between -0.5 and 0.5 (gray) indicates ENSO Neutral conditions. Just recently, El Nino conditions have quickly emerged and strengthened. Values between +0.5 and +1.0 (red) indicates a weak El Nino, +1.0 and +1.5 a moderate El Nino and above +1.5 a strong El Nino.

The “Why” of the Forecast: Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) remains in Sharp Negative Phase



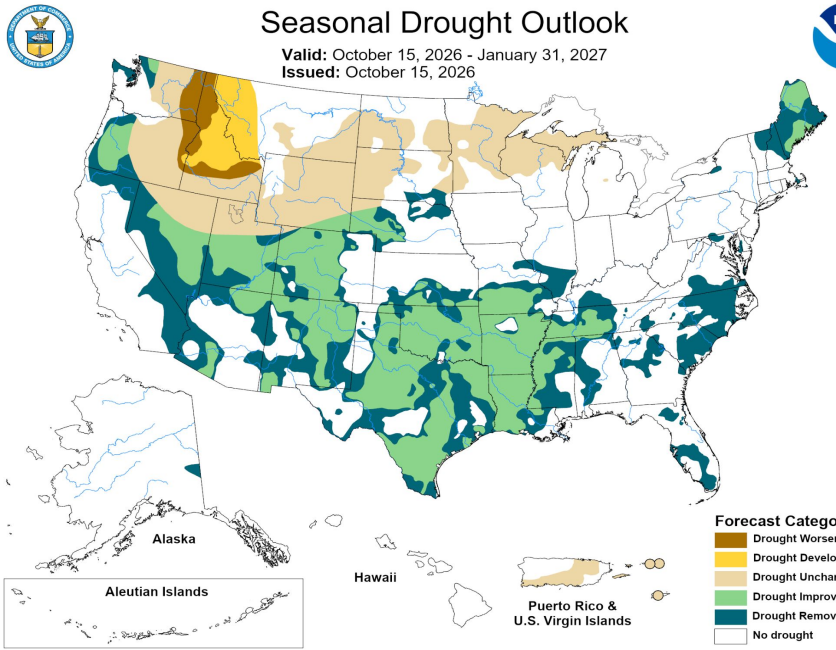
- The 2021-2026 **prolonged and strong negative PDO has persisted**, and will remain the case going into 2027. This **continues to support** the potential for a normal to slightly **warmer than normal pattern** to persist into early 2027.
- The sharply negative PDO also supports a potential for **drier than normal precipitation theme** during the November-January (NDJ) period.
- **Confidence remains high** for a negative PDO to continue through early 2027, with values closer to zero.

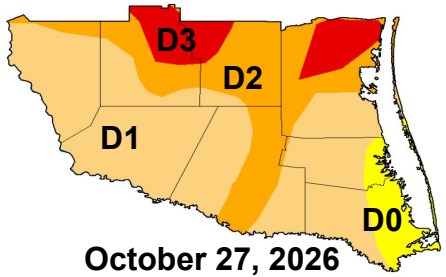
The November-January 2026/2027 Outlook: Rio Grande Valley (McAllen as Anchor Point)



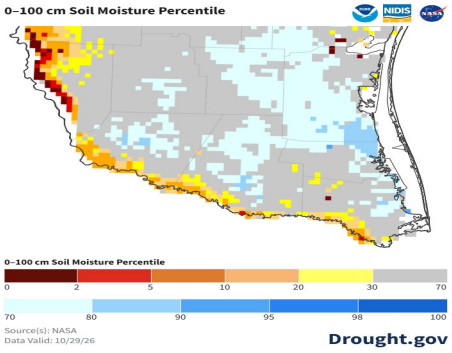
- **Temperature:** **Equal chances for warmer, cooler, or normal. Normal to warmer than normal is more favored than cooler than normal locally. Confidence: Low-Medium (30-40%).** RGV averages: Afternoon – Mid 70s to lower 80s through November; low-mid 70s December-January. Wake-up: Upper 50s to lower 60s through November; low-mid 50s December-January.
- **Precipitation:** **Slight lean towards a wetter than normal pattern. Confidence: Low-Medium (20-40%).** RGV averages: 3-5 inches (most in November).

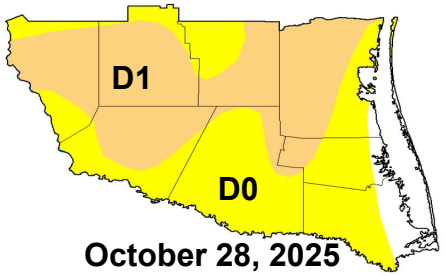
The November-January 2026/2027 "Droughtlook"





October 27, 2026



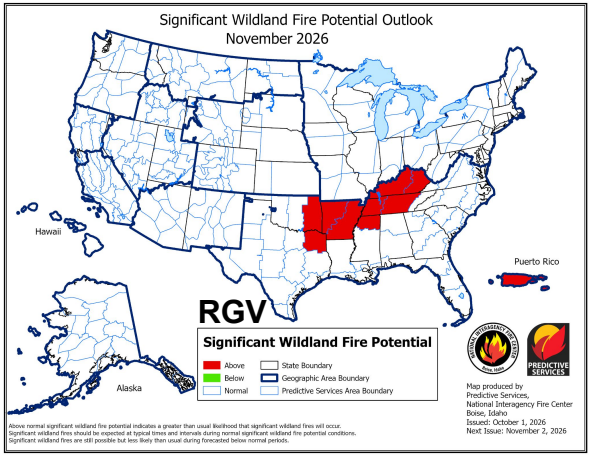


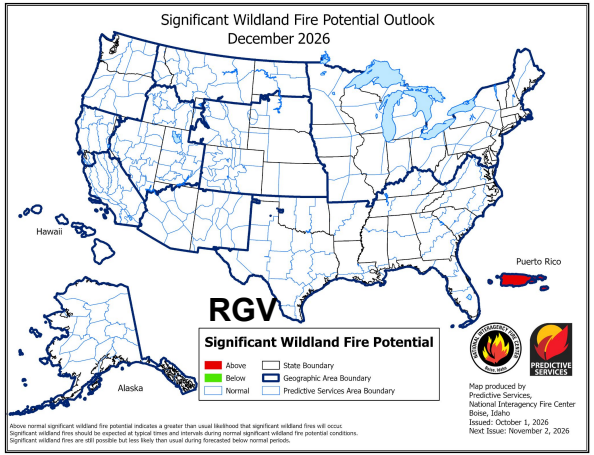
October 28, 2025

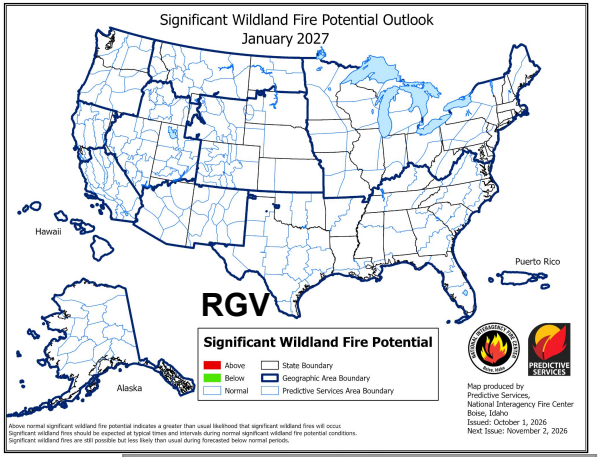


- **Heavy rainfall** in early October helped to improve the drought conditions from late September. For the most part, there was very little change in drought conditions from early October to late October. At the end of October, **about 37% of Deep South Texas** was under at least **D2 (Severe) Drought**, with about **10% of the area under a D3 (Extreme) Drought**. In contrast, last year had much less drought/dryness with mainly D0 (Abnormal Dryness) across much of Deep South Texas and D1 (Moderate) Drought found over much of the Northern Ranchlands.
- The NOAA seasonal drought outlook is calling for **drought conditions to improve during the November-January period** with a **slight lead towards wetter than normal** amid the **very strong El Nino**. **Confidence is low-medium (20-40%) however.**

Wildfire concerns increase slightly but will be limited to dry, cool frontal passages the next few months







- Wildfire spread concerns will **increase slightly** due to the shift towards a drier pattern November-January, **but will overall remain limited**. There could be periodic times of increased wildfire threats, **especially** behind dry cool frontal passages November-January.

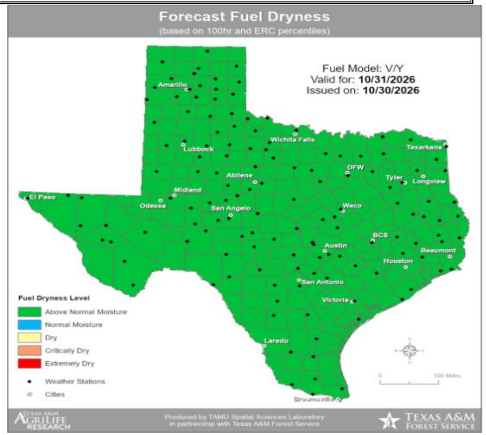
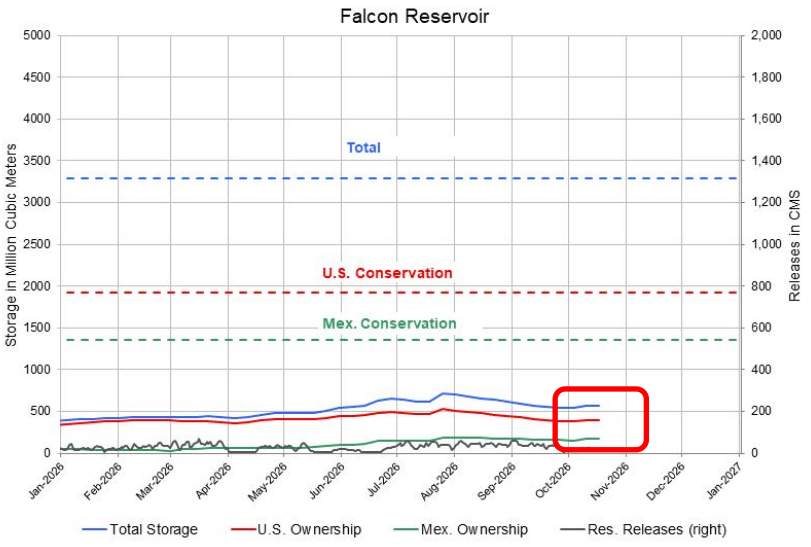
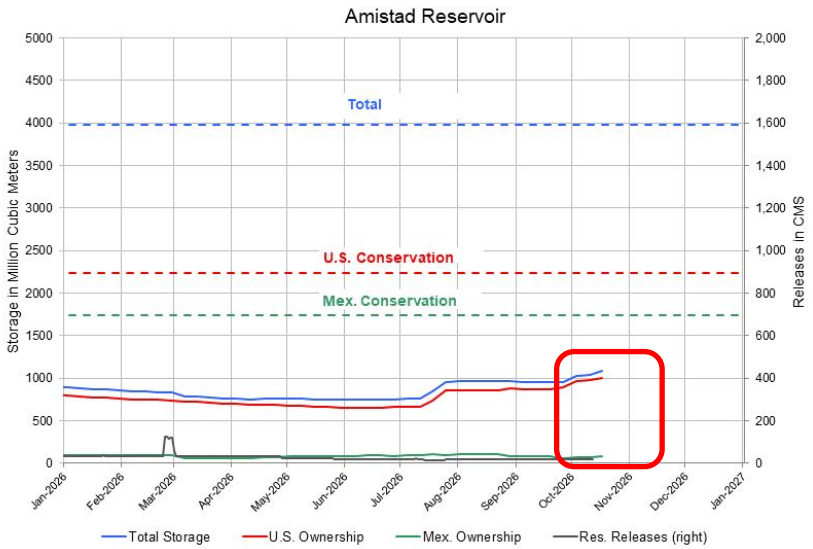


Image: This map depicts the latest forecast fuel dryness across Texas, which is above normal moisture levels.

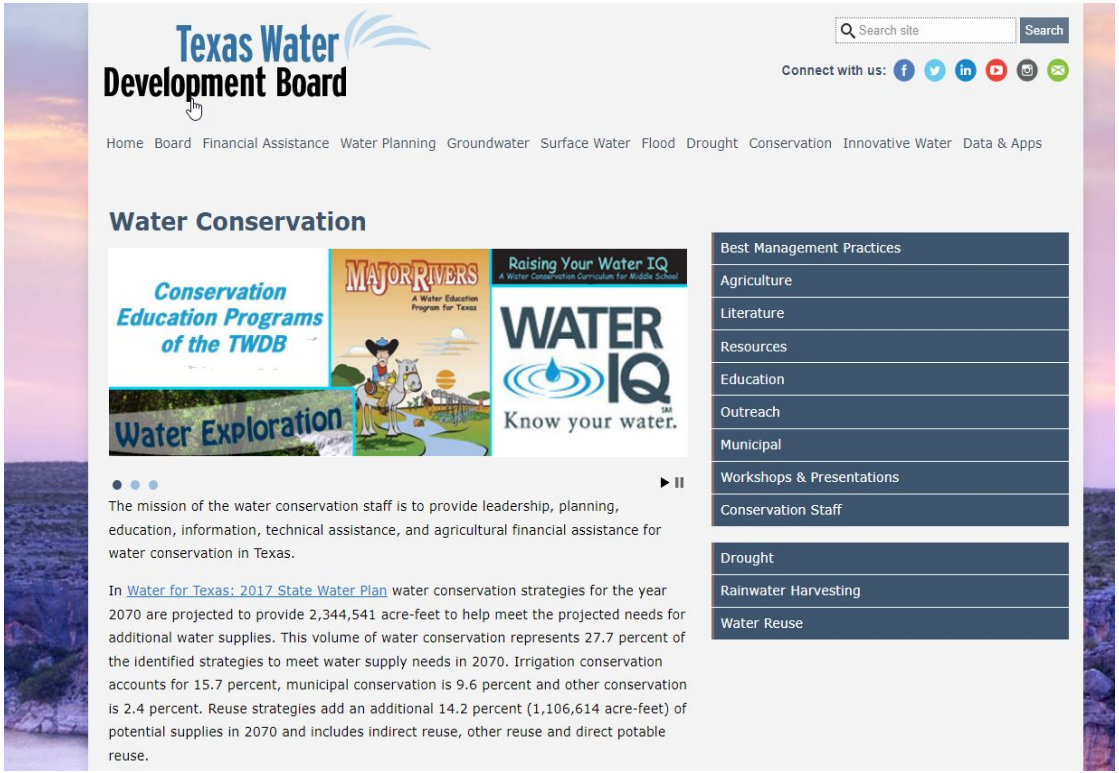
Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs (combined) will continue to remain just above record lows through the early 2027





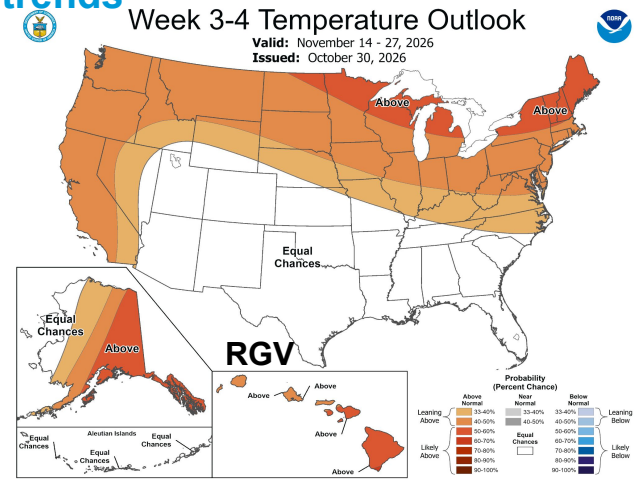
- **Falcon changed little at 16.7% as of October 30th** (about the same as the **16.7% from late September**). Levels should change little through January.
- **Amistad rose slightly, and still remains above the all-time record lows as of late October.** Levels were at **29.1% on October 30th** (a bit higher than the **24.0% from late September**). Levels should rise a little more into early November, then change little thereafter.

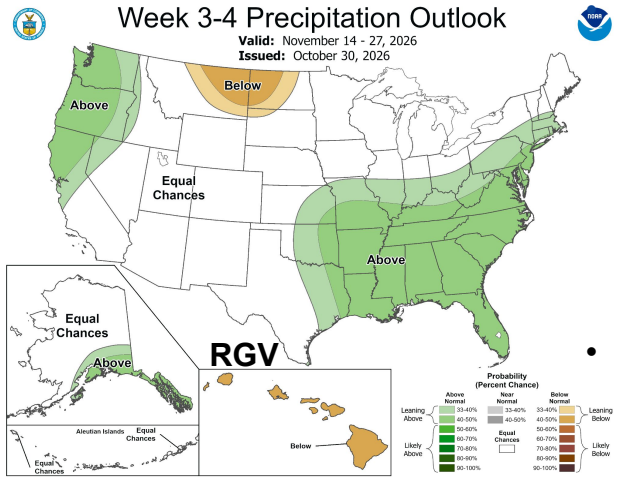
Water Conservation is Key Until Further Notice!

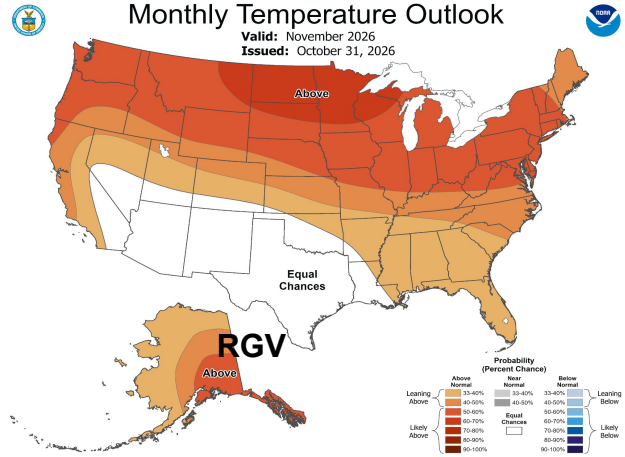


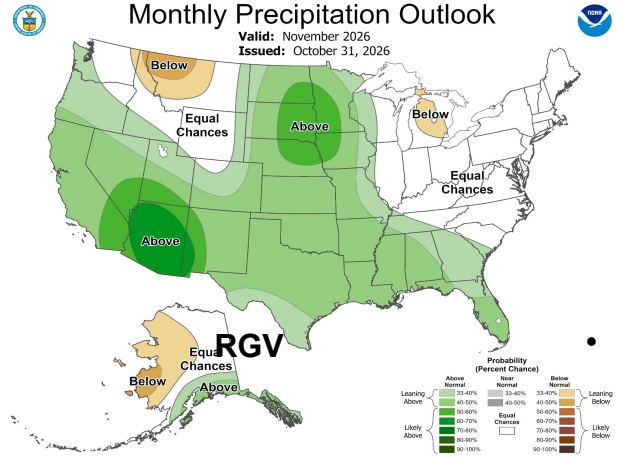
- "Stage 2/3" Restrictions will continue through Winter 2026/2027 (at least) in some areas, and are likely to continue **until further notice** based on inflows from Amistad and Falcon.
- Learn more at the Texas Water Development Board's Conservation Page.

November 2026: Normal to warmer than normal temperatures expected to continue with drier trends







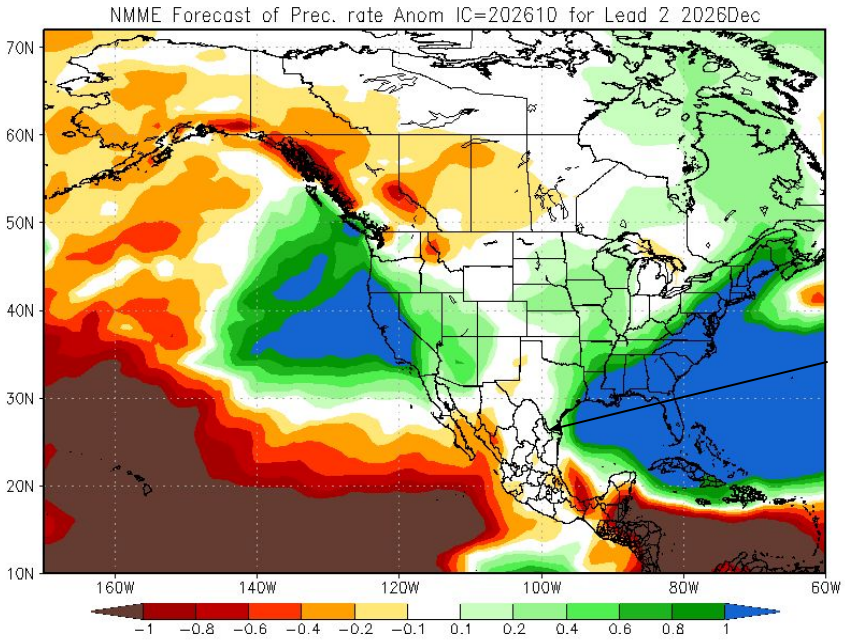


Equal chances for warmer, cooler, or normal temperatures are anticipated for November. Despite the toss-up in temperatures, we **favor** a normal to warmer than normal November compared to a cooler than normal November across the RGV/Deep South Texas.

- Meanwhile, we've shifted slightly towards a drier pattern beginning in November due to the concerns of **1)** downsloping/shadowing of storms tracking along the jet stream from California, **2)** a negative PDO, **3)** the northward placement of the jet stream in relation to Deep South Texas, and **4)** the limited occurrences of tropical moisture influx from the equatorial Pacific.
- Our **confidence** in a wetter than normal pattern is **low-medium (20-40%)** in November.

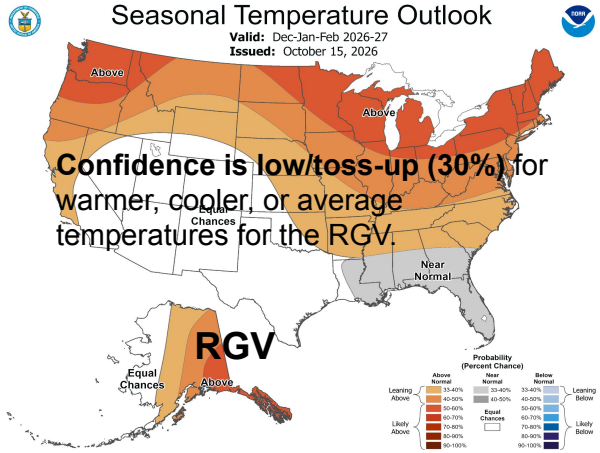
Early Look: December 2026

Potential rainfall rate anomaly, December 2026

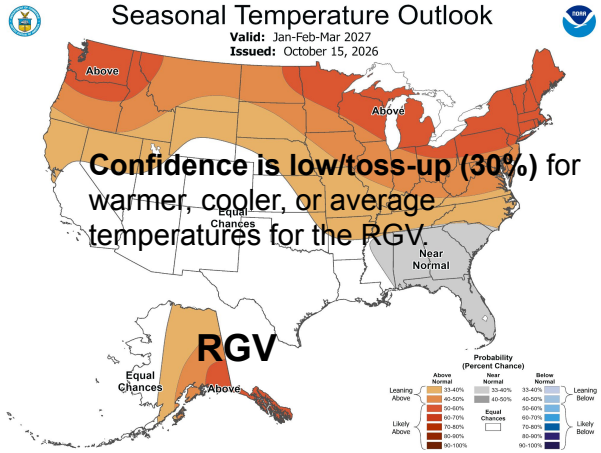


- This **climate model forecast for December** trimmed back on the confidence or probability of a wetter pattern than previous iterations. This is largely due to the combination of **1)** downsloping/shadowing (drying) from the Sierra Madre Oriental mountains, **2)** the mean jet stream track being north of Deep South Texas, and **3)** the limited amount of deep tropical moisture influx from the Equatorial Pacific.

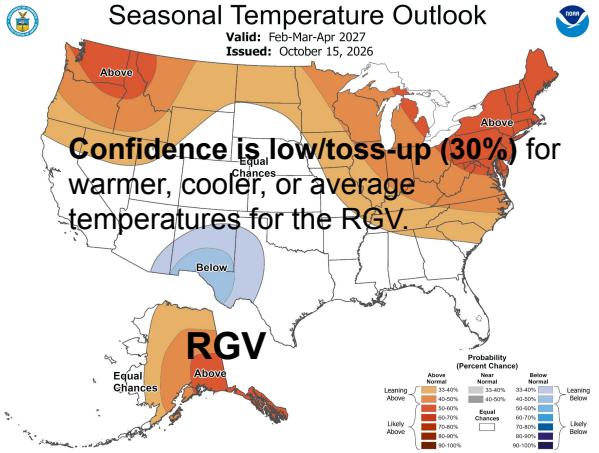
Winter 2026/2027 through Early Spring 2027: Drier trends with a near seasonable temperature pattern expected



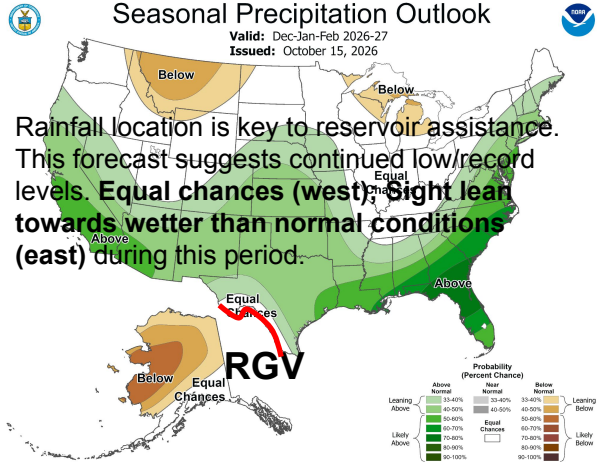
Confidence is low/toss-up (30%) for warmer, cooler, or average temperatures for the RGV.



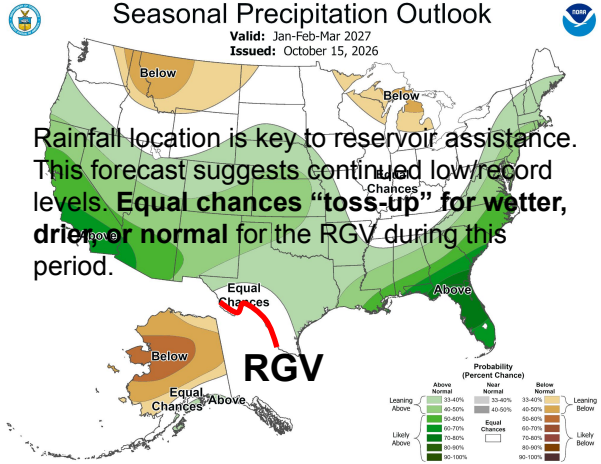
Confidence is low/toss-up (30%) for warmer, cooler, or average temperatures for the RGV.



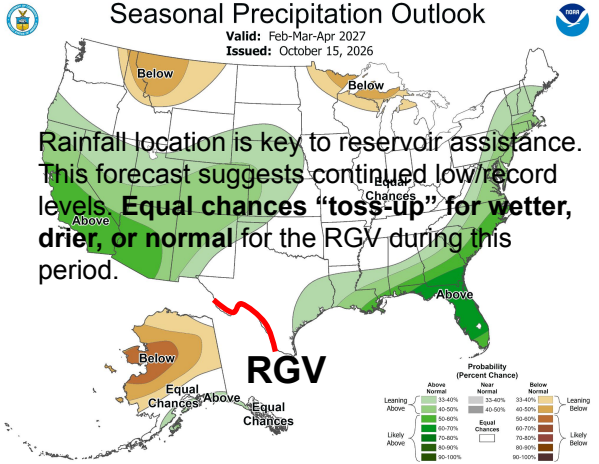
Confidence is low/toss-up (30%) for warmer, cooler, or average temperatures for the RGV.



Rainfall location is key to reservoir assistance. This forecast suggests continued low/record levels. **Equal chances (west); Slight lean towards wetter than normal conditions (east)** during this period.



Rainfall location is key to reservoir assistance. This forecast suggests continued low/record levels. **Equal chances "toss-up" for wetter, drier, or normal** for the RGV during this period.



Rainfall location is key to reservoir assistance. This forecast suggests continued low/record levels. **Equal chances "toss-up" for wetter, drier, or normal** for the RGV during this period.

Comparing similar strong/very strong El Nino episodes mostly within the last 30 years; November-January Periods

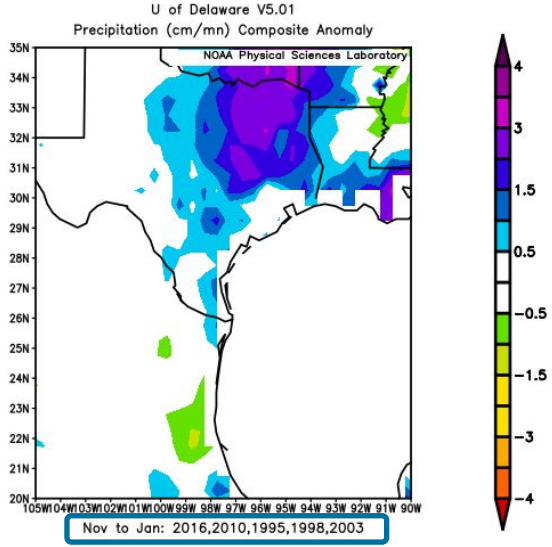
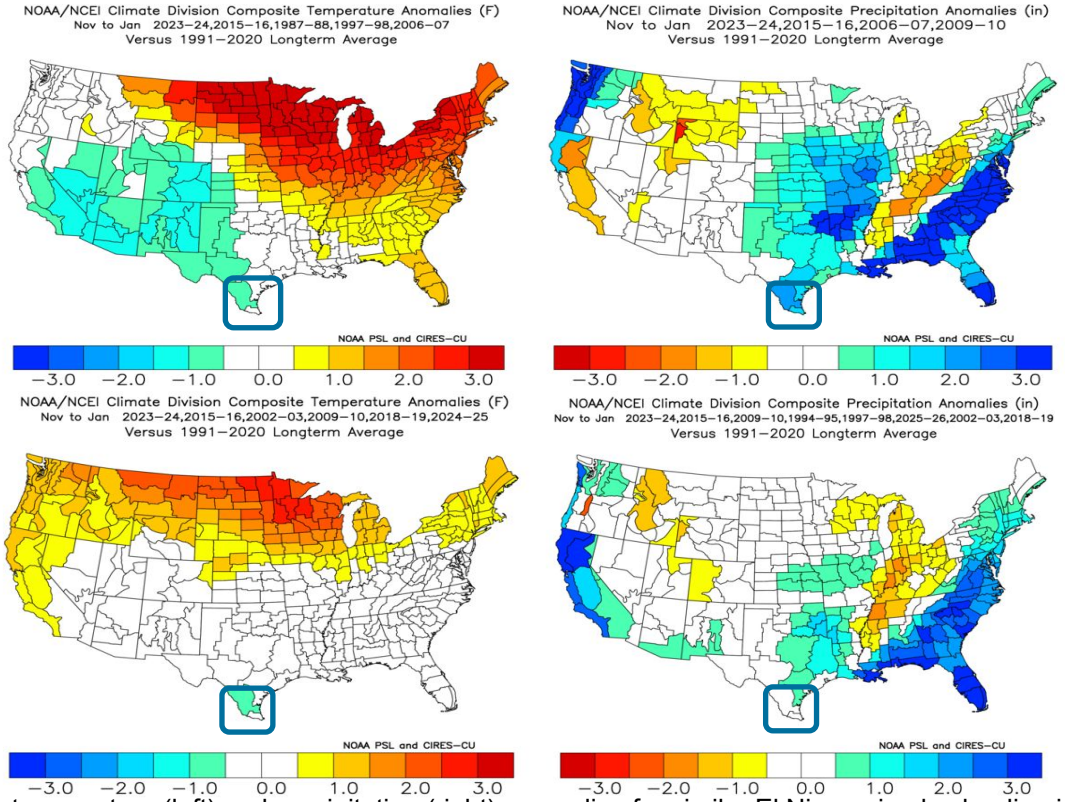


Image Above: Composite departure from average rainfall for years of similar El Nino episodes in the **November to January window**. **Note:** Map is not perfectly aligned with the shoreline in Texas/northeast Mexico.



- **Top:** Composite temperature (left) and precipitation (right) anomalies for similar El Nino episodes leading into November-January, since 1950.
- **Bottom Left:** Same, but took out the 1987, 1997, and 2006 seasons, and added 2002, 2009, 2018 and 2024 seasons.
- **Bottom Right:** Same, but took out the 2006 season, and added the 1994, 1997, 2025, 2002, and 2018 seasons.

Bottom Lines

- The combination of **1)** a negative PDO, **2)** increased potential for downsloping/shadowing, **3)** a storm track mainly north of Deep South Texas, and **4)** limited tropical moisture fetch from the Equatorial Pacific supports drier trends and therefore a **low-medium (20-40%) confidence** in a wetter than normal pattern November-January.
- Drought conditions have improved from late September, thanks to the heavy rains that fell in early October. Anywhere from **D1 (Moderate) Drought** **to** **D3 (Extreme) Drought** was reported across the region as of late October. The worst of the Drought (i.e. D3) was located over northern Kenedy, north-northeastern Jim Hogg, and northwestern Brooks counties. Drought conditions could improve in spots, worsen in others given the near equal chances for wet, dry or normal precipitation.
- Sufficient inflows from Mexican and International reservoirs serving the Lower Rio Grande watershed remain **unlikely.** The combined share of water **in Amistad and Falcon will likely to continue at or just above Stage 2/3 triggers (25% or less) until further notice.** Water conservation, smart irrigation, and rainwater harvesting are **critical actions to continue as we move through the remainder of the Fall into the upcoming Winter Season.**
- Cool fronts are expected to become more and more pronounced and frequent through December. These cool fronts could result in an increase in coastal (tidal/surf) and marine (dangerous boating) situations as we progress through the Autumn Season and into the upcoming Winter Season.
- **One or two Texas Gulf Lows** may form behind these fronts along the Lower Texas coast, increasing strong northerly winds ('Northers') and bringing rain with the chill - with temperatures potentially down in the low to mid 40s and wind chills between 30 and 35. Minor icing is also possible, especially over the ranchlands.