Drought Information Statement for Southwestern California

Valid May 5, 2025

Issued By: NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA

Contact Information: weather.gov/LosAngeles

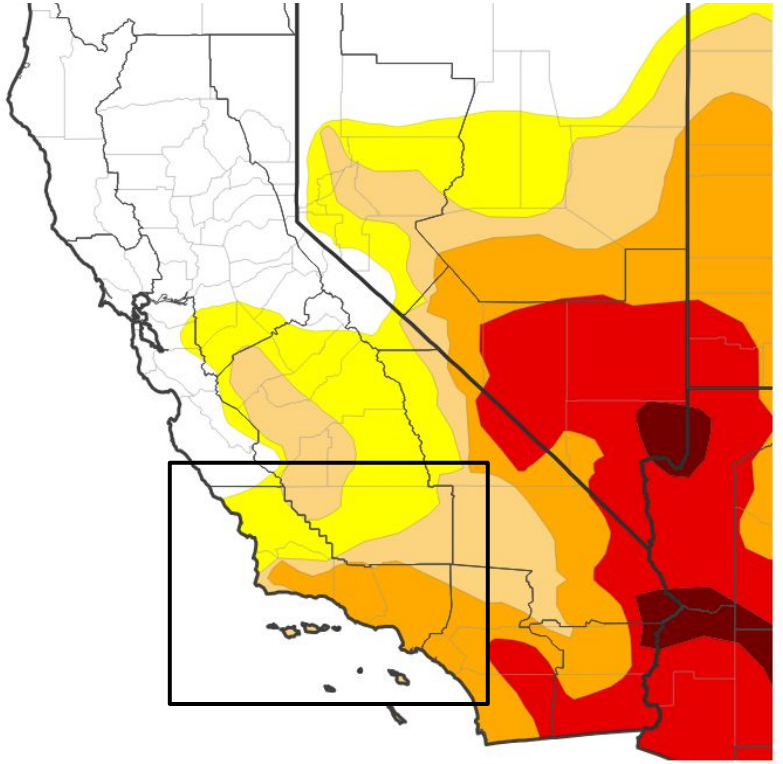
- This product will be updated June 5, 2025 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/LOX/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=136 for regional drought status updates.

- Dry conditions across southern California from May 2024 through January 2025 resulted in areas of D0 (Abnormally Dry), D1 (Moderate Drought), and D2 (Severe Drought) as shown on the U. S. Drought Monitor Map. Precipitation in February and March 2025 did bring some minor improvements to the drought depiction.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for California

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: None at this time
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: None at this time
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Portions of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles Counties.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Portions of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles Counties.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Small portions of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.

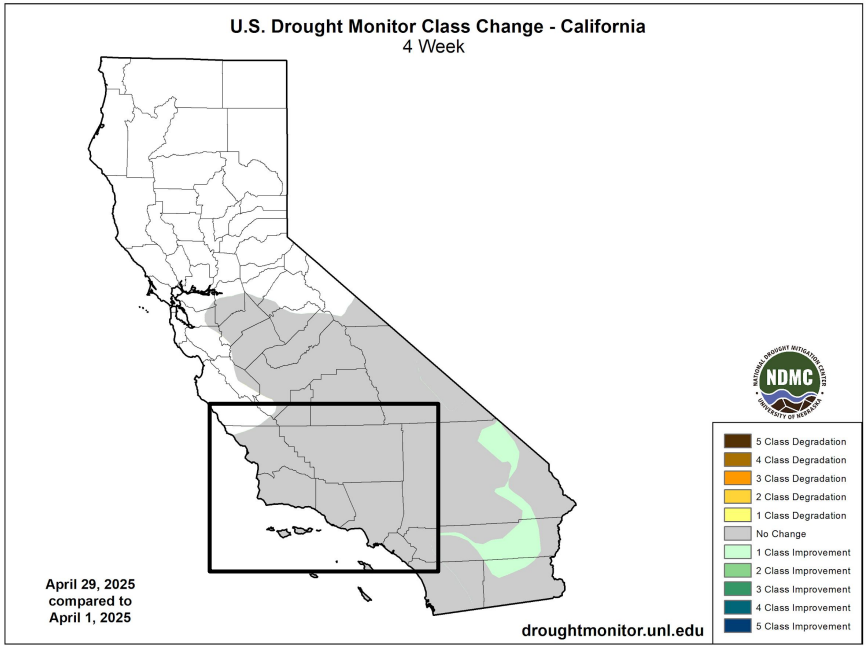


U.S. Drought Monitor

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for California and Nevada

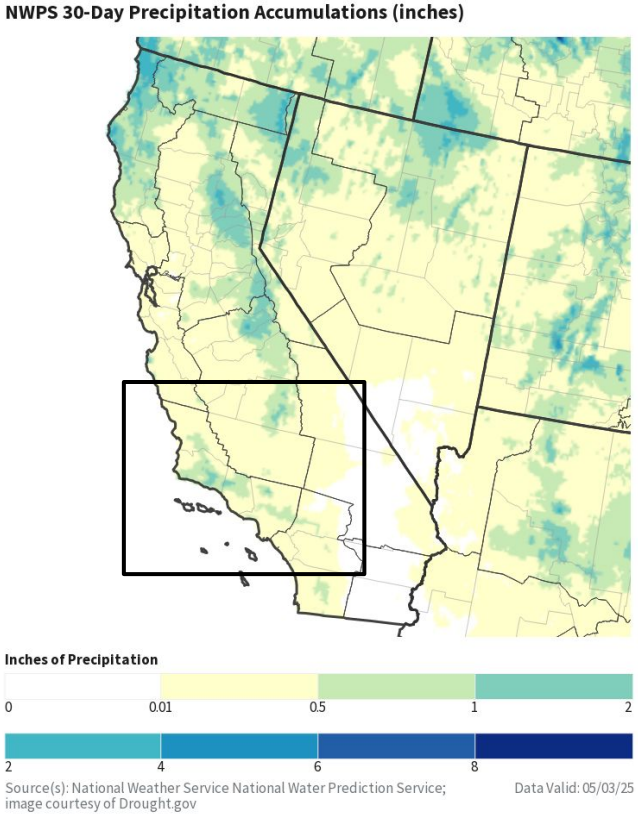
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - **Drought Worsened:** No degradation show in the area of interest over the past 4 weeks.
  - **No Change:** Areas shown in grey depict no drought monitor change in the past 4 weeks.
  - **Drought Improved:** Areas in green show 1 class of drought category improvement.

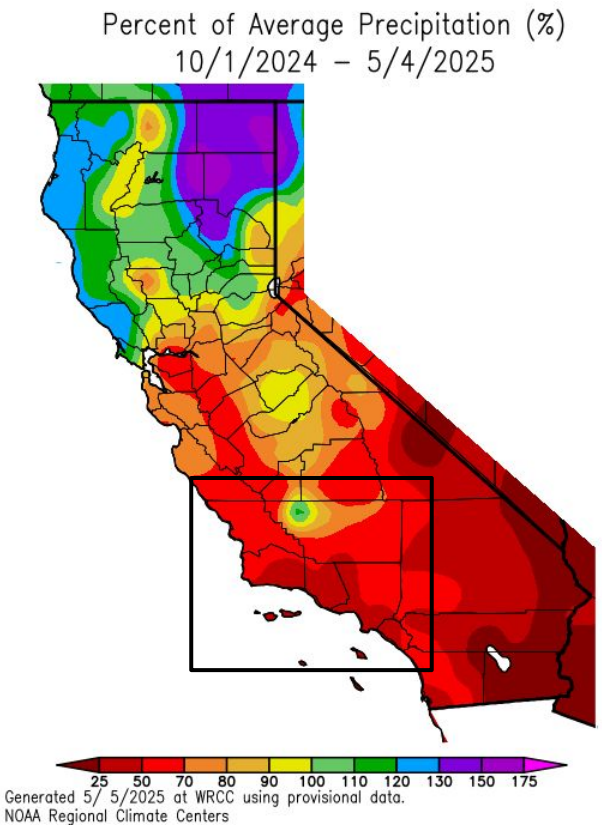


Precipitation

- Below normal precipitation has been observed across most of Southern California during the current water year (October 1, 2024 through May 4, 2025.

- Looking at the past 30 days of precipitation does show some areas across Southern California that have seen normal to below normal precipitation.

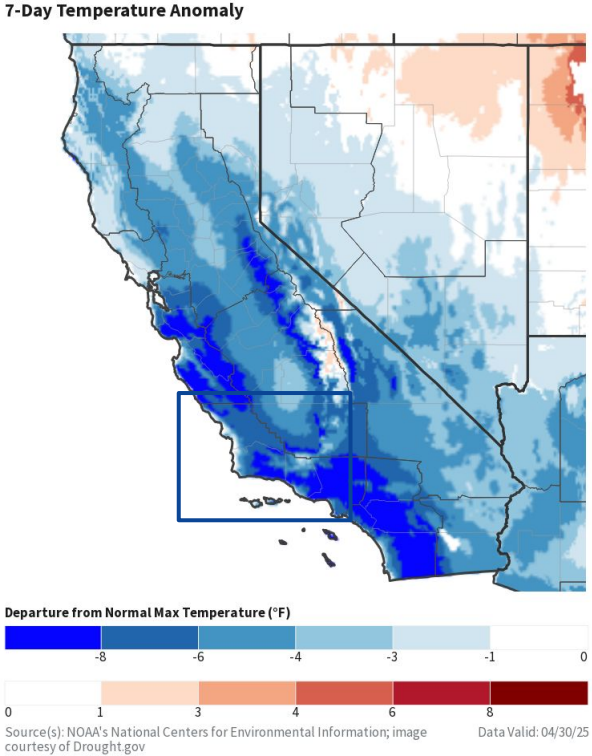


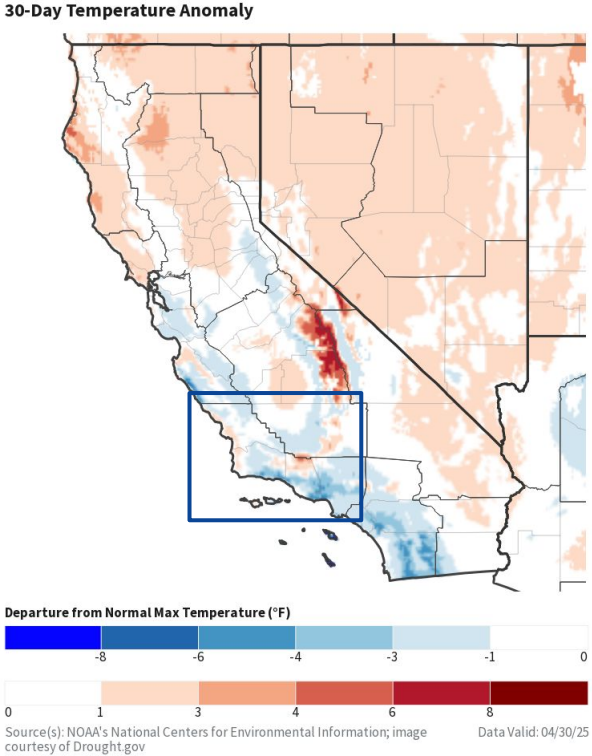


Temperature

Link to HPRCC

- The 7-day temperature anomaly shows below normal temperatures, while the 30 day temperature anomaly is showing most areas were slightly below normal in Southern California.





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) and view the Drought Impacts Reporter

Hydrologic Impacts

- Precipitation deficits over the past 9 months have resulted in in low soil moisture and below normal stream flow.

Agricultural Impacts

- Non-irrigated pasture lands have been impacted from below normal precipitation.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire weather impacts have been lessened due to precipitation across areas of Southern California early in the calendar year

Other Impacts

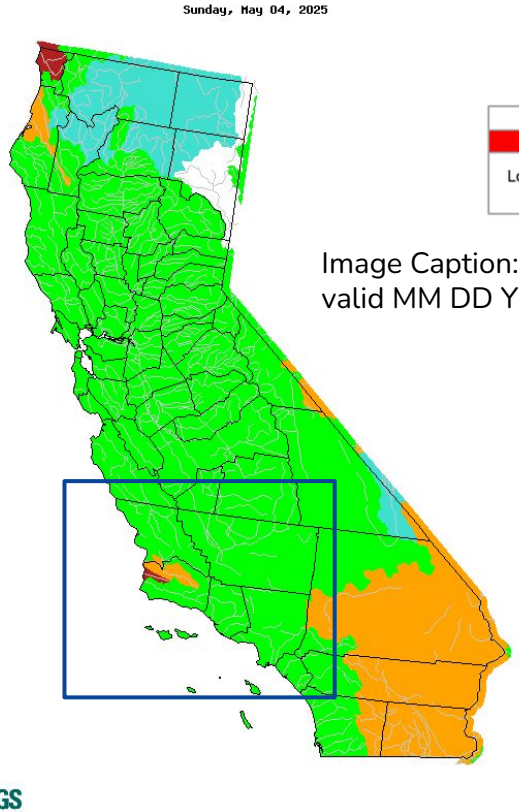
- None reported at this time

Mitigation Actions

- None reported at this time

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Generally normal streamflow conditions exist at this time across southern California



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid MM DD YYYY

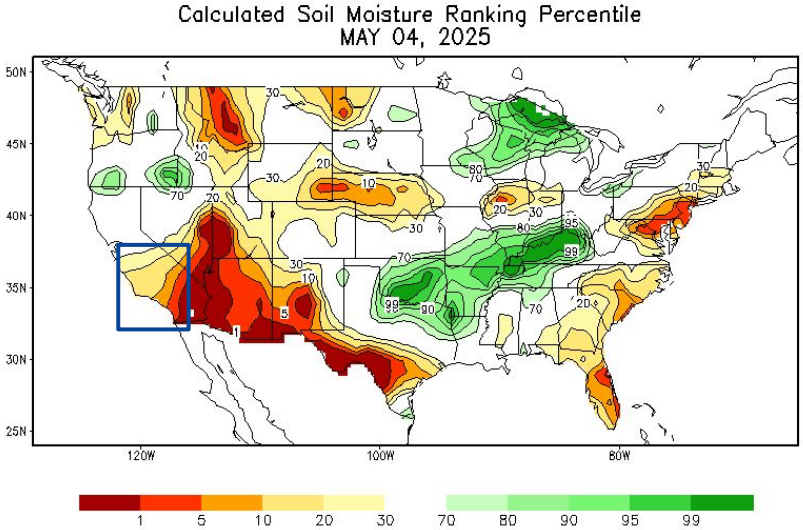
California snowpack
https://cdec.water.ca.gov/snowapp/sweq.action

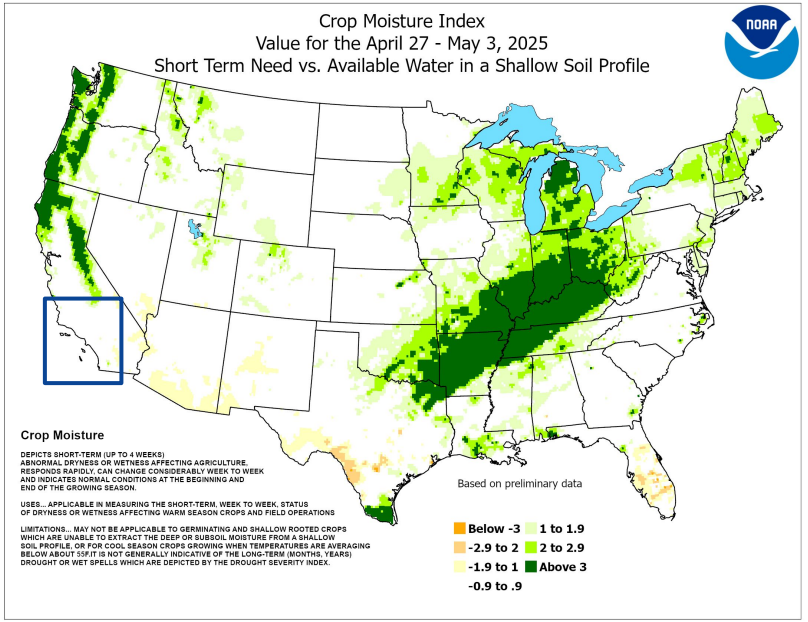
California water supply
https://cdec.water.ca.gov/resapp/RescondMain

Southern California water supply
https://www.bewaterwise.com/water_supply_conditions/water_supply_conditions.pdf

Agricultural Impacts

- Below normal soil moisture and near normal crop moisture exists across southern California at this time.

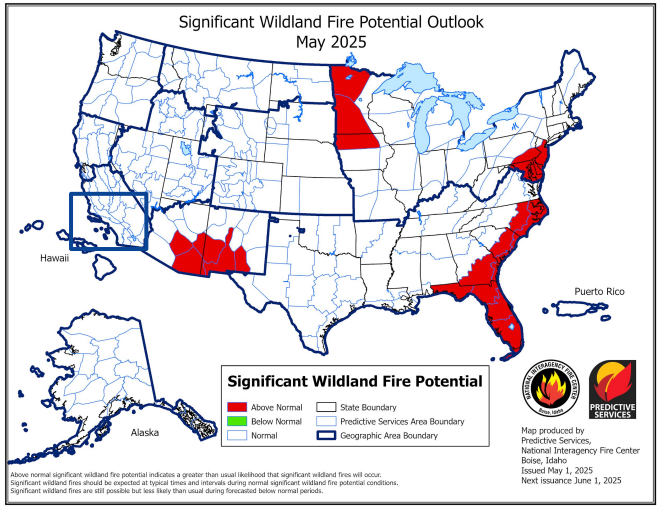


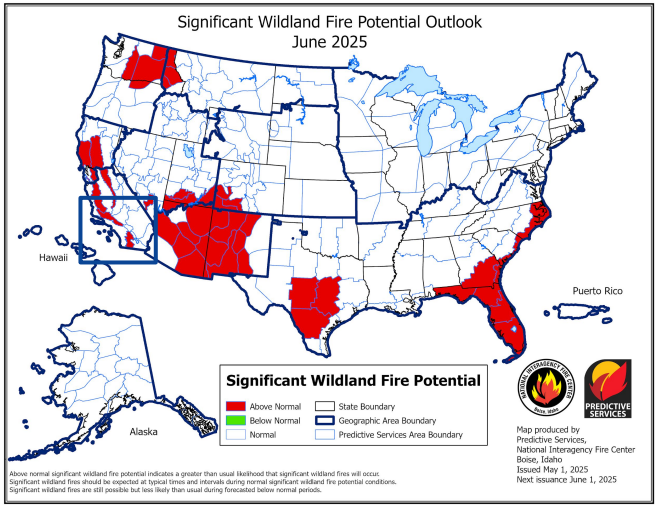


Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.]

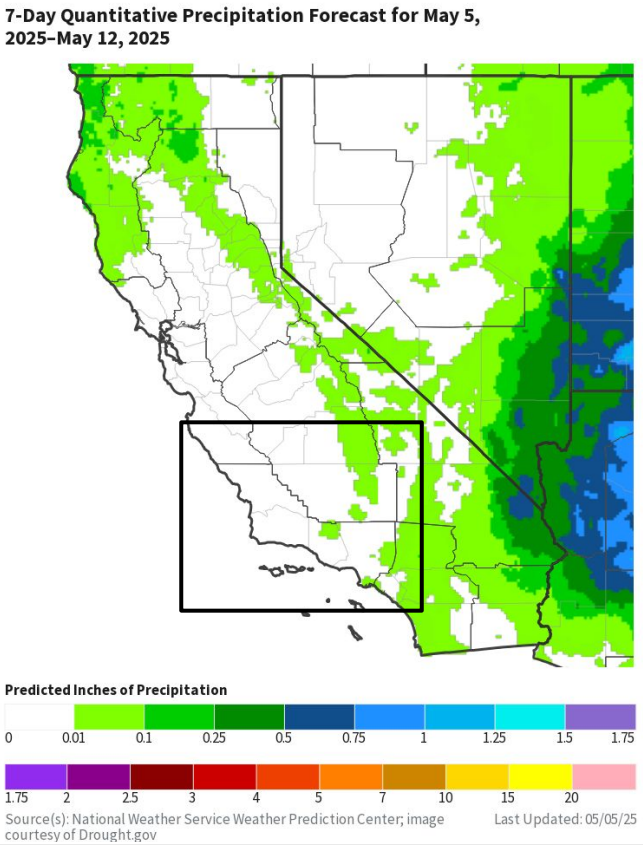
- Wildland fire potential has been lessened due to recent rainfall in late January and February but is projected to increase in June.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

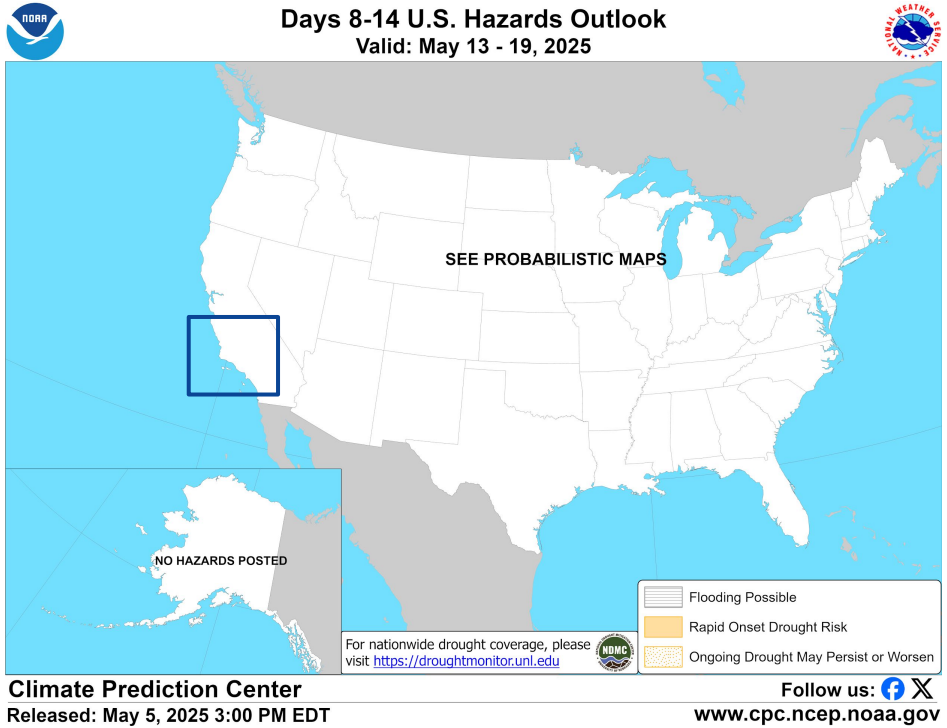
- Little to no precipitation is expected over the next seven days across areas of Southern California.



Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day Temperature Outlook and Precipitation Outlook.

- Ongoing drought conditions will most likely persist across southern California.

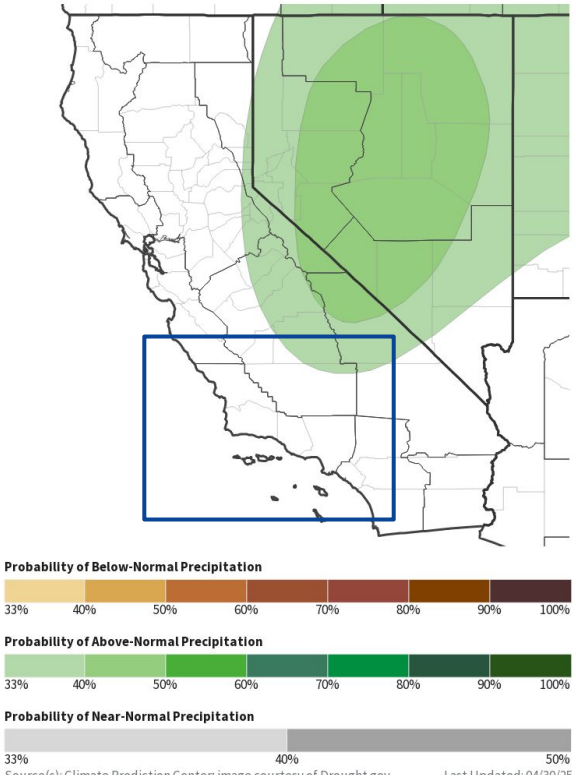


Long-Range Outlooks

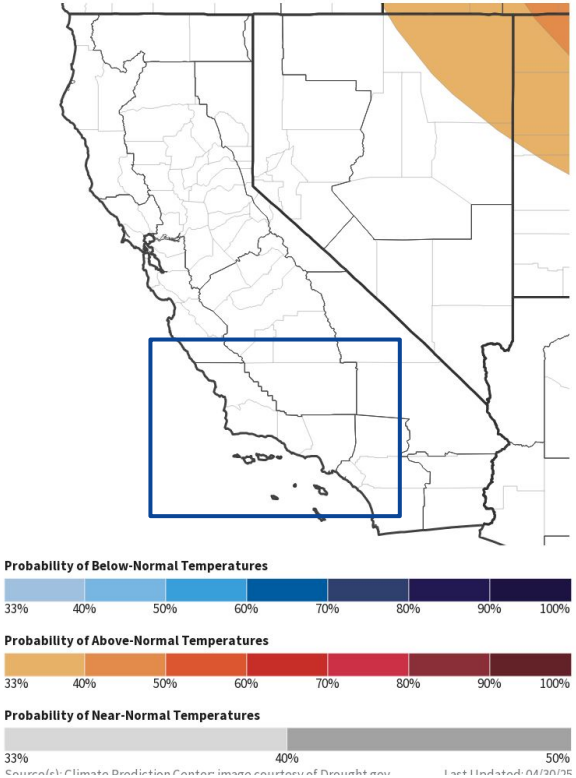
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The precipitation outlook for May 2025 is projected to be near normal across Southern California.
- The temperature outlook for May 2025 is projected to be near normal across Southern California.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2025–May 31, 2025



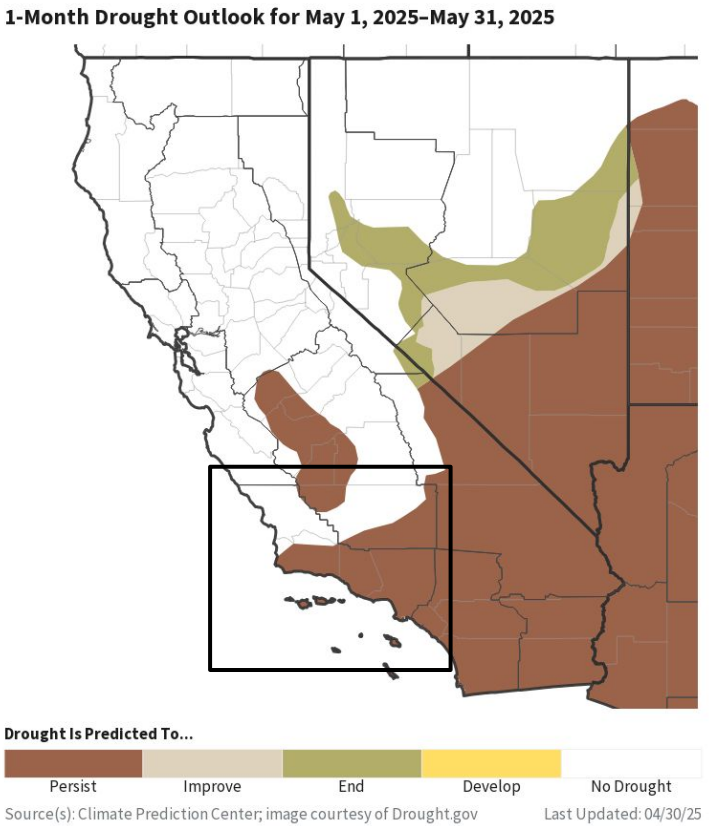
Monthly Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2025–May 31, 2025



Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The 1-month drought outlook for May 2025 is for drought conditions to persist across most of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles Counties



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook