

# Public Information Statement

National Weather Service Los Angeles/Oxnard CA  
615 AM PST Mon Mar 2 2020

**...February was one of the driest on record at many locations in Southwestern California...**

**...This was also one of the driest January and February combinations in recorded history in Southwestern California...**

After an very dry January across southwestern California, there were only small amounts of rain across the region in February. Most places received less than 5 percent of normal rainfall in February.

Santa Maria Airport received no rain at all in February, not even a trace, for the first time since records began in the area in 1906, obviously making for its driest February ever. It was also the driest February on record at San Luis Obispo Airport, where just a trace of rain was recorded, but records there only go back 22 years.

Los Angeles Airport and Paso Robles Airport received just a trace of rain for the month of February, tying for their driest Februaries. Records for Los Angeles Airport date back to 1944 and for Paso Robles Airport, they date back to 1948.

In Downtown Los Angeles, rainfall for the month totaled 0.04 inches, placing February 2020 in a tie with February 1899 for the 10th driest February on record. Since records began there in 1877, there has been no rain in 3 Februaries, in 1912, 1933, and in 1984. In 4 others, 1885, 1896, 1900, and 1964, just a trace of rain was recorded. In both February 1924 and 2018, 0.03 inches of rain fell.

The combination of a very dry January and an even drier February made for one of the driest first two months of any calendar year on record across much of southwestern California. In fact, it was among the top 5 driest at nearly all locations. Rainfall generally averaged well less than 10 percent of normal for the two month period in most areas.

In Downtown Los Angeles, where 0.36 inches of rain fell during the first two months of 2020, this was the 4th driest January/February combination since records began. The driest occurred in 1912, when a scant 0.07 inches of rain fell, followed by 0.13 inches in 1972 as the 2nd driest, then 0.17 inches in 1984 in 3rd place. This year was slightly drier than the 5th driest, which was 0.39 inches in 1924. Amazingly, the 5 driest starts to the calendar year were all Leap Years, which actually have one extra day to amass rainfall totals.

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The following table is rainfall for the month of February 2020, normal rainfall for February based on the 1981-2010 normals, the percentage of normal rainfall for the month, and where this February ranked in terms of its dryness.

	TOTAL RAIN FEB 2020	AVG RAIN FEB	% OF NORMAL RAIN FEB 2020	RANK OF FEB 2020
L.A. Downtown	0.04	3.80	1%	10th driest (tie)
L.A. Intl AP	T	3.25	0%	Driest (tie)
Long Beach AP	0.33	3.09	11%	14th driest
UCLA	0.36	5.07	7%	15th driest
Burbank AP	0.06	4.48	1%	5th driest (tie)
Van Nuys AP#+	0.05	3.23	2%	2nd driest
Woodland Hills*	0.34	4.71	7%	14th driest
Lancaster AP	T	1.78	0%	4th driest (tie)
Palmdale AP+	0.04	1.72	2%	13th driest
Sandberg	0.18	3.24	6%	11th driest
Camarillo AP+	0.02	3.71	1%	7th driest
Oxnard NWS+	0.03	3.55	1%	7th driest (tie)
Santa Barbara AP	0.03	3.96	1%	6th driest
Santa Maria AP	0.00	2.99	0%	Driest
San Luis Obispo AP@+	T	3.65	0%	Driest
Paso Robles AP	T	2.59	0%	Driest (tie)

# Period of observations 25 years

@ Period of observations 22 years

\* Stations report 4 PM to 4 PM standard time, and 5 PM to 5 PM daylight saving time. This may affect calendar day rainfall, and may affect monthly rainfall if a storm begin prior to the 1st of the month or extends beyond the last day of the month. It may also affect calendar daily maximum and minimum temperature.

+ Due to insufficient data during the 1981-2010 period, normals are unofficial and are projected based on available data.

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The following table is rainfall for the months of January and February 2020, normal rainfall for both months combined based on the 1981-2010 normals, the percentage of normal rainfall for both months, and where this January and February combination ranked in terms of dryness.

	TOTAL RAIN JAN & FEB 2020	AVG RAIN JAN & FEB	% OF NORMAL RAIN JAN & FEB 2020	RANK OF JAN & FEB 2020
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L.A. Downtown	0.36	6.92	5%	4th driest
L.A. Intl AP	0.38	5.96	6%	2nd driest
Long Beach AP	0.64	5.69	11%	5th driest
UCLA	0.82	9.06	9%	3rd driest
Burbank AP	0.20	8.01	2%	4th driest
Van Nuys AP##	0.14	5.04	3%	Driest
Woodland Hills*	0.45	8.87	5%	4th driest
Lancaster AP	0.08	3.28	2%	3rd driest
Palmdale AP+	0.08	3.29	2%	4th driest
Sandberg	0.28	5.65	5%	6th driest
Camarillo AP+	0.47	7.18	7%	3rd driest
Oxnard NWS+	0.43	6.82	6%	3rd driest
Santa Barbara AP	0.58	7.46	8%	2nd driest
Santa Maria AP	0.63	5.74	11%	3rd driest
San Luis Obispo AP@+	0.34	7.31	5%	2nd driest
Paso Robles AP	0.60	5.34	11%	2nd driest

# Period of observations 25 years  
 @ Period of observations 22 years

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