



Monthly Climate Report

NWS Reno NV

Issued: 11/20/2025



Weather Synopsis & Highlights:

Temperatures in September were between one to five degrees above normal throughout the eastern Sierra, northeast California, and western NV (Figure 1). Meanwhile, precipitation was above normal in Mono, Mineral, southern Lyon, and Douglas counties. Precipitation was slightly below normal for Pershing, to around normal for the remainder of the county warning area (Figure 2).

After a warm and dry Labor Day, scattered showers and thunderstorms returned on the 2nd. While most of the rain fell in the eastern Sierra and northeast CA with amounts up to 0.50 inch, strong outflow gusts of 50-65 mph spread across western NV through the afternoon and evening, creating areas of dust and low visibilities (Photo 1). A Red Flag Warning was also in effect for the afternoon and evening of the 2nd in northeast CA and far northwest NV due to potential for dry lightning with fast moving storms.

Additional storms formed on the morning of the 3rd in northeast CA, with isolated storms during the afternoon and evening on the 3rd and 4th. Storm coverage increased across the eastern Sierra and west central NV on the 5th, with locally heavy rainfall (radar estimates over 1 inch) reported in parts of Mono and Lyon counties.

Drier conditions with a cooling trend then followed from the 6th through 8th, with increasing afternoon breezes on the 8th. A deeper area of low pressure then set up over northern CA and moved slowly across western NV from the 9th through 11th (Photo 2). This brought daily rounds of showers and embedded thunderstorms, along with daytime temperatures 10-15 degrees below average. Rainfall amounts were generally 0.25" or less, although a few locations received overall totals around 0.50". This shower activity became more isolated and limited to the eastern Sierra and parts of west central NV by the 12th.

For Mono and parts of Mineral counties, smoke from the Garnet fire in central CA spread over these areas starting on the 4th, with the worst conditions occurring from the 7th through 10th with Dense Smoke Advisories in effect and Air Quality Index values into the Hazardous category at times (Photo 3).

A drier weather pattern then settled into place from the 13th through 17th with a gradual warming trend. Temperatures peaked near 90 degrees in lower elevations of western NV on the 17th.

A push of tropical moisture brought increased cloud cover and moisture for the 18th-19th, along with a cooling trend. Rainfall was generally light, except for some heavier totals between 0.50-1.00" near the Sierra crest but no flooding impacts were reported. Drier and warmer conditions then returned from the 20th-24th, apart from a few strong thunderstorms in rural southeast Mineral County on the 21st, with highs climbing into the mid-upper 80s for lower elevations.

A push of tropical moisture then returned northward across the eastern Sierra and parts of western NV south of US-50 on the 25th. The most impactful event on this day was a flash flood affecting eastern Douglas County

with persistent thunderstorms producing over 1" of rainfall (details in the hydrology section), while other storms in Mono County produced rainfall between 0.25-0.50" and accumulations of small hail. Shower/thunderstorm activity decreased on the 26th and 27th, then returned on the 28th and 29th mainly over the eastern Sierra of Alpine-Mono Counties and west central NV. Rainfall amounts each day in these areas were generally between 0.10-0.25", with a few locations receiving up to 0.50" near the Sierra crest and east of US-95 in west central NV. The month ended with a cooling trend with highs dropping to below 60 degrees for Sierra valleys and upper 60s-lower 70s for lower elevations on the 30th with a dusting of snowfall along the peaks in Mono County (Photo 4).

Hydrology:

The 2025 water year ended with a bang for some residents of Douglas county with major flash flooding along and near Smelter Creek on September 25th, enhanced by the Conner fire, which reburned portions of the 2020 Numbers fire upstream in Buffalo Canyon. Rain gauges in the area were all located outside the heaviest rainfall, so did not provide adequate precipitation estimates. Radar estimates indicated an area of 1 to 1.5" of rain, most of which fell in one hour, centered around Buffalo Canyon. This event impacted several homes, outbuildings, and damaged landscapes on numerous properties. At least one swift water rescue was conducted along with animal rescues. Hwy 395 was closed briefly due to flooding at about 5:30pm, and all low water crossings were impassable for a couple hours that afternoon. Fortunately the flows receded almost as rapidly as they initiated, but the cleanup and repair of private property will be prolonged and costly (see photos 5-7).

No other flooding was reported in the month of September despite some isolated heavy rains south of Hwy 50 on the 2nd, 5th, and 25th. Most areas in NW Nevada and in the Sierra from Lake Tahoe south through Mono County received normal to above normal September precipitation, especially in the Sierra. Mountain soil moisture as measured by NRCS SNOTEL is slightly above normal for the end of September in both the Eastern Sierra and Humboldt (Figure 3). Spatially modeled soil moisture shows above normal conditions from roughly Lake Tahoe south and near to slightly below normal to the north (Figure 4). September streamflow was near normal at most USGS stream gage locations, with a few locations including the lower Humboldt below normal (Figure 5).

The month of September ended the 2025 water year. Water year flows were generally near normal in the Truckee basin, and slightly below normal elsewhere (Figure 6). Major reservoirs ended the water year near normal in Rye Patch and on the Truckee, above normal in the Walker and Lake Tahoe, and somewhat below normal in Lahontan (Figure 7).

Drought Update:

Late August and September precipitation led to the removal of abnormally dry conditions in NE California and N. Washoe County, while portions of Churchill and Mineral counties saw conditions degrade, as these areas have been repeatedly missed by recent storms. The US Drought monitor now depicts drought free and abnormally dry conditions in the western 2/3rds of the NWS Reno Service area (Figure 8). The Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) for September (Figure 9), but the water year evaporative demand was above normal in the basin and range, especially in Churchill county (Figure 10). Water year precipitation and temperatures can be found in figures 11 and 12, respectively.

Additional Information on Drought and Climate:

[Report Drought conditions here](#)

[Nevada statewide Drought update](#)

[NV State Climate Office](#)

[NV Living with Drought](#)

[Drought Monitor](#)

[New Drought.gov](#)

[California Nevada Drought Early Warning System](#)

[NOAA CPC Drought page](#)

[CNAP Drought tracker](#)

[California Nevada River Forecast Center](#)

[WRCC Drought Tracker](#)

[WRCC Enso page](#)

[WRCC Monthly Climate Summaries](#)

[Evaporative Demand Drought Index](#)

[US Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Contact NWS Reno Climate Team

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<https://www.weather.gov/rev/>

Photos:

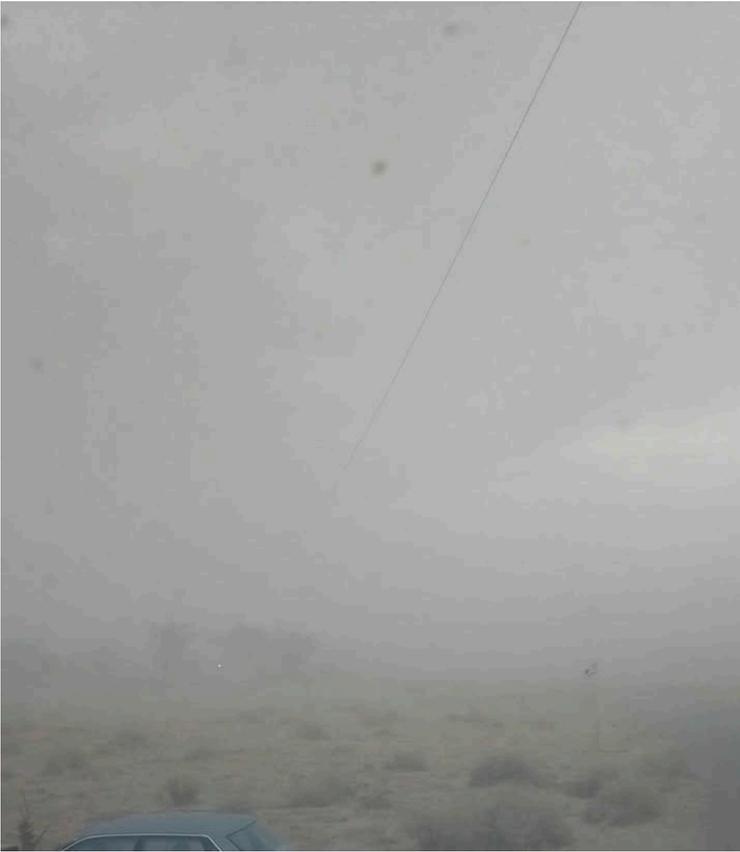


Photo 1: Strong outflow gusts from thunderstorms kicked up dust on the 2nd, reducing visibility to less than 200 ft. Photo by Brian Freitag via Facebook.



Photo 2: Overnight showers moving through the Reno area overnight on the 11th. Photo courtesy of NWS Reno.



Photo 3: Heavy smoke in Mono County near Tom's Place on 9/8/25, photo courtesy of Sue Burak



Photo 4: Light dusting of snow on Mammoth Mountain on the 30th. Photo Courtesy of Barbara Coleman via Facebook.



Photo 5: September 25th flooding at Buckskin Court low water crossing. From video courtesy of Douglas County Stormwater.



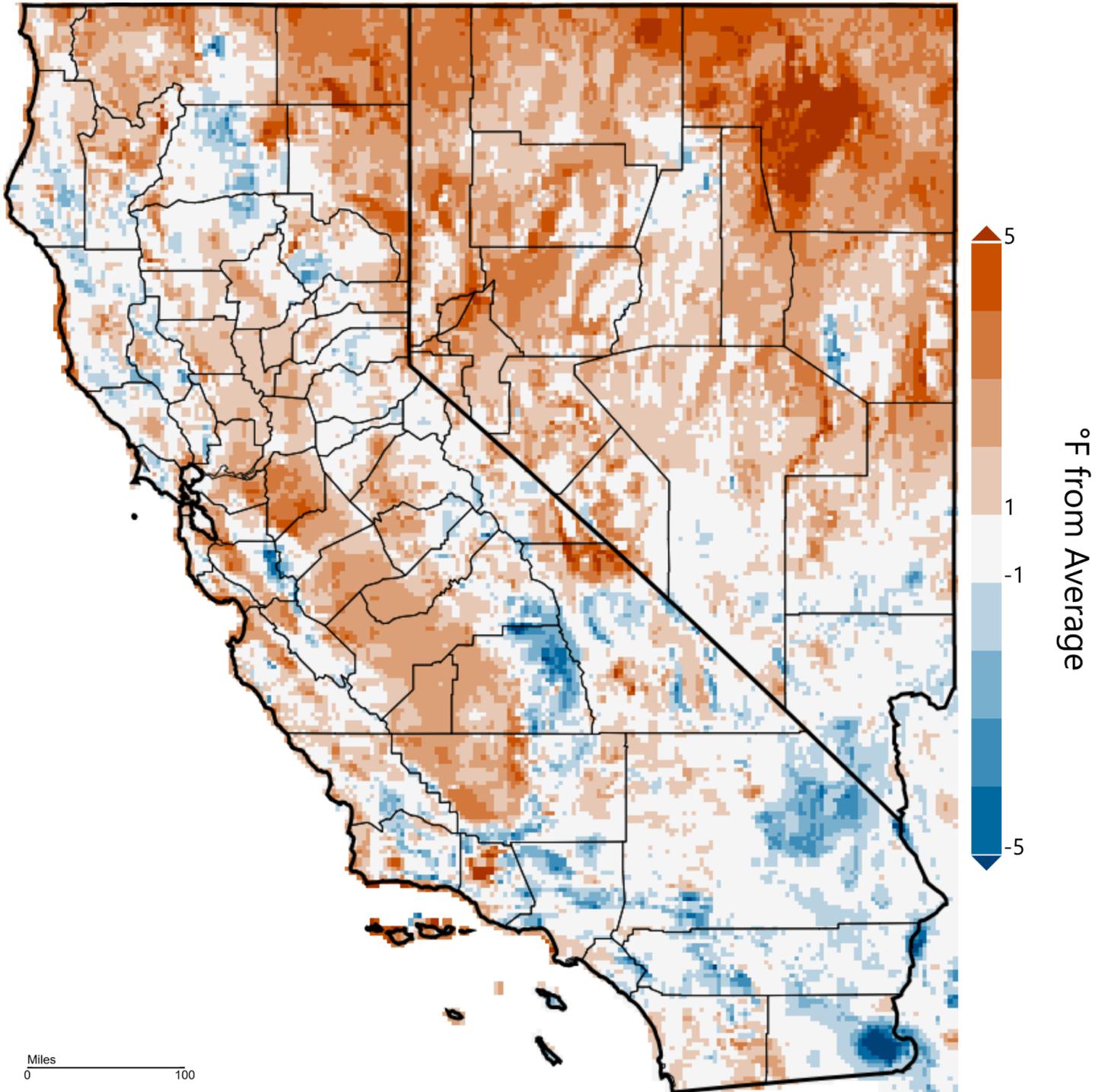
Photo 6: September 25th flooding in Ruhenstroth. From video courtesy of Douglas County Stormwater



Photos 7: Home impacted by flooding in Ruhenstroth neighborhood. Note the highwater mark. Photo Courtesy Douglas County Stormwater

Figures:

California-Nevada - Mean Temperature September 2025, Departure from 1991-2020 Average

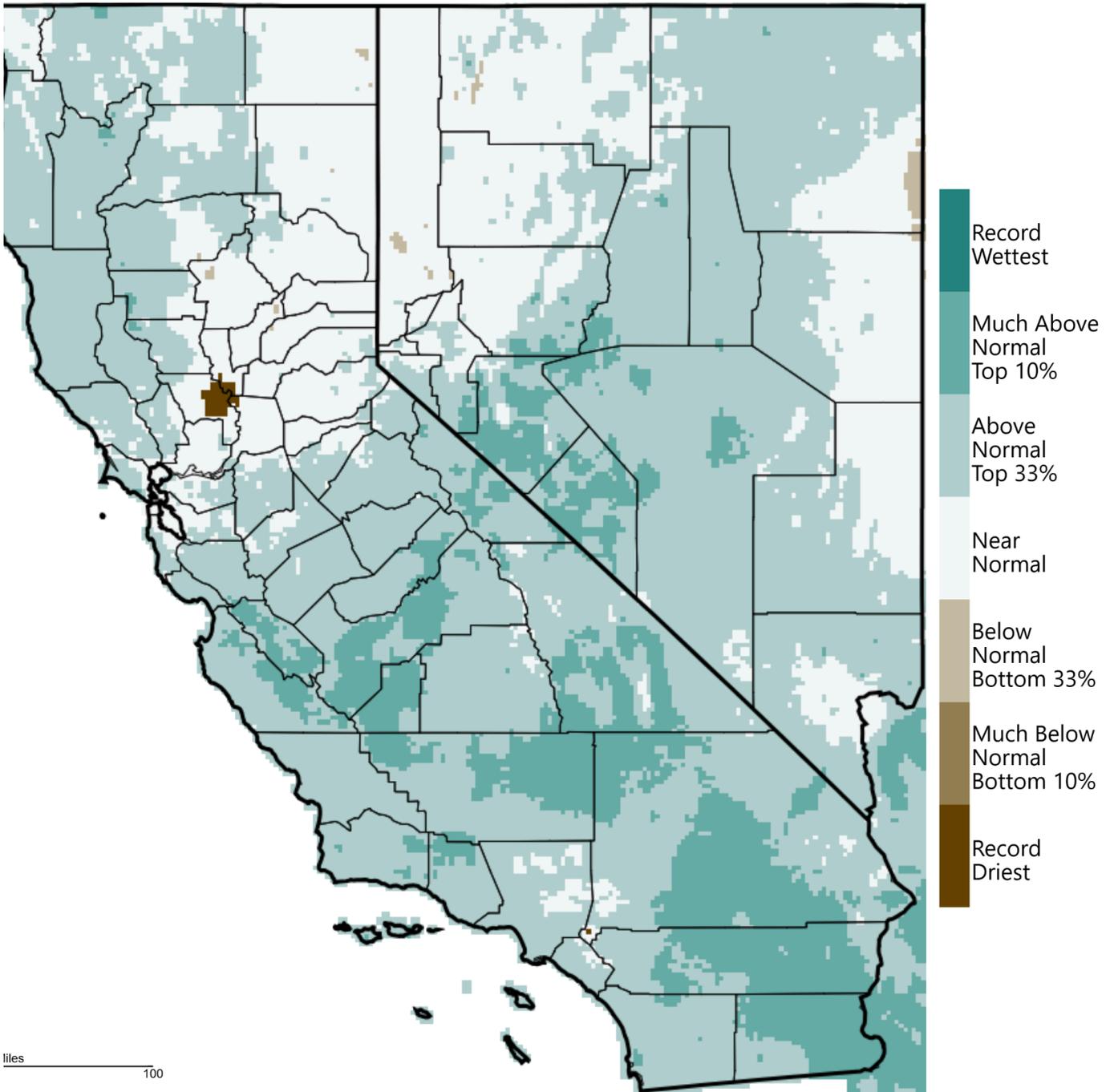


WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prelim, created 07 Oct 2025

Figure 1: Departure from normal temperatures for September 2025. ([WWD](#))

California-Nevada - Precipitation

September 2025, Percentile



Vide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prelim, created 07 Oct 2025

Figure 2: Percent of normal precipitation for September 2025. ([WWDI](#))

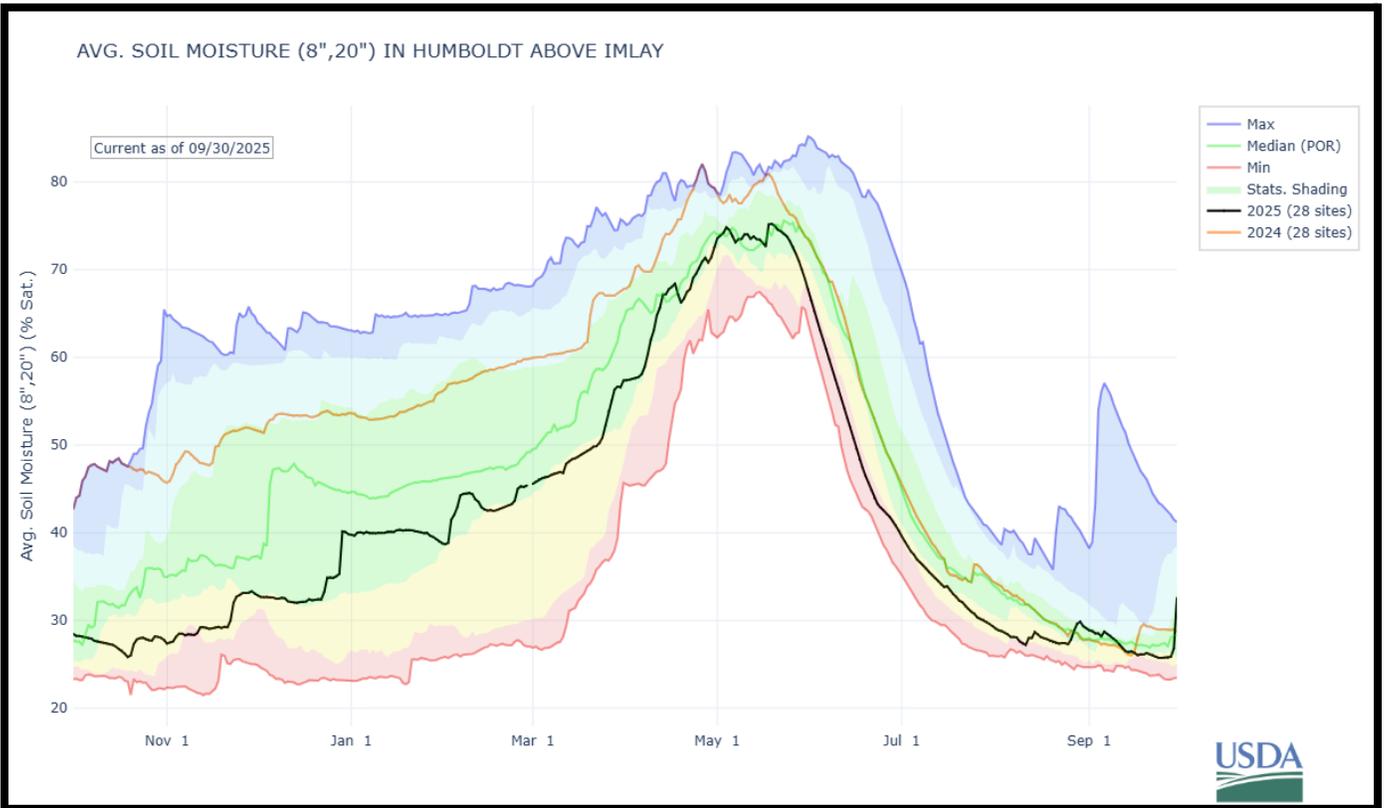
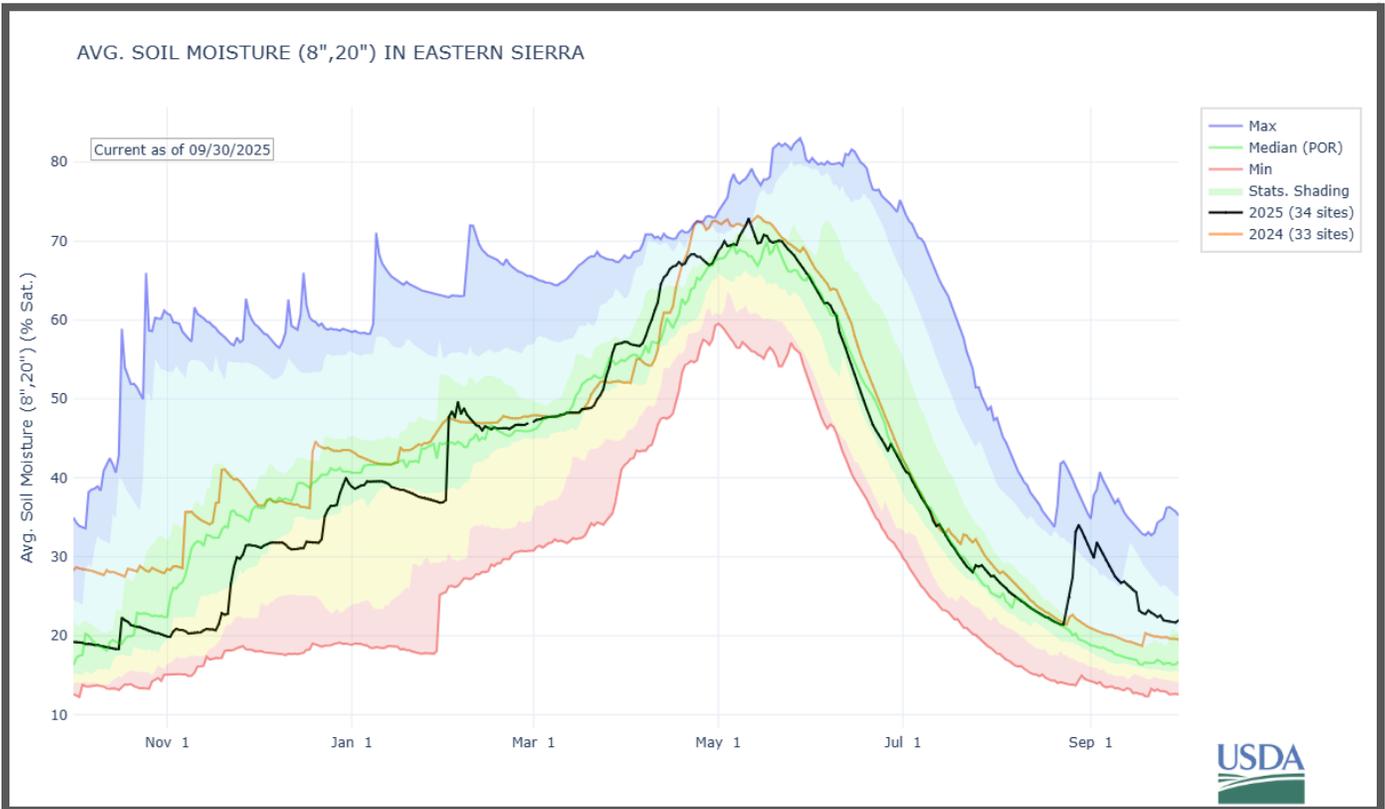


Figure 3: [NRCS SNOTEL soil moisture](#) for the combined Tahoe, Truckee, Carson and Walker basins (top), and Humboldt basin (bottom) indicated in black for the water year 2025. Water year 2024 is plotted in orange for additional perspective. Note the major increase in late September for the Humboldt.

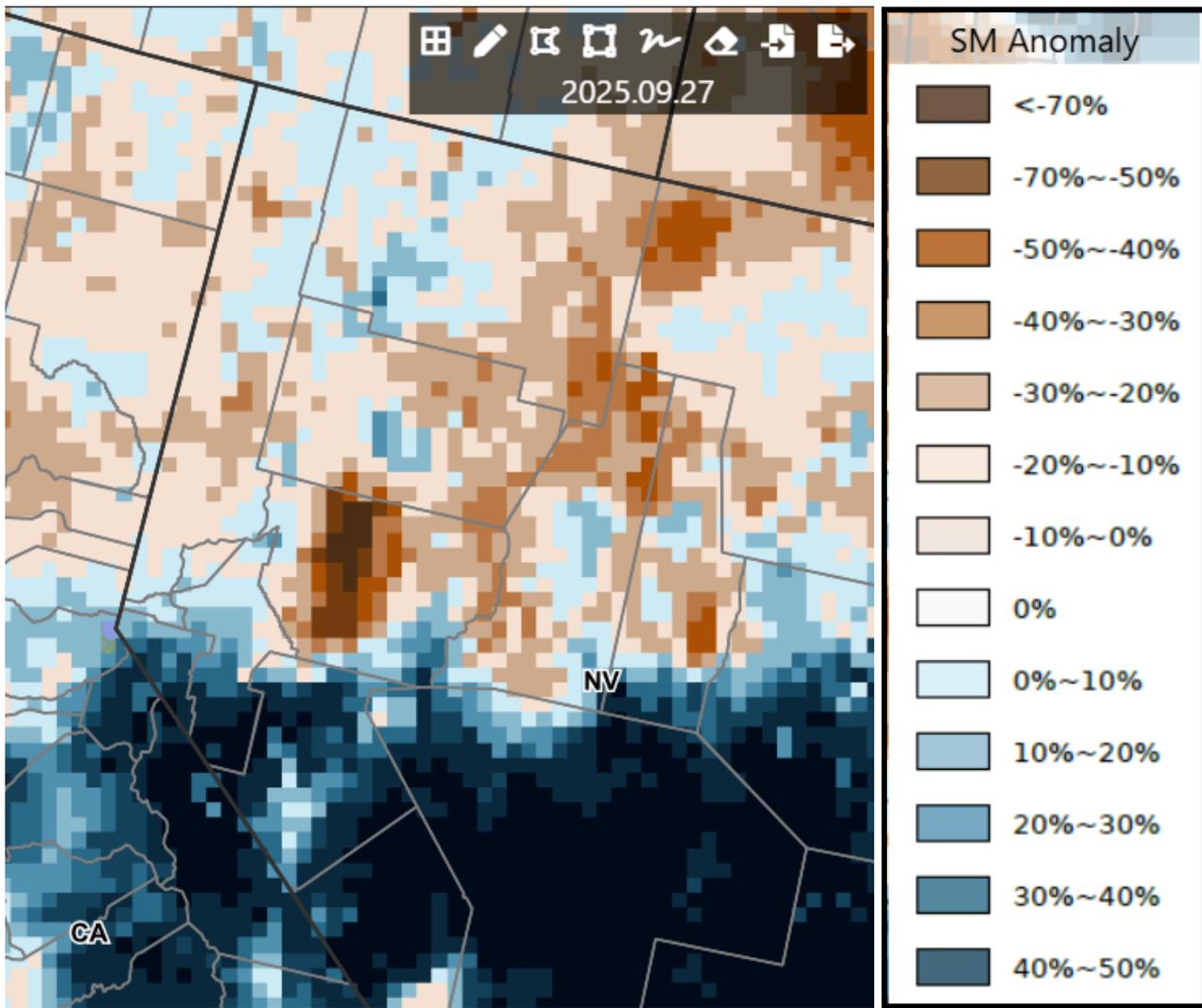
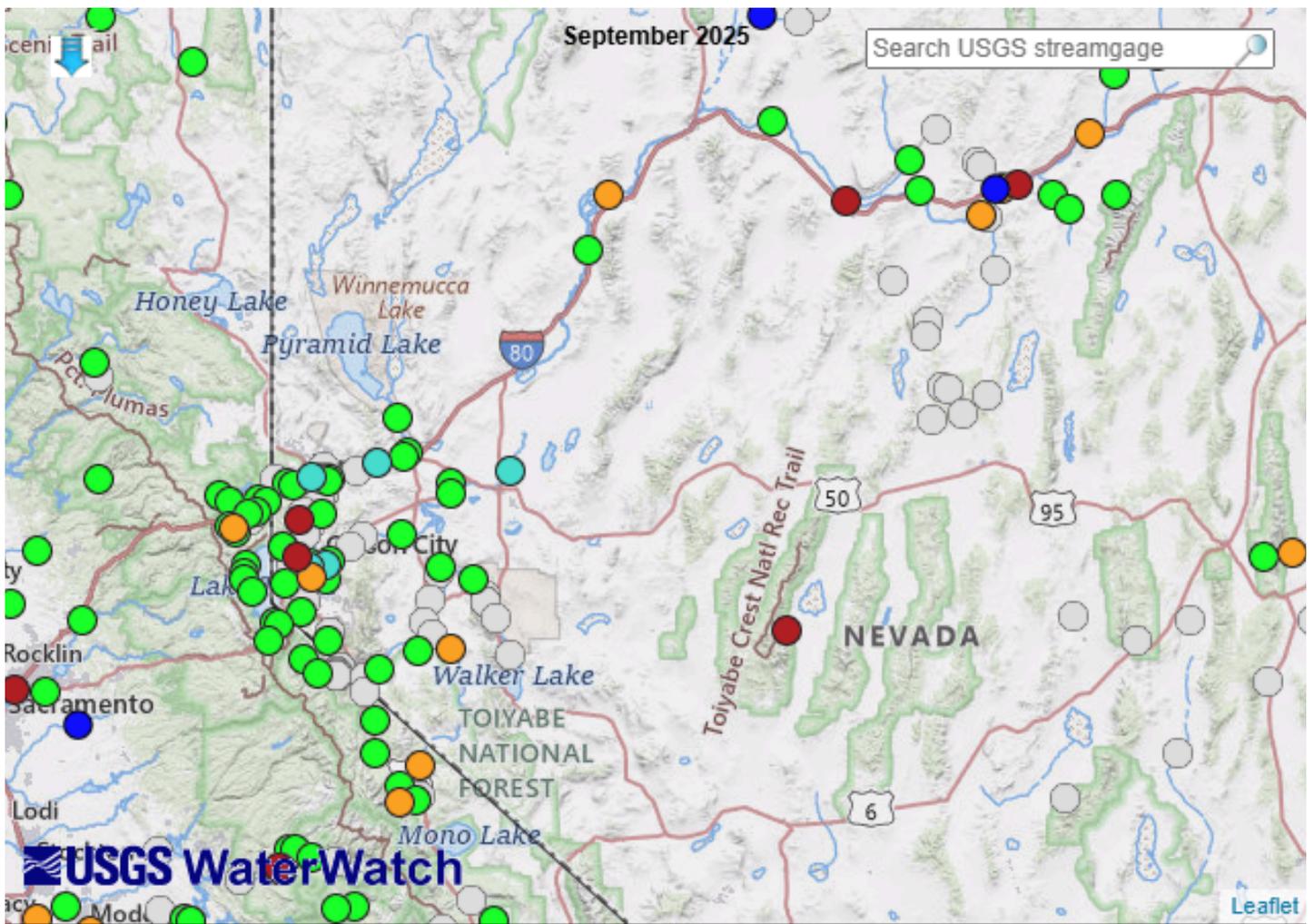


Figure 4. [Crop-CASMA](#) Soil Moisture Anomaly 9/27/2025



Explanation - Percentile classes							
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Figure 5: [USGS Monthly streamflow](#) for September.

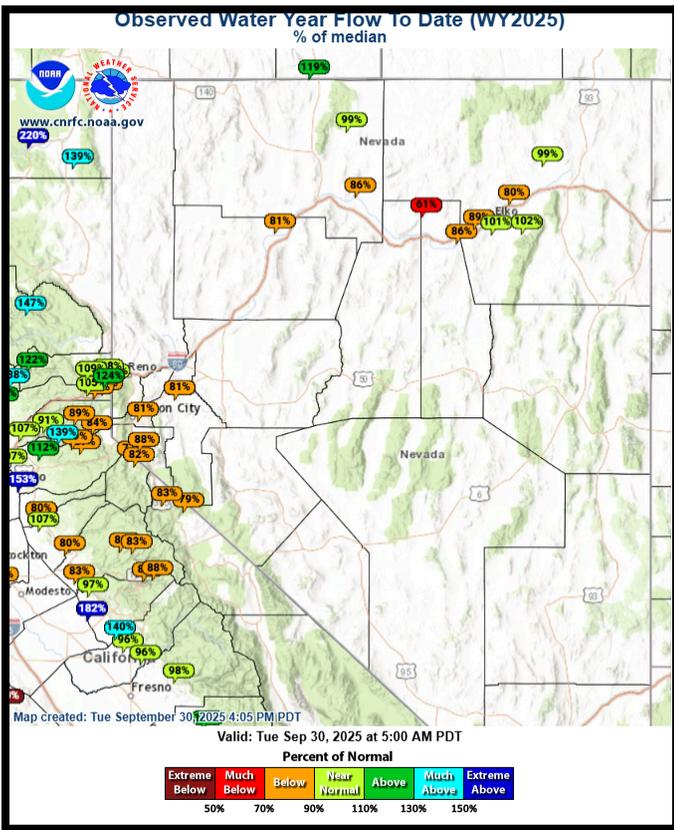


Figure 6. [CNRFC](#) Water year 2025 observed flow to date.

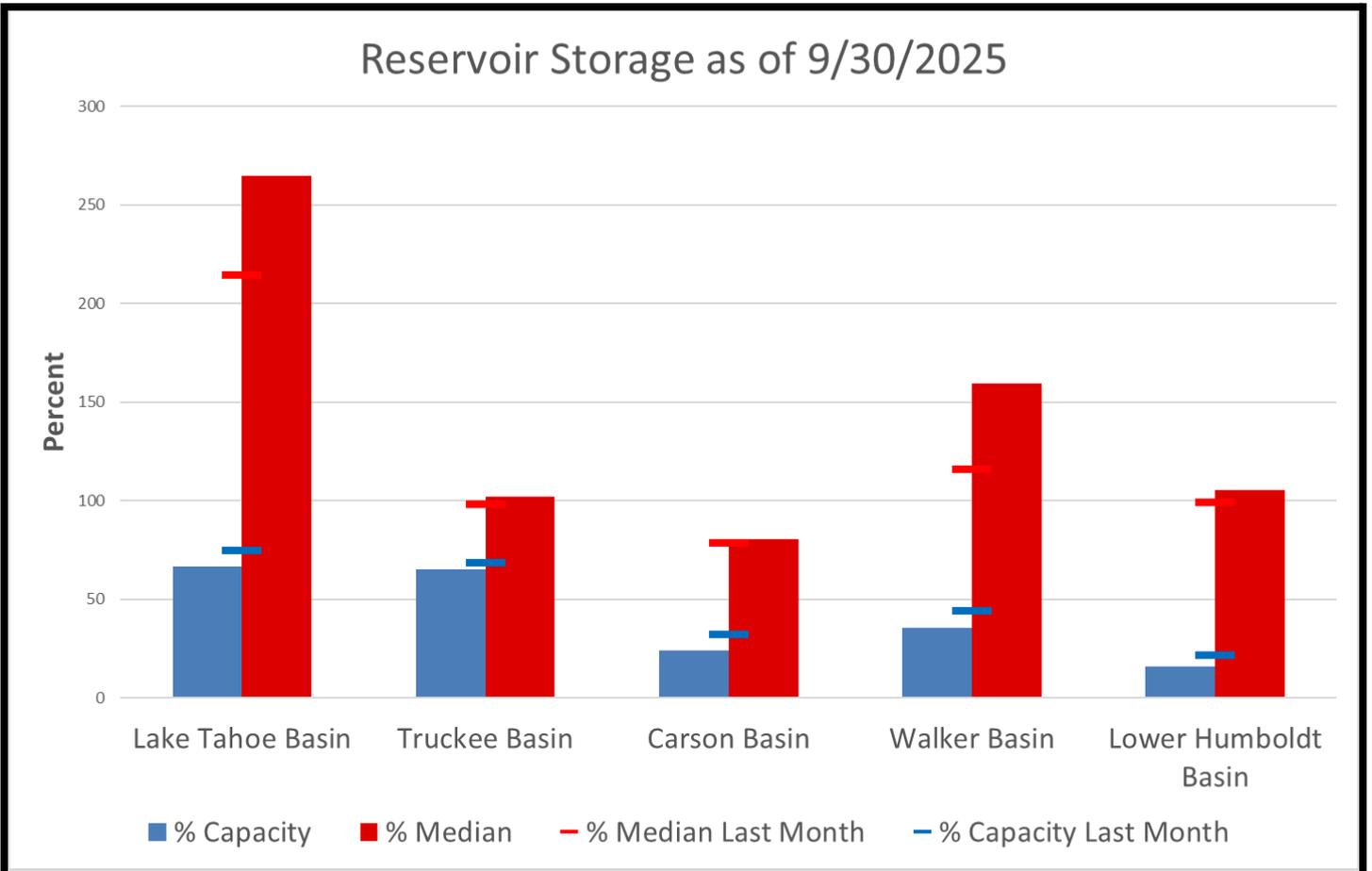


Figure 7. End of September reservoir storage relative to capacity and **median*** for this month and last month. (*note reference was recently updated to NRCS 1991-2020 median values)

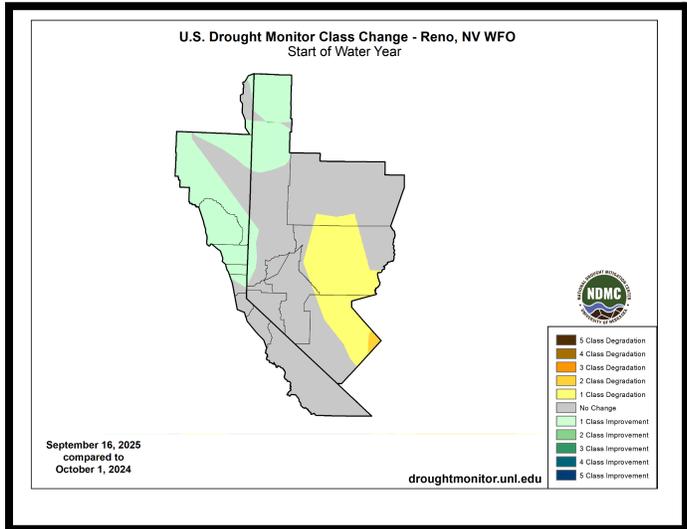
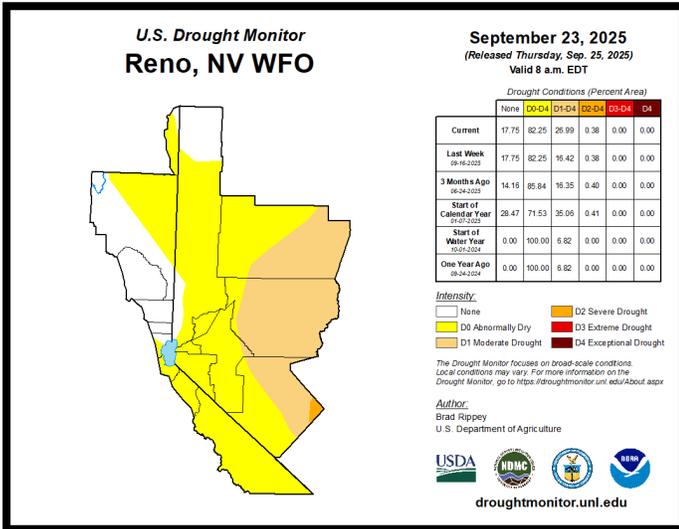


Figure 8: September 23rd Drought Monitor Status and water year change map. Check for updates at: [Drought Monitor](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu).

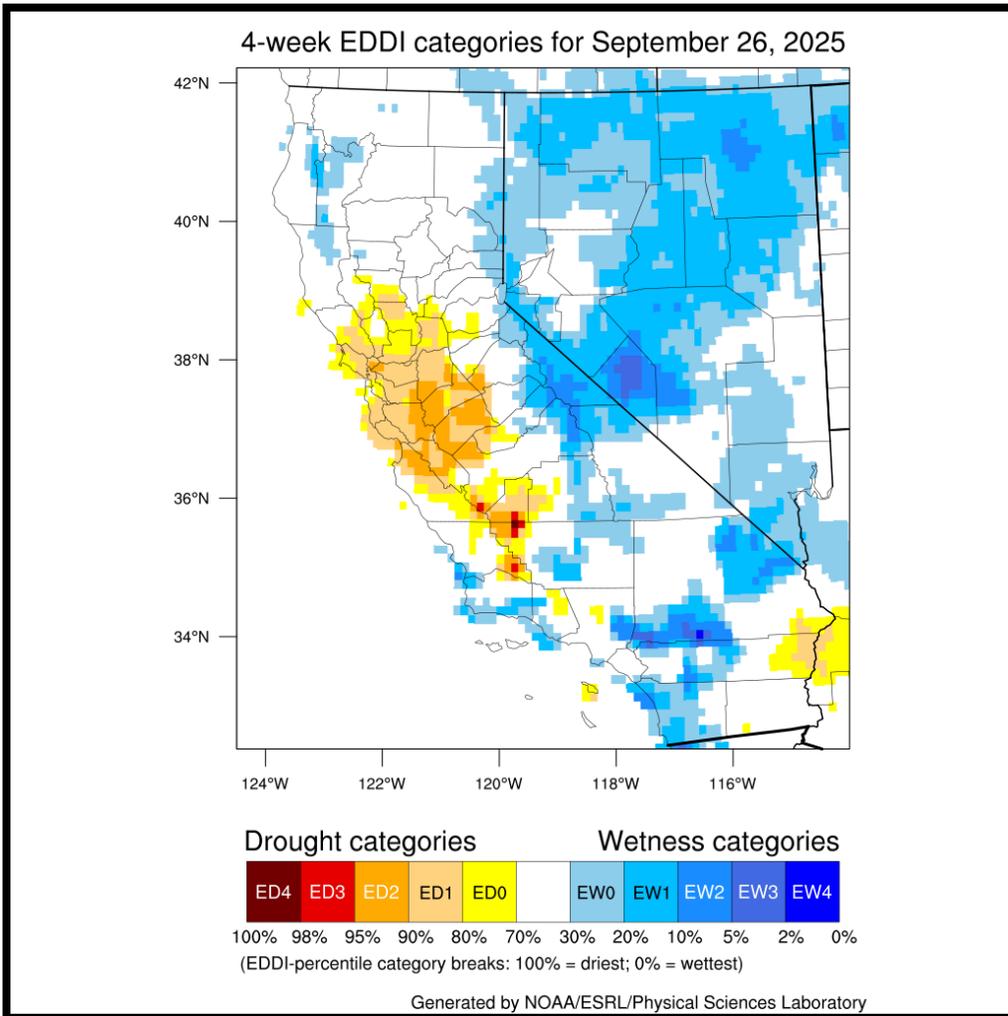


Figure 9. [Evaporative Demand Drought Index](#) (EDDI) for September.

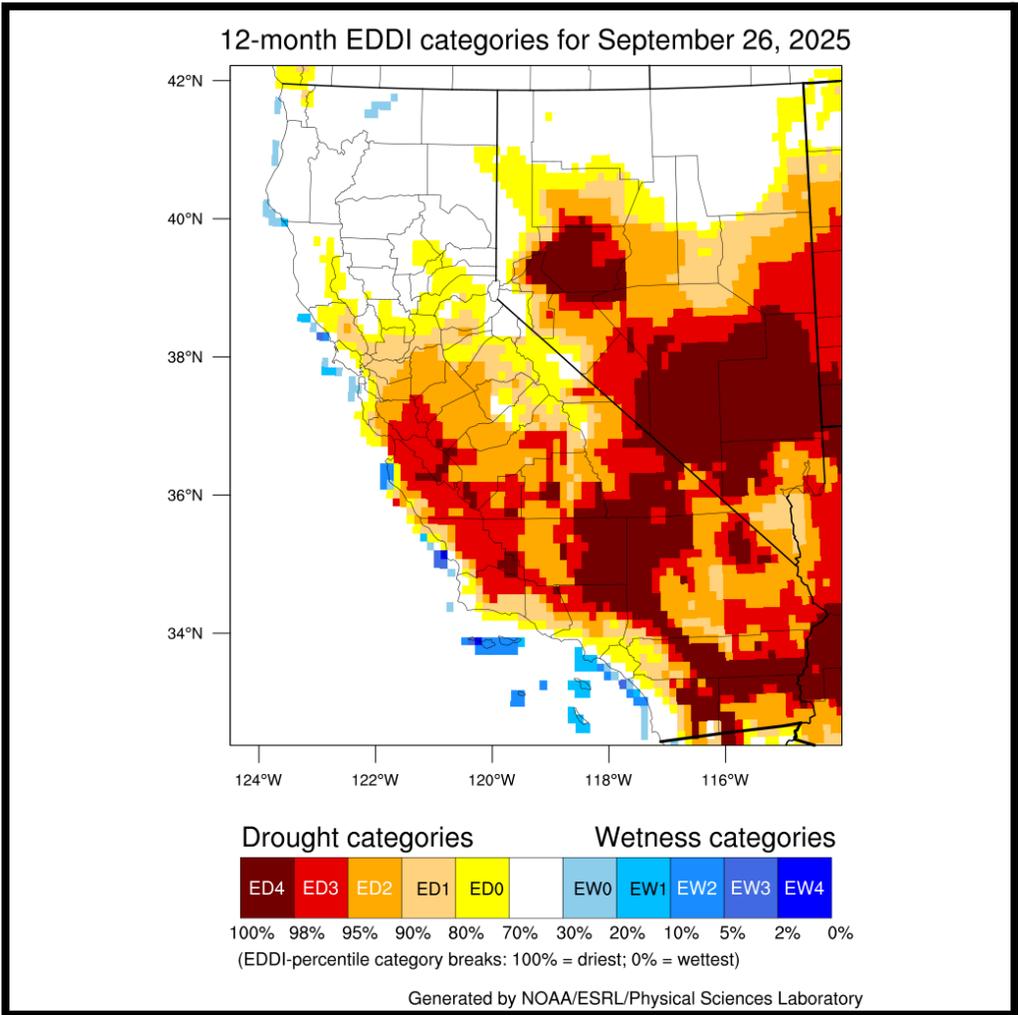


Figure 10. [Evaporative Demand Drought Index](#) (EDDI) for water year 2025

California-Nevada - Precipitation

October 2024 - September 2025, Percent of 1991-2020 Average

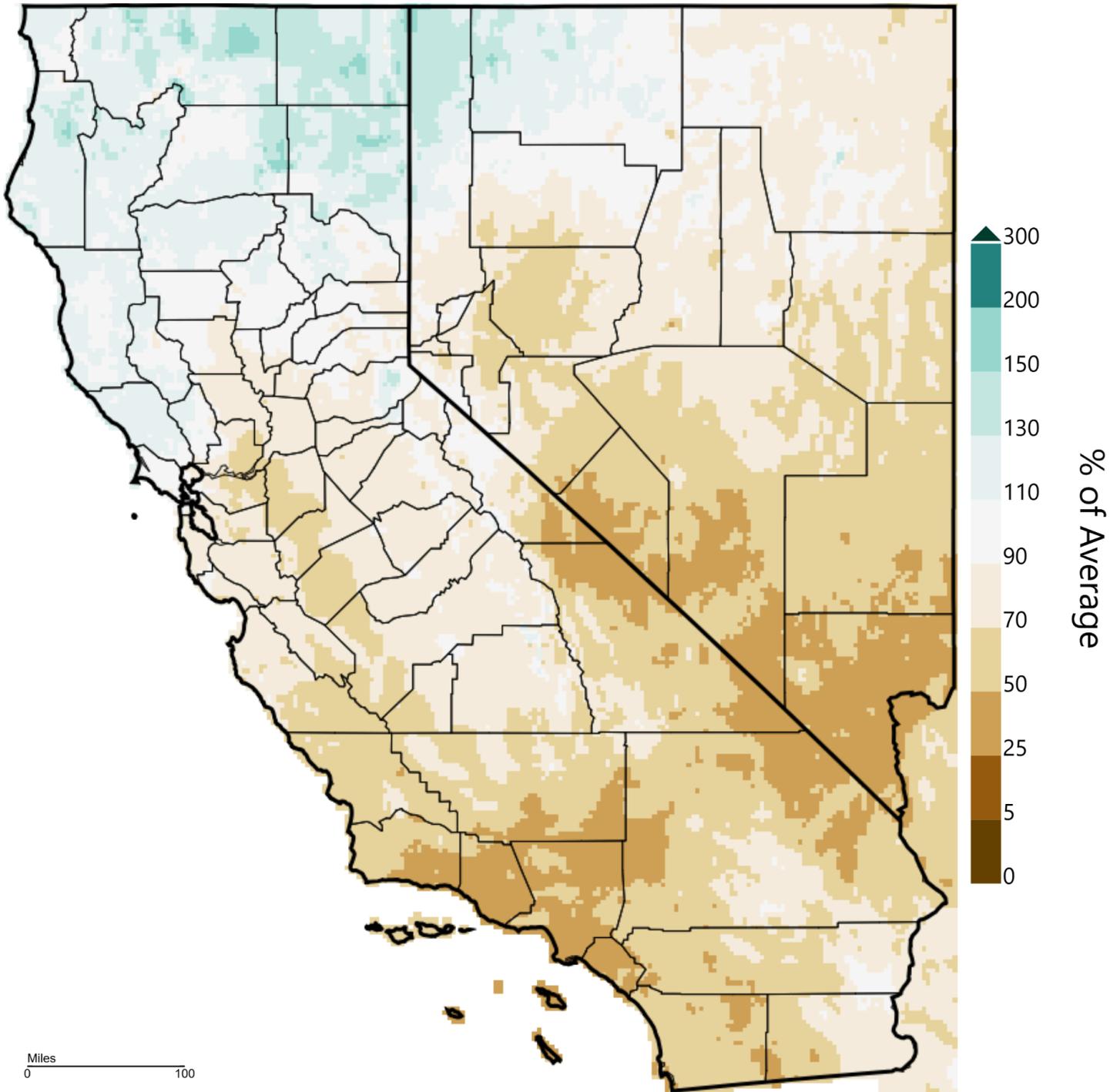


Figure 11: Water year to date precipitation. Courtesy of West Wide Drought Tracker. ([WWDI](#))

October 2024 - September 2025, Departure from 1991-2020 Average

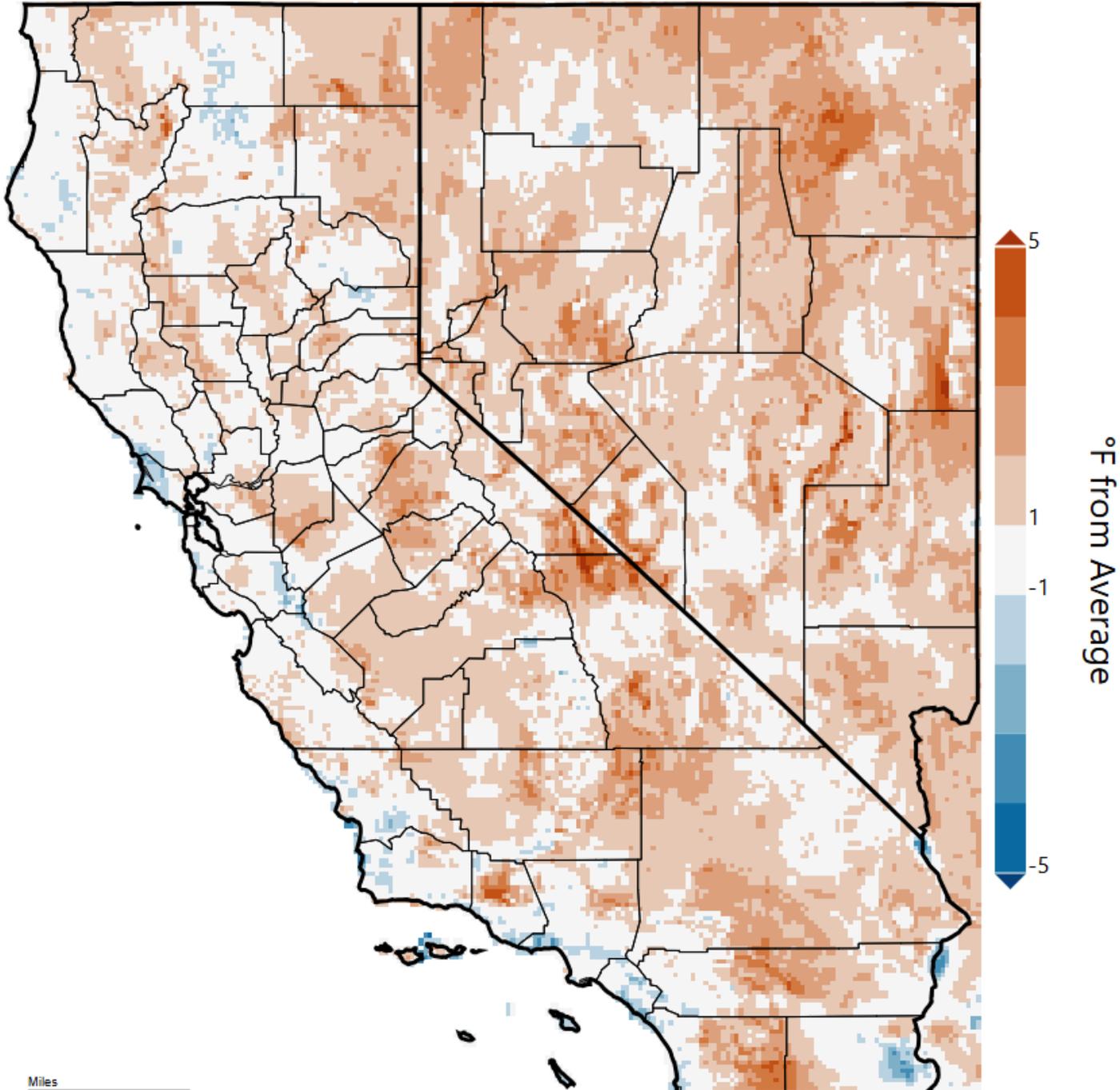


Figure 12: Water year to date mean temperature departure. Courtesy of West Wide Drought Tracker. ([WWDI](#))