Weather this Week February 14, 2022

Hi Folks,

The past week was dry again as depicted in the observed precipitation map in Figure 1 which comes from the National Weather Service's California Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC). As you can see from the maps below, the CNRFC has updated their map depiction and scale used for precipitation.

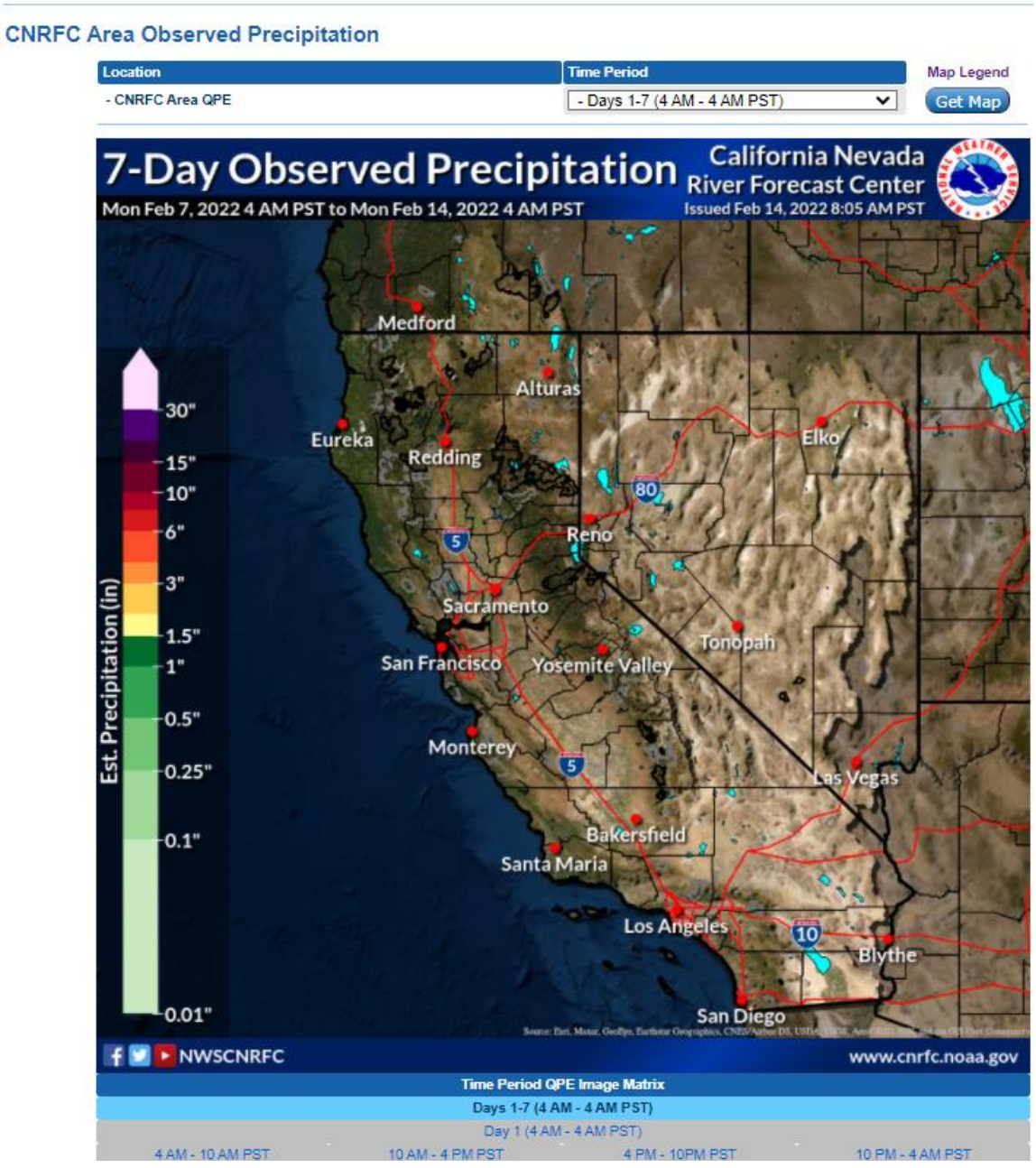

Figure 1. Observed precipitation map from 2/7/22 to 2/14/22 from CNRFC.

Looking ahead to this week, the six-day precipitation forecast map from the CNRFC is shown in Figure 2. For the first time in some time, precipitation is forecast. Unfortunately, it is not much ranging from 0.01 to 0.1 inches and only in mountainous areas.

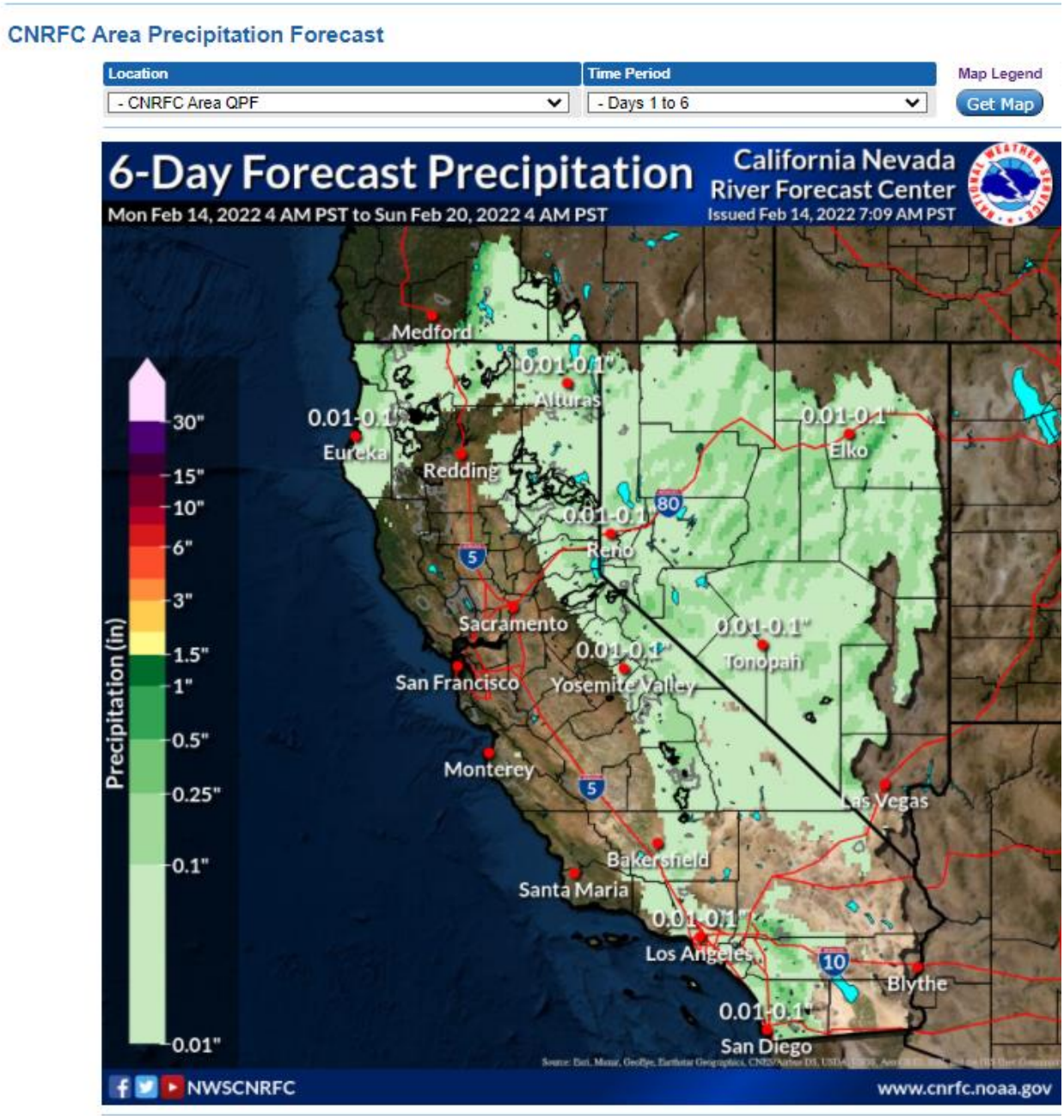

Figure 2. Six-day precipitation forecast map from CNRFC.

This precipitation will fall over the next 48 hours as a system drops down out of the Gulf of Alaska. Unfortunately, its trajectory takes it inland on the east side of the Sierra limiting access to the moisture of the Pacific Ocean. The limited precipitation is the result. Tuesday will also include winds as the low pressure moves down the side of the high pressure system that didn't move far enough west for a wetter outcome.

Looking ahead to week 2 of the forecast, there is another chance for a storm system to slide down from the Gulf of Alaska around the 21st or 22nd of February. If it takes a path further west, more precipitation will result for California. If it slides east again, precipitation will be limited, and winds will again be an issue. This is the pattern to be expected over the next few weeks. The wet or dry outcome for California will be based on how much moisture is associated with each storm that slides down and if it slides down over land or over water.

The cloud cover and hopefully fresh layer of snow will help delay the transition of the snowpack towards an early melt. The brighter surface created by the fresh snow reflects more energy away from the pack and the clouds limit the amount of energy input from the sun into the snowpack. The winds, however, can steal moisture away from the pack as well as the surrounding landscape increasing the need for water for plants and crops that have begun their early spring development. The almond bloom in the latter part of February is the largest single pollination event in the world and is a vulnerable time for the crop from winds or excessive rain.

The next forecast discussion will be provided next week on Tuesday, 2/22/22 due to the Presidents' Day holiday observed on the 21st.