

## Week Ahead Weather Outlook March 18, 2022

Hi Folks,

Over the past week, precipitation was limited to Northern California as shown in Figure 1 which is the observed precipitation map from the National Weather Service California Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC). The far North Coast picked up over an inch of precipitation while the rest of Northern California accumulated less than a quarter of an inch. While the snow water equivalent in the northern Sierra and southern Cascades did not increase, it did not decrease like the Central and Southern Sierra regions did.

### CNRFC Area Observed Precipitation

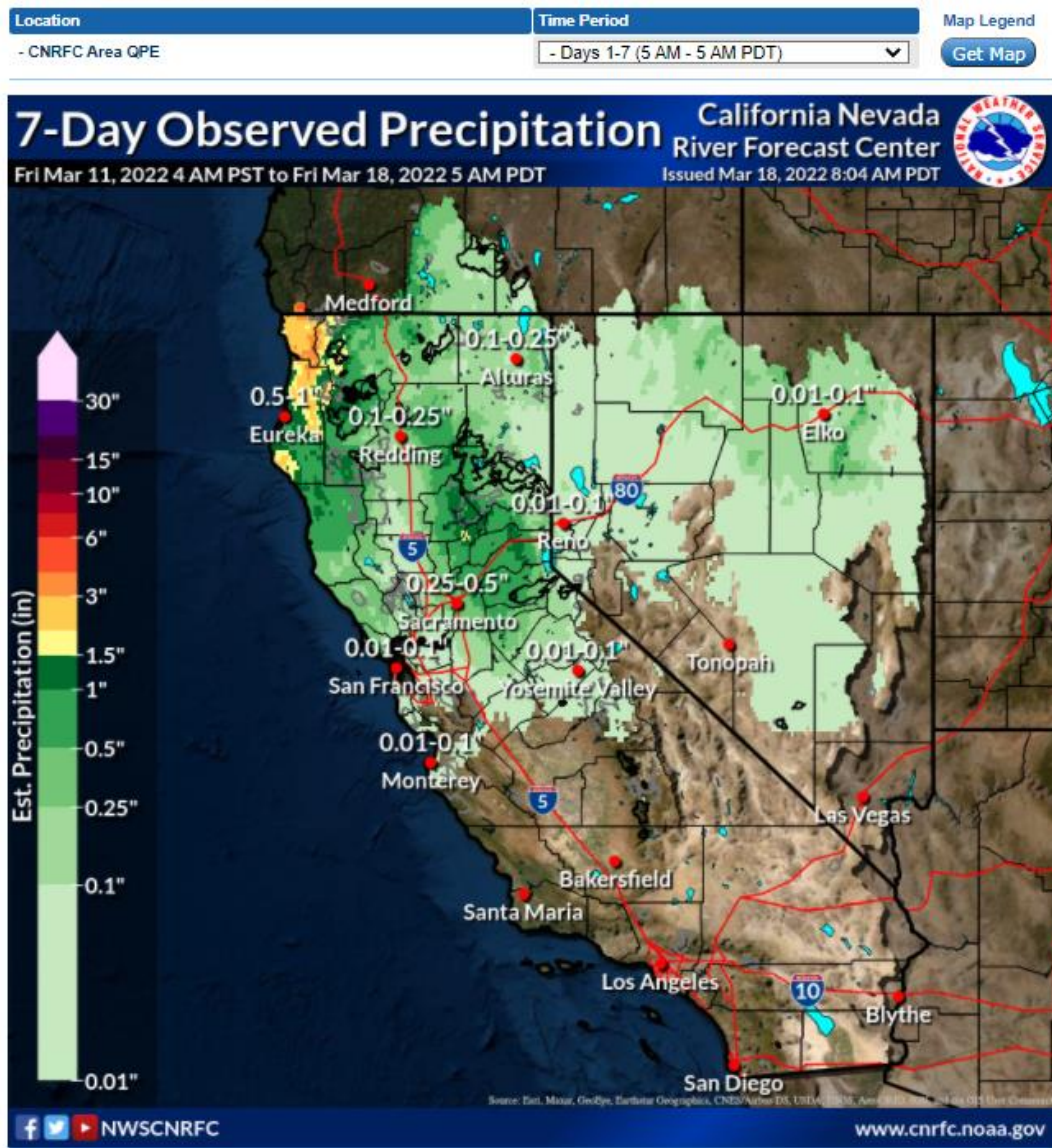


Figure 1. CNRFC map of observed precipitation from 3/11/22 to 3/18/22.

Over the next six days another storm system is expected to drop out of the Gulf of Alaska bringing showers to more of the State as shown in the CNRFC's map of forecast precipitation in Figure 2. Accumulations are less than an inch and the cloud cover should slow the snow melt.

### CNRFC Area Precipitation Forecast

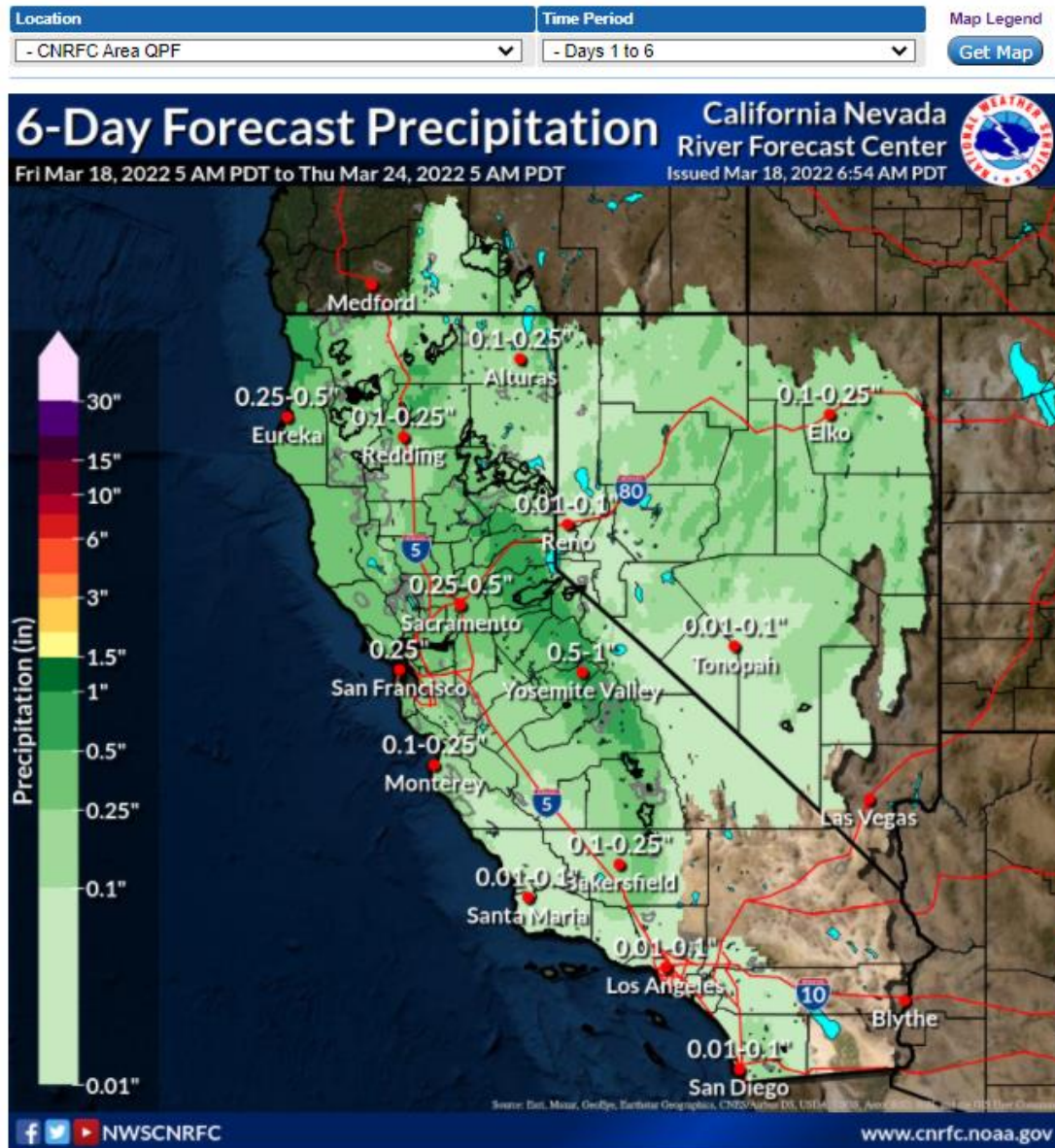


Figure 2. CNRFC map of forecast precipitation from 3/18/22 to 3/24/22.

Showers start today on the North Coast and spread across the State on Saturday. Things clear out on Sunday and as the new week starts, things warm up quickly. Heralding the heat are winds that will blow on Sunday. The Sacramento Weather Forecast Office provided the map of expected winds for Northern California for Sunday shown in Figure 3.





# Wind Gust Forecast

Sunday

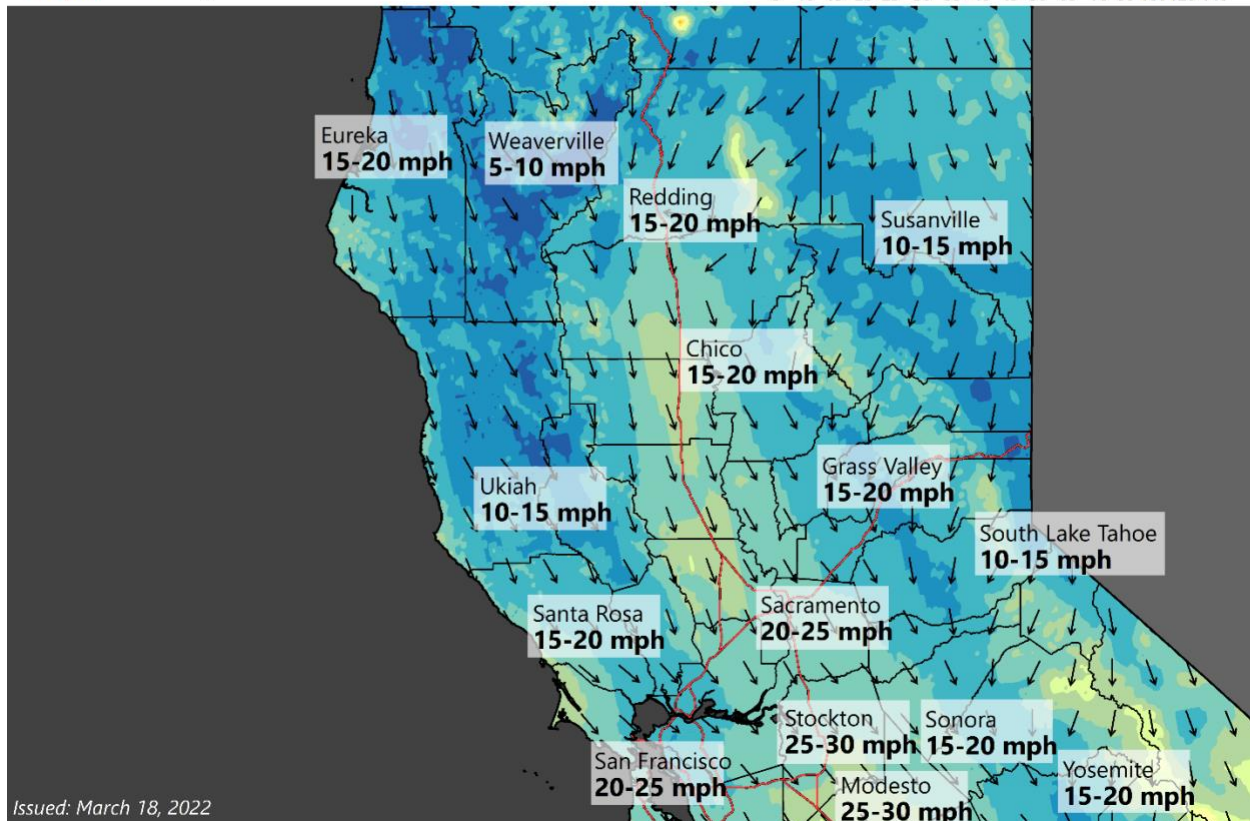
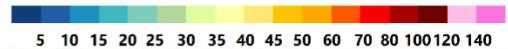


Figure3. Wind gust forecast for Northern California from the National Weather Service Sacramento Weather Forecast Office.

As noted above, the year's first heat event is expected next week with temperatures jumping into the mid-80s in Northern California and into the 90s in places in Southern California. Nighttime low temperatures will jump up as well as moisture from an atmospheric river impacting the Pacific Northwest may come into California. There may be one more storm at the end of the month that could impact California, but there is a lot of uncertainty in how the high pressure breaks down to allow that storm to drop into California.

Based on reports from the automated snow sensors (<https://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=DLYSWEQ.20220318>), the peak snowpack occurred on March 8 when 16.1 inches of snow water equivalent (SWE) was reported. This represents 57% of an average snowpack for the season. By March 18, the reports from the automated snow sensors indicate that 0.8 inches of SWE has already been lost to melt or sublimation (a process when a substance goes from solid to gas phase directly). It is anticipated that more snowpack will be lost over the next week with the abnormally warm temperatures and the April 1 snowpack numbers will be notably smaller. The next weather outlook write-up will be done on 3/28/22.