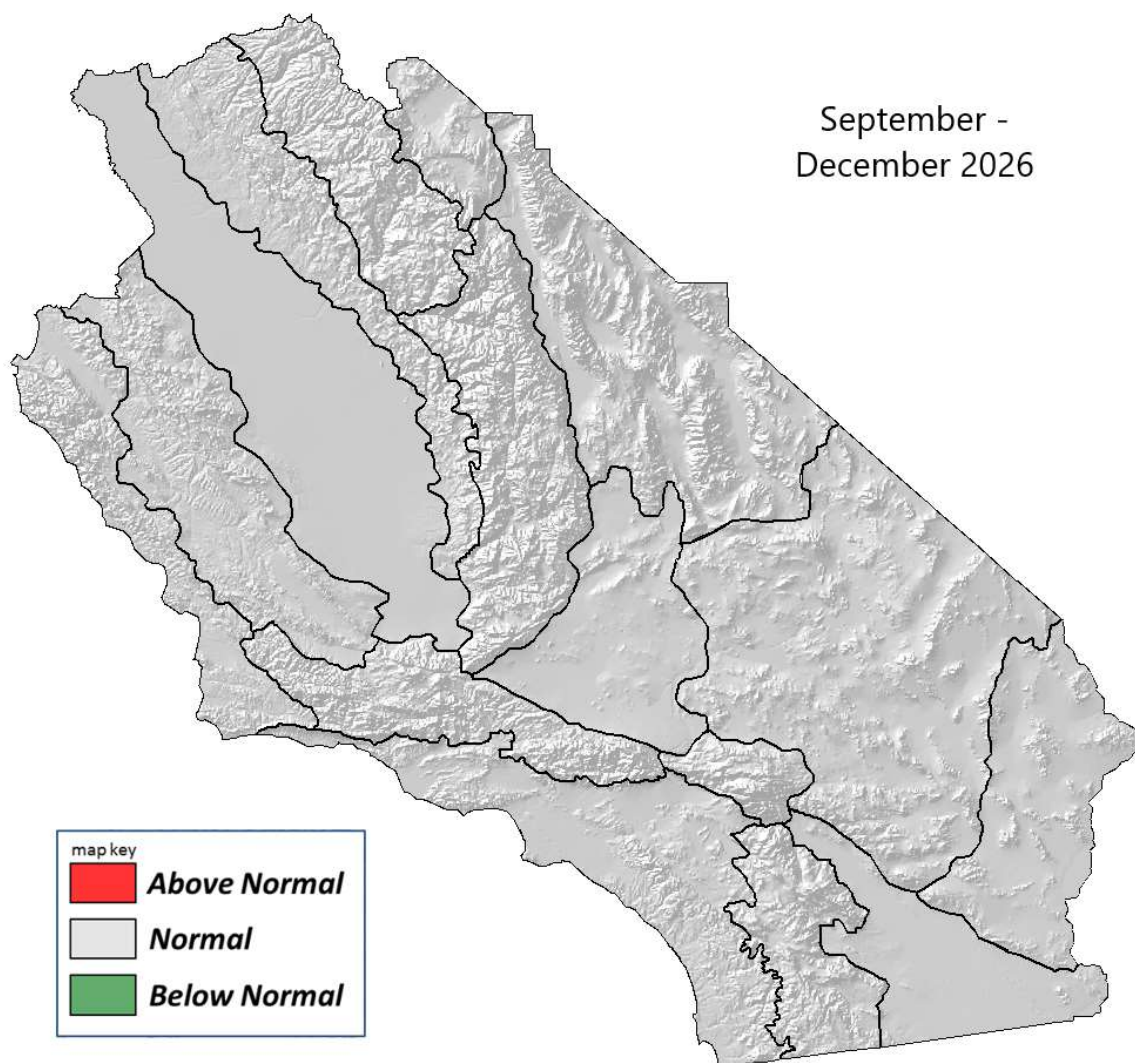




***Monthly Images will only be shown when there are changes**

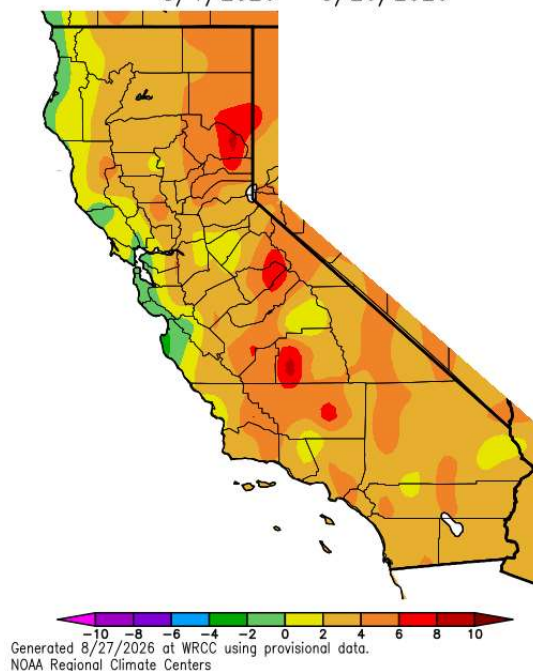
September – December 2026 South Ops Highlights

- Precipitation will likely be near to below normal in September and then above normal in October through December.
- Temperatures will likely be above normal in September and then below normal October through December.
- There will likely be a below normal amount of Santa Ana wind events October through December.

Weather Discussion

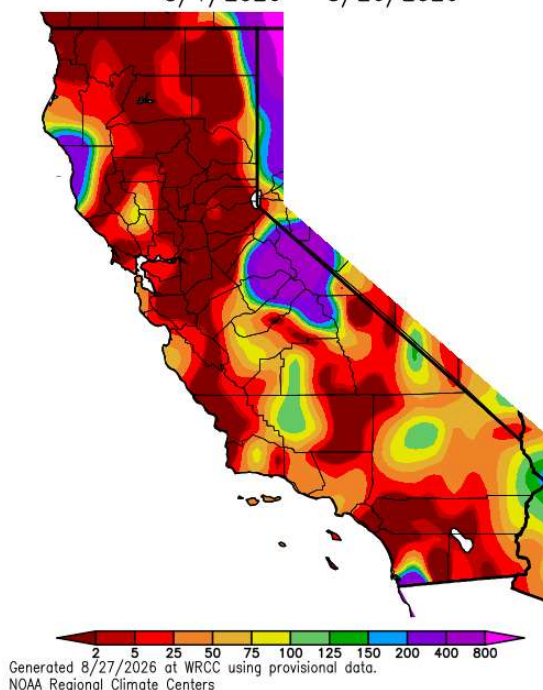
For most of August, high pressure moved back and forth between the Great Basin and the Four Corners Area bringing near to above normal temperatures to Central and Southern California. However, high pressure shifted to the southeastern United States and a trough set up just off the West Coast bringing a little below normal temperatures August 12-15. Just like in July, there were no periods of excessive heat away from the deserts. Overall for the month, temperatures were 2 to 6 degrees above normal (**Fig 1**). Isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms occurred mainly over the mountains and deserts August 6-16 and again from August 20th through the end of the month. However, isolated showers and thunderstorms occurred across the lower elevations August 11-12 and again August 27-28. Most locations received near to below normal rainfall for the month (**Fig 2**). Normal winds occurred during August just like in July, with afternoon southwest to northwest winds of 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 40 mph over the mountain ridges and through the desert passes along with a sea breeze of 10 to 20 mph elsewhere.

Av. Max. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
8/1/2026 – 8/26/2026



**Fig 1: August 1st - August 26th
Temperature (% of Ave.)**

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
8/1/2026 – 8/26/2026



**Fig 2: August 1st - August 26th
Precipitation (% of Ave.)**

Fuels Discussion

There has been little change in the drought in August compared to July. The only difference is that moderate drought has expanded to more of the Lower and Eastern Deserts. Abnormally dry conditions continue across the Sierra and most desert locations as well as most of San Diego County from the mountains westward and the mountains of Riverside County. Otherwise, most of Central and Southern California have no drought (**Fig 3**). Very dry conditions caused both the 1000-hr and 100-hr dead fuel moisture to drop to well below normal at the beginning and end of the month. Humid conditions caused the dead fuel moisture to increase to a little above normal during the middle of the month (**Figs 4@5**). The live fuel moisture is now mainly between 60% and 80% and remains a little below normal for this time of year (**Fig 6**).

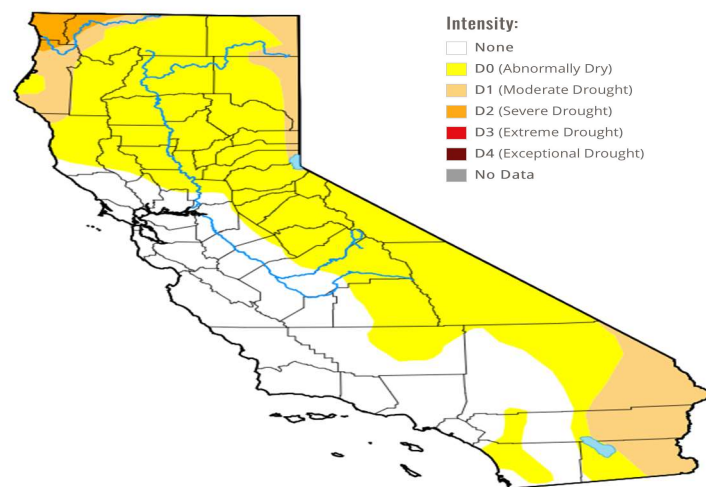


Fig 3: Drought Monitor August 27th, 2026

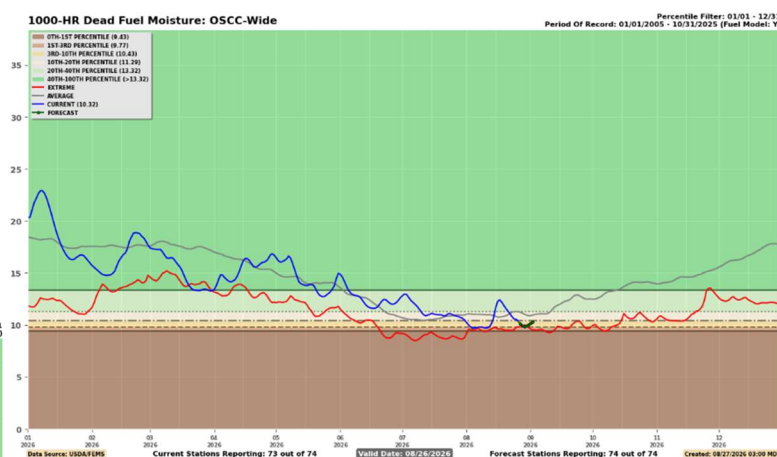


Fig 4: OSCC-Wide 1000 hr Dead fuel moisture August 26th

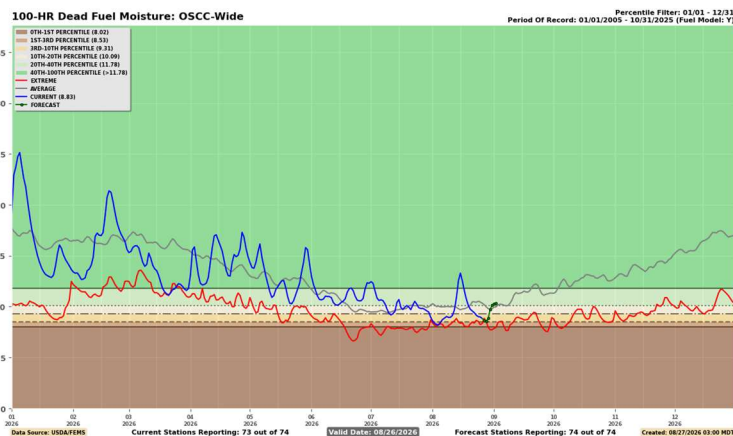


Fig 5: OSCC-Wide 100 hr Dead fuel moisture August 26th

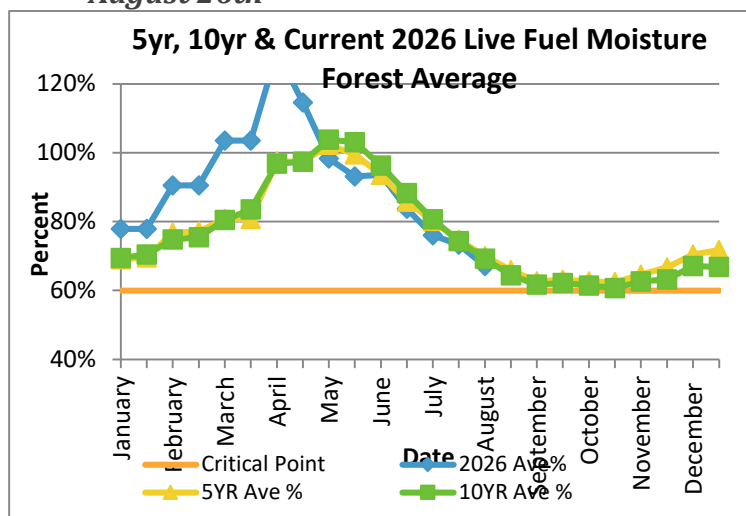


Fig 6: LPF Live Fuel Moisture August 1st

SOUTH OPS OUTLOOK

Sea surface temperatures off the California Coast are above normal and not expected to change much through September. Thus, temperatures are expected to remain above normal across the region in September. Strong El Nino conditions will likely keep monsoonal shower and thunderstorm activity below normal in September. However, there is a good possibility of scattered showers and thunderstorms from the remnants of tropical systems in September from the strong El Nino. The strong El Nino will likely bring below normal temperatures and above normal rainfall to the region October through December (**Figs 7@8**). It still looks likely that the first storm of the season from the Gulf of Alaska will come before the first Santa Ana wind event. The amount of Santa Ana wind events this fall will likely be less than normal as storms drop down the West Coast instead of moving inland into the Pacific Northwest and then drop down into the Great Basin and Desert Southwest. There will be a high probability that most storms will be warm and that there will be more atmospheric rivers than normal. The potential for large fire will be near normal across Central and Southern California September through December.

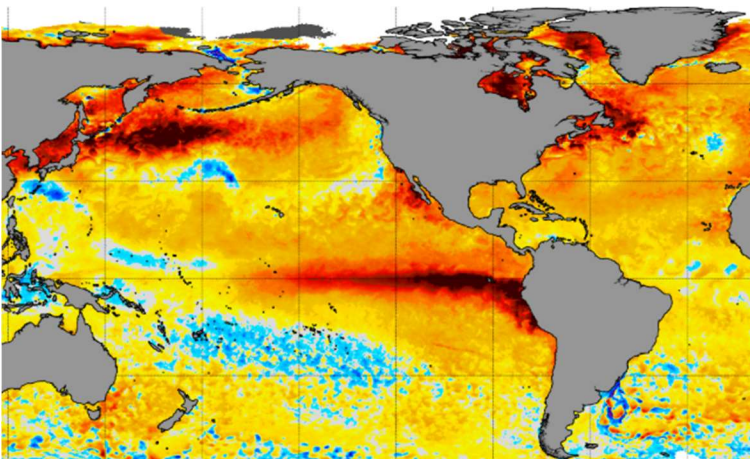


Fig 7: Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly, August 26th, 2026

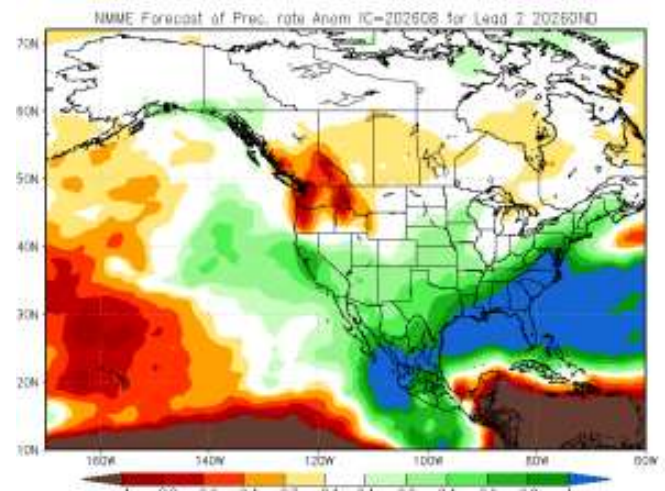
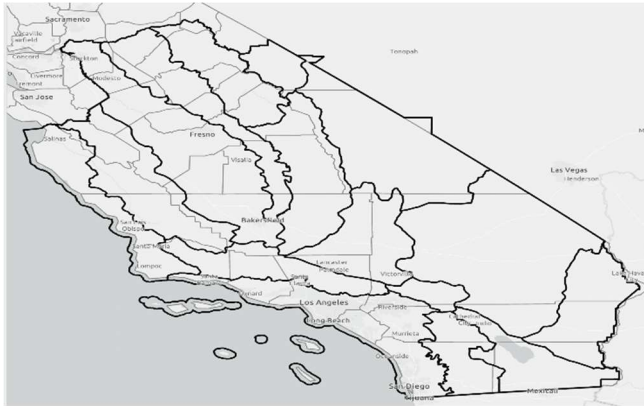


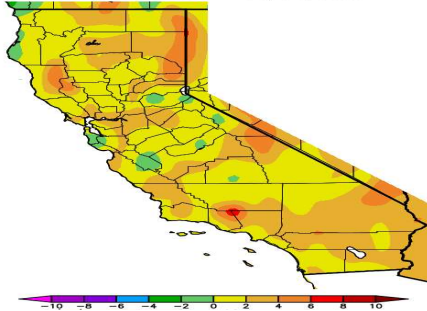
Fig 8: Forecast Precipitation Anomalies for September through December, August 26th, 2026

Maps with Counties and Select Intel Links used in the forecast

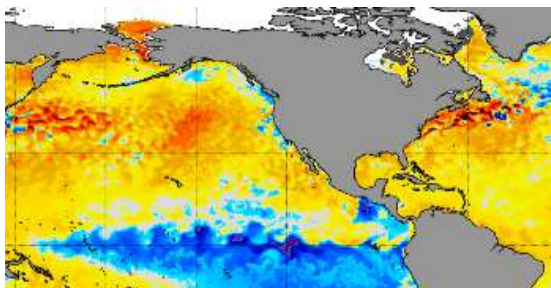
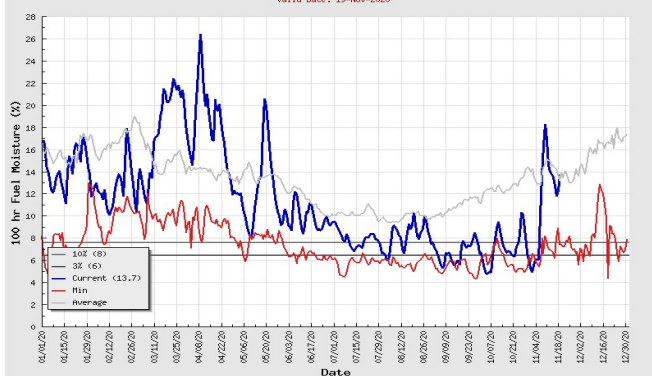


September - December 2026

Av. Max. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
11/1/2020 – 11/19/2020



5003 - Southern Sierra
Valid Date: 19-Nov-2020



Climate

- <https://calclim.dri.edu/pages/anommaps.html>

100 hr dead fuel moisture

- https://gacc.nifc.gov/oscc/fuelsFireDanger_Hundred.php

Current sea surface temperatures

- <https://www.ospo.noaa.gov/Products/ocean/sst/anomaly/>