



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMBARGOED PENDING UPDATED NOAA El Niño REPORT

September 10, 2015

Contacts:

Ted Thomas, DWR Information Officer - (916) 653-9712

California State Climatologist: Drought Could Continue Despite El Niño

SACRAMENTO — State Climatologist Michael L. Anderson issued the following statement on potential El Niño conditions:

“Current El Niño conditions cannot tell us how many storms may cross California this coming winter or how much rain and snow will fall in our state. Strong El Niño events in the past have led to wetter-than-average conditions in the southern part of the state but offered mixed results for California’s main water supply regions in the north. This uncertainty means that Californians should continue to use water carefully and sparingly in the face of the ongoing extreme drought.

While California’s past winter weather and El Niño events offer clues to what lies ahead, a changing climate makes historical weather data less comparable. Consider that each of the past two winters has been warmer than any of the previous 120 years of observed record. The extent of these record temperatures and the resulting impacts on California’s winter precipitation remain to be seen.

The fact is that this coming winter could extend our record-dry weather or bring major storms, heavy precipitation and coastal storm surges or a combination of all. We must prepare by conserving water in our daily lives, as well as protecting property against the potential of heavy storms and local flooding.”

Californians should not count on El Niño to end the drought. For more information on the unpredictable nature of the El Niño phenomenon, visit:

http://water.ca.gov/waterconditions/docs/Drought_ENSO_handout4.pdf.

~30~

California has been dealing with the effects of drought for four years. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit saveourwater.com.

