

Estimate: 10 trillion gallons drenched California

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Steve Kuzj reports for the KTLA 5 News at 6 on Friday, Dec. 12, 2014.

- [National Weather Service](#)

Estimate: California's 10-day rainfall totaled 10 trillion gallons

How much rainfall has hit California in the last 10 days?

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Ten trillion gallons, according to Ryan Maue.

That's enough to fill 15.1 million Olympic-sized swimming pools or power Niagara Falls for 154 days.

Using data from the National Weather Service, Maue -- a Florida-based meteorologist for WeatherBELL Analytics -- calculated that an average of 3.5 inches of water fell across the Golden State.

In places like the Sierras, where several inches of snow fell, Maue's model liquefied the powder: one inch of water for every 10 inches of snow.

Since one inch of rain in a square mile works out to 17,378,742 gallons, and California has 163,696 square miles -- voila, 10 trillion.

"It's an accurate number, but it's based on how good the precipitation data is," Maue cautioned. "There's no way to

know exactly.”

Craig Shoemaker, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service’s Sacramento station, agreed that it’s a “kind of a neat number” but, alas, imperfect.

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“We don’t take instantaneous observations at every point in the state,” Shoemaker said. “There’s going to be some level of inaccuracy.”

Maue's data was based on totals from 4:00 a.m. Friday -- meaning that daylong rains across Southern California on Friday could push the total up higher.

For breaking news in California, follow [@MattHjourn](#). He can be reached at matt.hamilton@latimes.com.

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