

Earth Log: What if winter skipped February? It just did

By Mark Grossi

Madera Canal at Millerton Lake looks pretty much the same this year as it did last year — dry.

ERIC PAUL ZAMORA — The Fresno Bee | [Buy Photo](#)

-
-

If you were starting a suntan, February was a great month. Winter skipped the shortest month of the year.

There. I said it without mentioning the word drought. I know, you're tired of hearing about it. And you may already know February temperatures were up all across California while rain and snow took a holiday.

But since nobody really knows when this “time without winter” will end, I will continue to watch closely and write when it takes another surreal turn. As it did in February.

Spiking temperatures? If preliminary readings verify, Fresno set an all-time record for February warmth. By the way, the previous record was set last year.

[Look up and down California](#). Los Angeles and San Diego each were 5.2 degrees above their average. San Francisco was 5.4 degrees warmer than it usually would be. Sacramento was 5.7 degrees above average. Redding was 6.9 degrees warmer.

Those numbers are remarkable.

Let's go back to rain and snow. Actually, forget rain. It's important, of course, but it's not as important as the snowpack's frozen water, which pours down the rivers in spring and summer.

While blizzards buried Boston and other cities in the East, one of the snowiest places in the United States — [the Sierra Nevada](#) — was nearly shut out. It gained only a half inch, going from 4.1 to 4.7 inches.

The Sierra's average by April 1 is closer to 29 inches. A few extraordinary storms could close that wide gap by several inches, but I haven't yet seen any March storm forecasts that fit the description.

Contact Mark Grossi: mgrossi@fresnobee.com, (559) 441-6316 or [@markgrossi](#) on Twitter.

