

Earth Log: State water officials will be here to talk about this ugly drought

By Mark Grossi

Snow Water Equivalents (inches)

Provided by the California Cooperative Snow Surveys

Data For: 16-Mar-2015

% Apr 1 Avg. / % Normal for this Date



Change Date :

NORTH	
Data For: 16-Mar-2015	
Number of Stations Reporting	31
Average snow water equivalent	3.0"
Percent of April 1 Average	10%
Percent of normal for this date	10%

CENTRAL	
Data For: 16-Mar-2015	
Number of Stations Reporting	44
Average snow water equivalent	4.2"
Percent of April 1 Average	14%
Percent of normal for this date	14%

SOUTH	
Data For: 16-Mar-2015	
Number of Stations Reporting	29
Average snow water equivalent	4.1"
Percent of April 1 Average	15%
Percent of normal for this date	16%

STATEWIDE SUMMARY	
Data For: 16-Mar-2015	
Number of Stations Reporting	104
Average snow water equivalent	3.8"
Percent of April 1 Average	13%
Percent of normal for this date	13%

The Sierra Nevada snowpack is slumping badly this year, less than half the size of the puny 2014 snowpack at this point in the year.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES — California Cooperative Snow Surveys

[State officials will be in Fresno](#) on Thursday to tell the public how dire California's four-year drought has become.

The topics in the briefing will range from lack of precipitation above to the sinking groundwater below. But, maybe more important now, they'll talk about this summer and how the major water projects will operate.

The public is invited to the free meeting from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Alice Peters Auditorium at California State University, Fresno. The briefing is sponsored by the California Department of Water Resources and the nonprofit Water Education Foundation, based in Sacramento.

Just a reminder about the drought, last year was among the driest on record. This year, it's not much better, though Northern California did get a lot of rain in December.

The [snowpack](#) is actually smaller this year and fading faster than last year. Overall it is just 13% of average for this time of year. Last year at this point, the snowpack was 28% of average.