

DAILY DART

WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES DISASTER AWARENESS REPORT

March 13, 2023

Heavy Rain & Flooding Activity California

- Another round of storms is headed to flood-ravaged California, where residents are still grappling with impassable roads, overflowing rivers, inundated neighborhoods and a levee breach that forced hundreds to evacuate.
- A new atmospheric river is expected to slam the state Monday, threatening heavy rain and even more flooding in central and Northern California just as another atmospheric river winds down, the National Weather Service said.
- About 15 million people remain under flood watches in California and Nevada.
- "Rainfall totals exceeding 6 inches are possible across portions of central and Northern California through this event," CNN Meteorologist Haley Brink said Sunday.
- More flooding could make for a dire situation in some neighborhoods, where torrential walls of rain in recent days turned streets into rivers and damaged roads, stranding people and prompting rescues. At least two people have died as a result of the storms, officials said.
- Among the hardest-hit areas is Monterey County, where the swollen Pajaro River breached a levee at around midnight Friday. Water gushed uncontrollably into nearby Pajaro, forcing residents to flee – the "worst case scenario" for the community, said Luis Alejo, chair of the Monterey County board of supervisors.
- Some people weren't able to evacuate before the floodwater arrived, and crews were still out performing high-water rescues Saturday, Cal Fire Capt. Curtis Rhodes told CNN.
- While eyes were on the Pajaro River, the Salinas River to the south was also overflowing – prompting more evacuation orders in Monterey County. The rising river water had already flooded homes and businesses around the San Ardo community.
- To the north, as Friday's heavy rains pummeled Santa Cruz County, about 700 residents in Soquel got trapped after a pipe failure led to severe flooding and the collapse of the one road linking the community to the rest of the region, said Steve Wiesner, the county's assistant public works director.
- Another hard-hit area was Tulare County, where evacuation orders were expanded to include the Teviston community as well as parts of Cutler and Exeter when river flow increased, the county sheriff's office announced Friday night.
- President Biden approved an emergency declaration for California due to the ongoing storms, meaning that the state will be able to access federal resources to deal with the flooding, landslides and severe weather from what will be the state's 10th atmospheric river of the winter.
- Governor Newsom on Sunday expanded the declaration to include six additional counties, including Calaveras, Del Norte, Glenn, Kings, San Benito and San Joaquin.



Cars and homes are engulfed by floodwaters in Pajaro, CA on Saturday

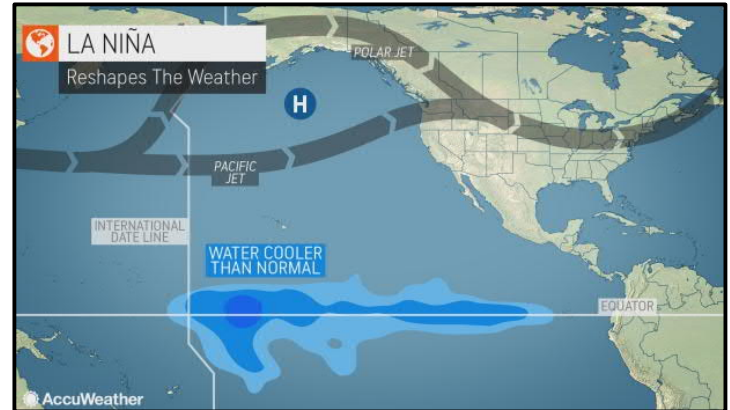
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La Nina has officially ended

- NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) on Thursday declared an end to the long-lasting La Niña that began nearly three years ago, signaling that ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific were warming up.
- The La Niña pattern, the colder counterpart of El Niño in the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) climate phenomenon, has influenced the weather across the Northern Hemisphere in a number of ways in recent years.
- Conditions were first observed in the central Pacific in the three-month stretch from July through September 2020, and they continued nearly uninterrupted for 30 months.
- La Niña occurs when the water temperatures in the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean are at least 0.9 of a degree Fahrenheit (0.5 of a degree Celsius) below average over three months.
- Conversely, El Niño happens when the running average is 0.9 of a degree Fahrenheit (0.5 of a degree Celsius) or higher. Neutral conditions exist for any departure between those two temperature ranges.
- While it may seem like such a small change in water temperature in one part of the world would have only a minimal impact elsewhere, it can significantly alter global wind patterns, which drive the development and movement of storm systems and moisture across the globe.
- During La Niña, the southern United States tends to experience warmer and drier conditions than usual, while the northern U.S. can be wetter and colder. It can also lead to an above-average number of tropical storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic basin as it makes conditions more favorable for storm development.
- In 2020, a record-setting hurricane season unfolded in the Atlantic, with forecasters using more names to identify storms than ever before. Another above-normal season followed in 2021. However, the 2022 season produced 14 storms, which is around average.
- The CPC is forecasting neutral conditions, neither La Niña nor El Niño, to continue through the spring months and into the early summer.
- Since neutral conditions are expected for a few months, the effects that the ocean temperatures in the central Pacific have on the weather patterns globally will be diminished.
- Later this summer or in the fall, El Niño conditions are forecast to emerge, according to AccuWeather's team of long-range forecasters. This, too, will have vast implications for weather patterns across the Northern Hemisphere for the second half of 2023 and beyond.
- An El Niño tends to lead to wetter conditions than usual across the southern U.S. and warmer, drier conditions in the northern U.S. Stronger El Niños can amplify those effects, leading to destructive flooding in some areas and severe drought in others.
- Strong El Niños have recently been observed from 1997 into early 1998 and from 2015 into early 2016.



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Pending Individual Assistance Declaration Request

State	Event	Date Submitted	Approved/Denied/Pending	Number of Counties/Tribes
WV	Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides (Appeal)	1/27/2023	Pending	2 Counties
TX	Severe Storms & Tornadoes Jan 24, 2023	2/7/2023	Pending	4 Counties

WSP USA Inspection Services Active Disasters

Disaster Number and State	Disaster Type	Number of Counties Declared	Days Since Launch	Registration Deadline
4671 PR	Hurricane Fiona	78 Municipalities	171	11/21/2022
4673 FL	Hurricane Ian	26 Counties	162	1/12/2023

WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES ACTIVITY

