

Predicting Atmospheric Rivers:

Applications for Wastewater Agencies

BACWA Webinar November 5, 2025

AGENDA

- Introduction and Purpose
- AQPI Background, Program, and Future Plans
- Dublin-San Ramon Services District Case Study
- Union Sanitary District Case Study
- -Q&A
- Wrap-up and Next Steps



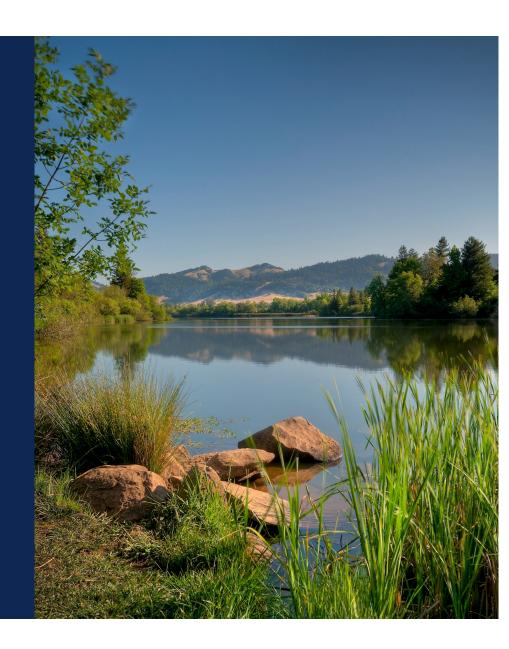
SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1949

Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information Project Update

Dale Roberts, Principal Engineer

05 November 2025 Bay Area Clean Water Agencies



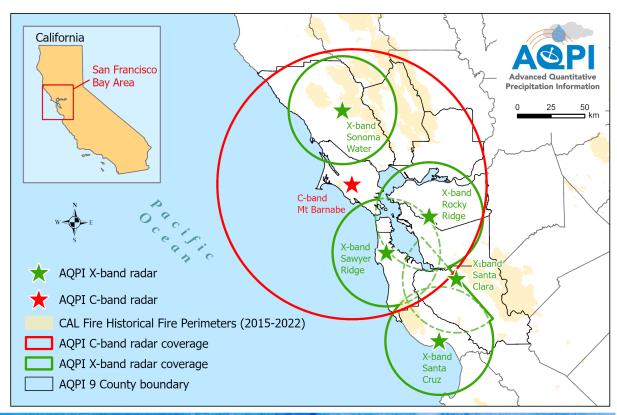


Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI)

- \$19.8M DWR grant, 25% match
- Sonoma Water Local Sponsor
- 4 X-band radars (N-S-E-W)
- 1 C-band radar (Ocean facing)
- 20 ground mounted stations
- Data transmission of radar observations to Colorado State and CW3E for processing, forecasting, and distribution to local water agencies
- Users can integrate AQPI forecasts to better inform operations and resource allocation, increase efficiency, and save money
- Grant requires operation for 20 years
- Contributions from Feds, State, & Locals



A regional weather prediction system using enhanced weather radars to track and forecast precipitation from atmospheric rivers for use by water/flood/wastewater/emergency entities.



AQPI Agreements History

Date	Action
Early 2010's	Individual agency agreements with NOAA and others
June 2015	Sonoma Water, SFPUC, and Valley Water executed San
	Francisco Estuary Partnership to prepare of a grant
	application for the SF Bay AQPI Project to be submitted under Round 4 of
	Proposition 84
August 2016	DWR/Sonoma Water Agreement executed, \$19.8M
Summer 2016	Sonoma Water sub-agreements with NOAA, CSU/CIRA, USGS, Morrison, Krebs,
	CW3E, and BPC
January 2020	Local Partner Agencies Committee (LPAC) Planning Agreement
TBD	LPAC Implementation Agreement – C-band cost share and Ongoing
	operational cost share
April 2021	Cooperative Agreement for East Bay X-band EBMUD, EBDA, CCCFCWCD,
	ACFCD, ACWD, and Zone 7. Replaced in 2022
October 2024	DWR No Cost Time Extension 3 to Grant Agreement
March 31 2026	All eligible work under DWR grant completed
June 2026	Final paperwork and invoices submitted, grant expiration
2025 / 2026	Agreements for Operational Transition to CW3E & subs



AQPI Radar Timelines

Date	Action
2016-2022	Site Selection, Access, Rent, Power, Network, Permits, etc.
Summer 2016	X-band operational in south bay at Valley Water
Summer 2018	X-band operational in north bay at Sonoma Water
Summer 2022	X-band operational in further south at Santa Cruz
Summer 2023	X-band operational in east bay at Rocky Ridge
Spring/Summer 2025	X-band to be operational in west bay at SFPUC Sawyer Ridge
January 2025	C-band at Mt Barnabe Building Permit Issued
March 2025	C-band installation contract to be advertised for bid
April 2025	C-band installation contract bids received
June 2025	C-band installation contract to be awarded
July 2025	C-band installation contract Notice To Proceed
December 2025	C-band radar operational
March 31 2026	All eligible work under DWR grant completed
June 2026	Final paperwork and invoices submitted, grant expiration
2025 / 2026	Operational Transition to CW3E



Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI) C-band

- Lease Agreement with County of Marin
- Construction Cost \$550k
- Design, Project Management, Construction Management, Permitting, etc. \$650k
- Sonoma Water fronting \$1.2M
- Need multiparty reimbursement agreement
- Propose \$300k split from each ordinate/quadrant of bay
- Lead from N-S-E-W











AQPI

Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information

Current and Future Capabilities

Jon Rutz (CW3E) BACWA Webinar 5 November 2025



AQPI X-Band Radar at Santa Rosa, CA with wildfire smoke in the background









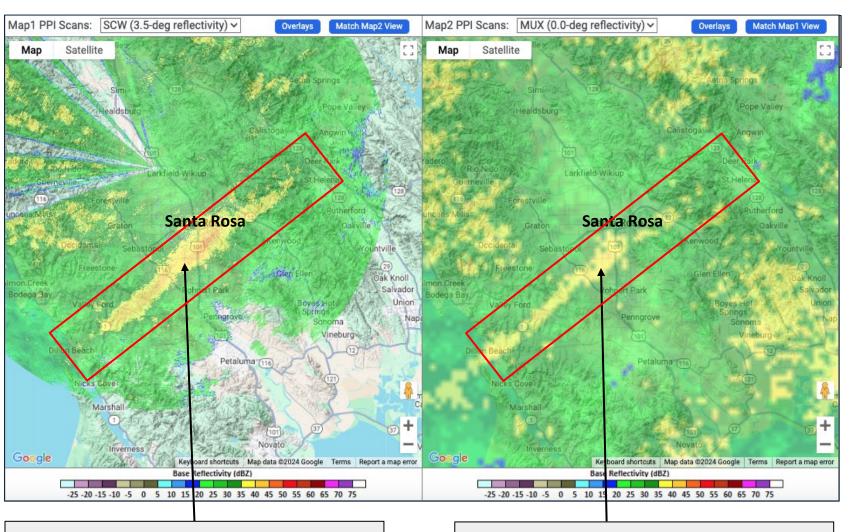






AQPI Detection of Intense Rainfall





Guerneville, CA



Source:

https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/atmospheric-river-lashes-the-north-bay-bringing-flooding-power-outages/

NCFR: Narrow Cold-Frontal Rainband

NCFR: Linear indication, but weaker

Representative Timeseries of Precipitation



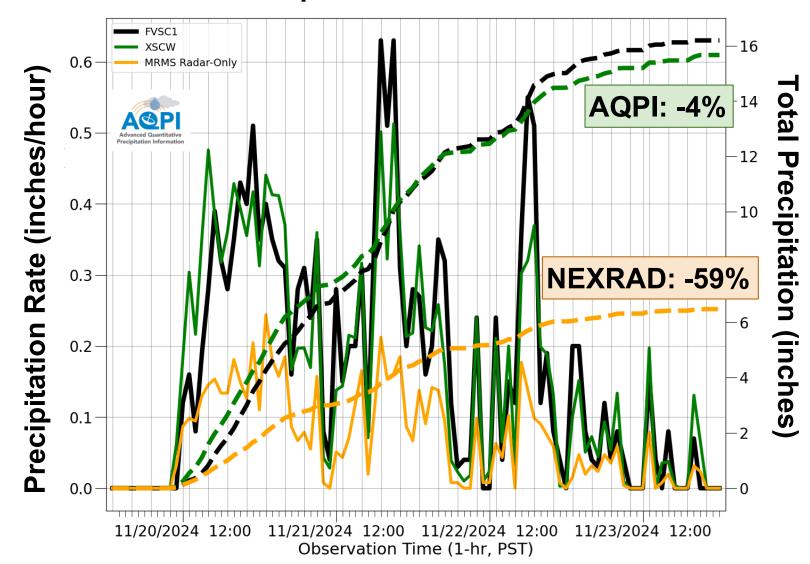
Rain gauge observations show three peaks in precipitation rate during the event

The NEXRAD radar product does not identify these peaks... not even close

AQPI radar identifies these peaks much more accurately

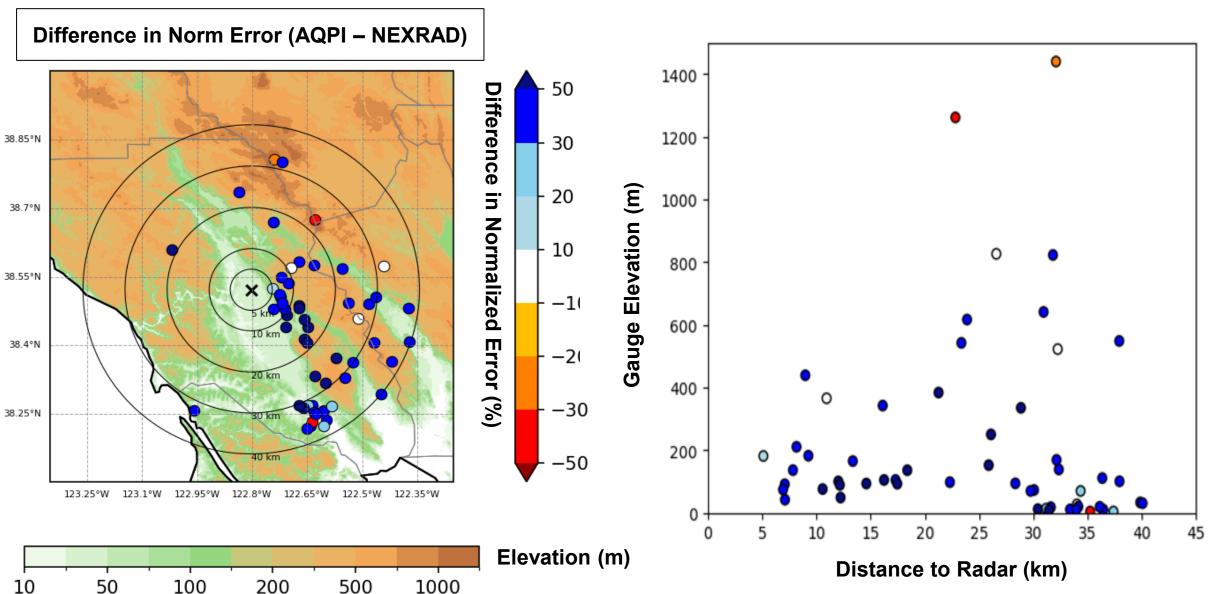
AQPI also outperforms cumulatively during the storm

Precipitation Rates: FVSC1



Case Study: Sonoma County (24 - 25 Oct 2021)

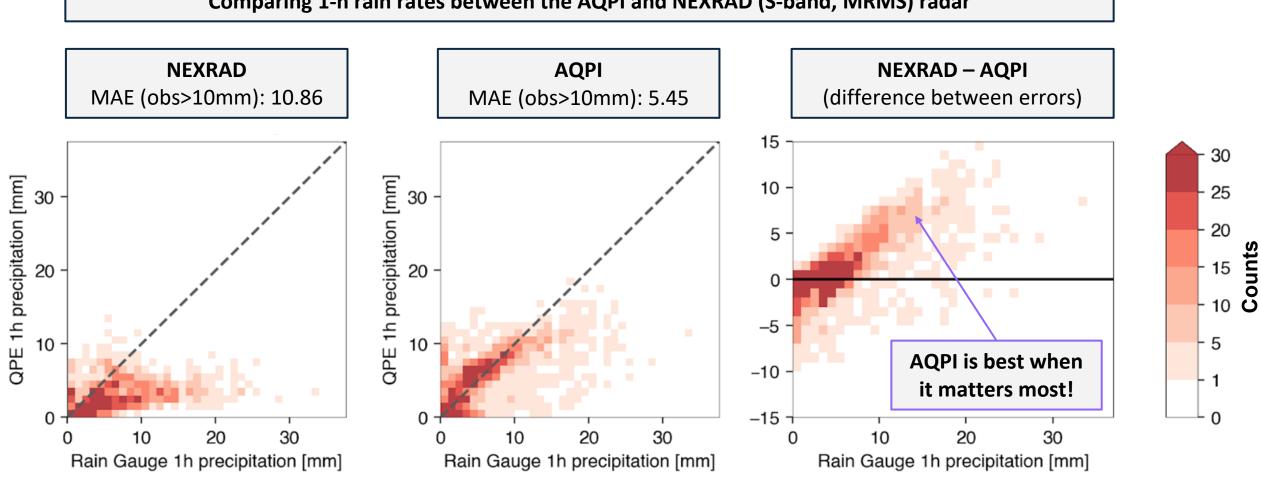




Case Study: Sonoma County (24 - 25 Oct 2021)

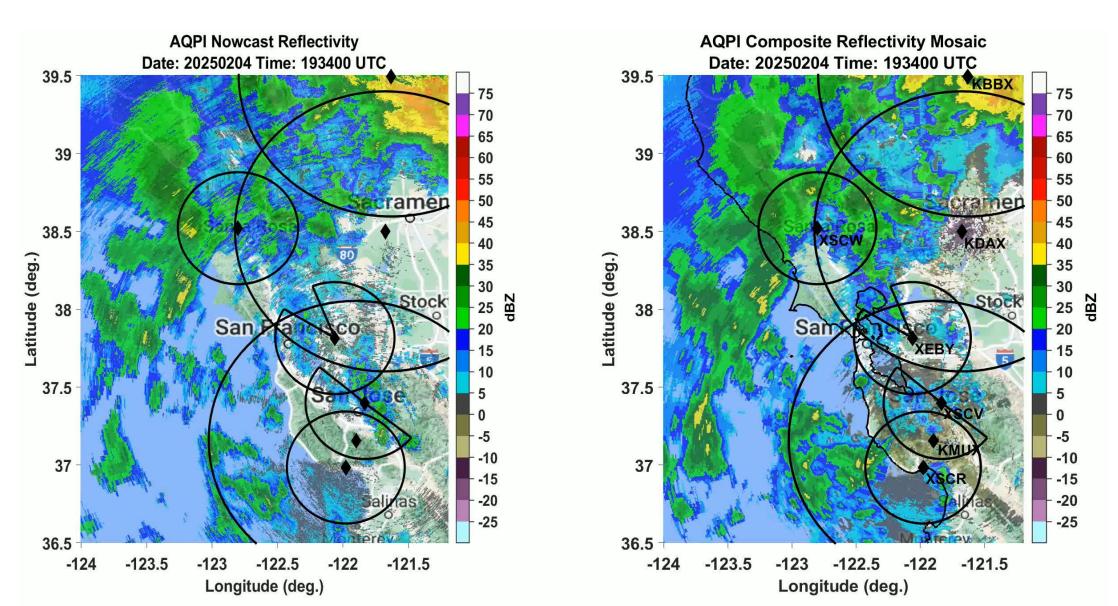


Comparing 1-h rain rates between the AQPI and NEXRAD (S-band, MRMS) radar



AQPI Mosaic – Nowcast



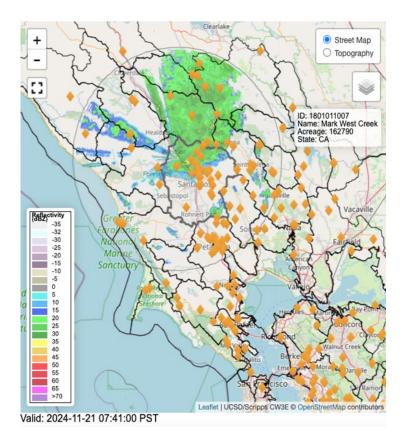


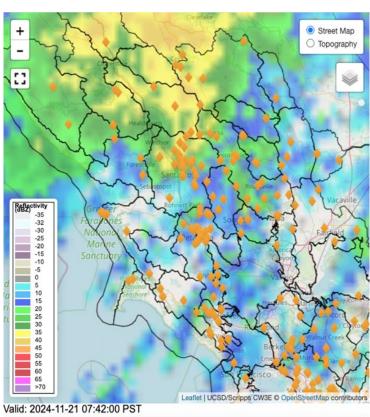
User Interface - Live Demo?

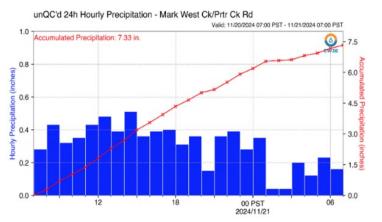


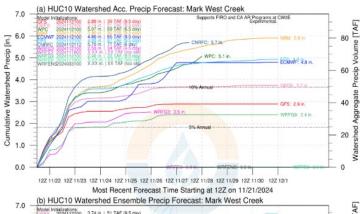
A newly developed user interface integrates data visualization for radars and other observations, radar-derived products such as a mosaic and nowcast, and a suite of additional forecast and decision support tools.

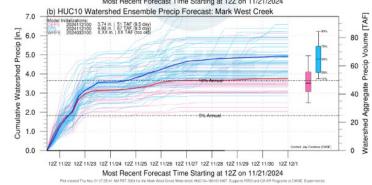
https://cw3e.ucsd.edu/Projects/AQPI/main.html









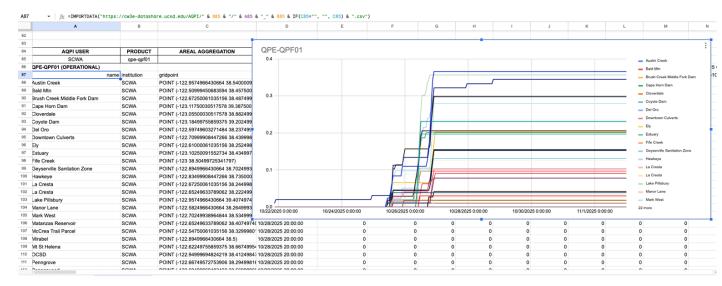


AQPI Data Delivery

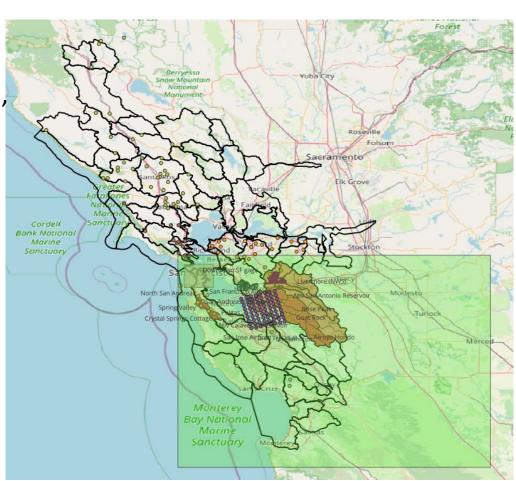


AQPI provides observed and forecast precipitation data via an online data share: https://cw3e-datashare.ucsd.edu/AQPI/

The data is available in a variety of temporal resolutions (1-h, 6-h, 24-h) and percentiles (10th, 50th, 90th). A quick guide provides more information: https://cw3e-datashare.ucsd.edu/AQPI/CW3E-AQPI data-feed quick-guide.pdf



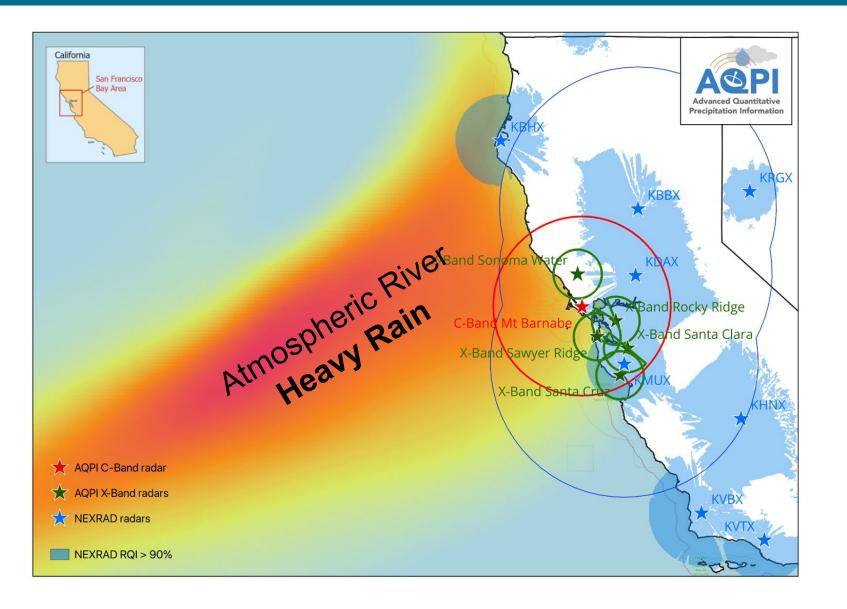




Map of AQPI users' data extraction regions.

C-Band Benefit to Rainfall Forecasting



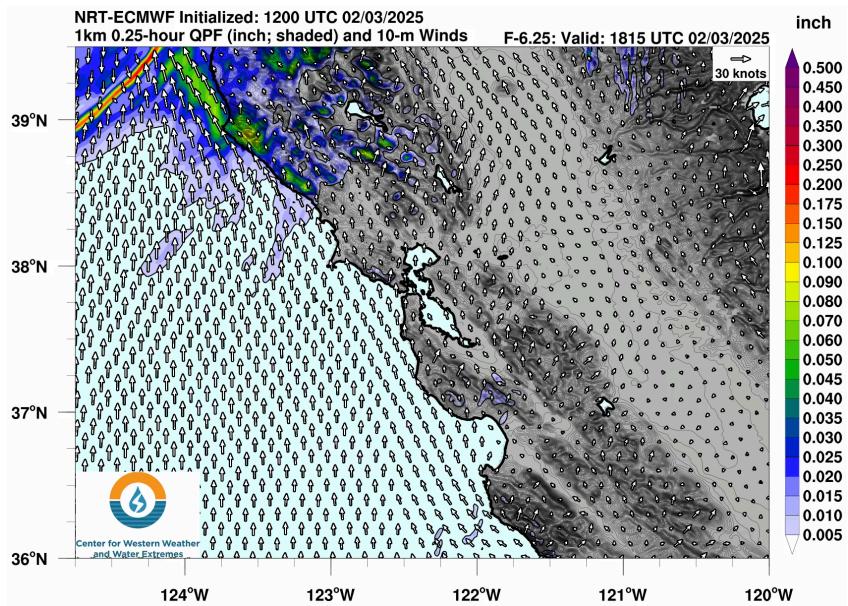


The C-band will provide several benefits to the AQPI network:

- greater offshore "sight" for approaching rain bands: 2-8 hours lead time
- filled gaps between Xband radars
- redundancy for most of the Bay Area

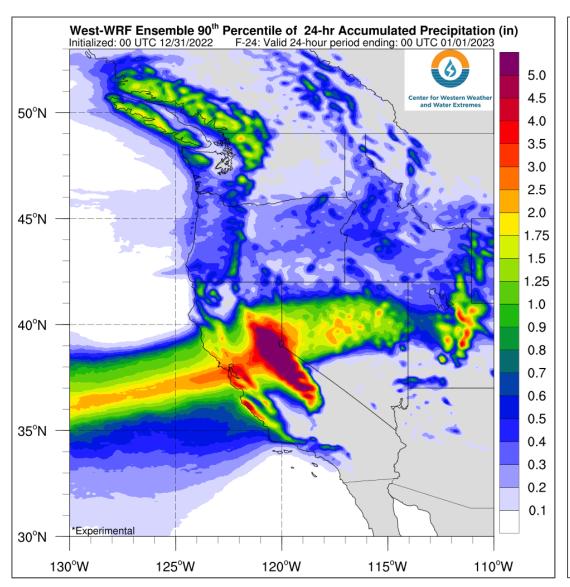
CW3E 1-km West -WRF: 15-Min Precipitation

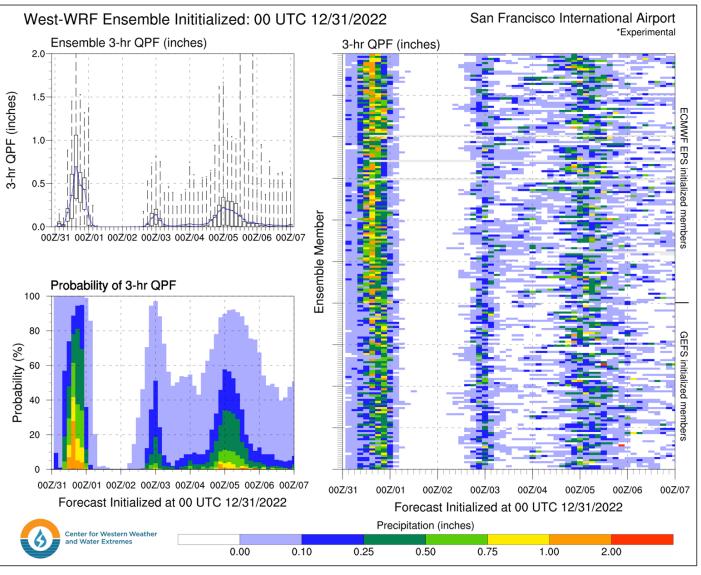




West-WRF Ensemble: Dec 31, 2022







Questions / Comments



AQPI is building a state-of-the-art observation and forecast system for the San Francisco Bay Area – local contribution under consideration is needed to perform O&M beyond Mar 2026.

Contact

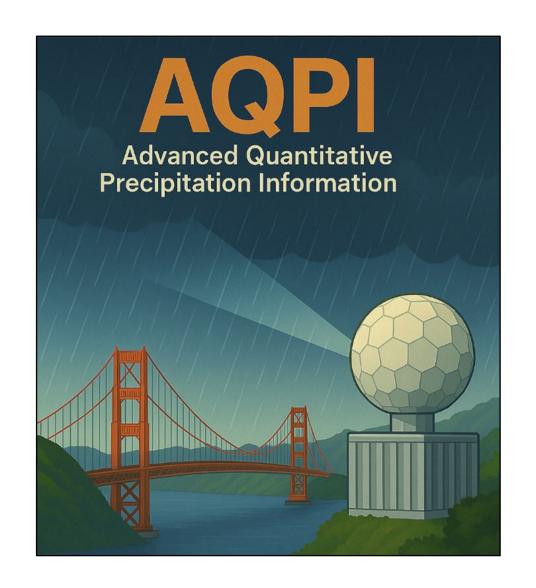
Jon Rutz (<u>jrutz@ucsd.edu</u>)

AQPI Program Management, CW3E

Information / Data Access

CW3E AQPI Webpage: Access Here

NOAA Radar Archive: <u>Access Here</u> NEXRAD and AQPI Radar Side-by-Sides



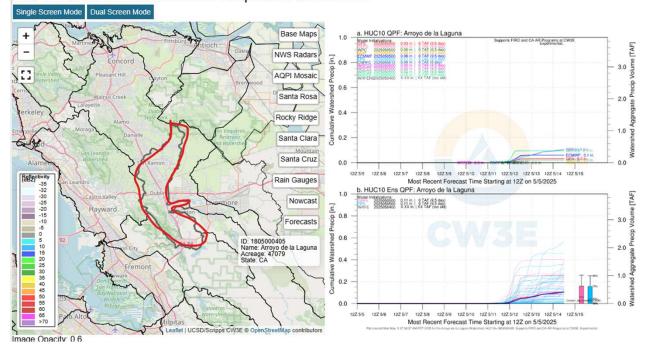


AQPI Weather Information

- •AQPI (Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information) AQPI Radar Viewer
 - •Select Rocky Ridge for the layer. Zoom in and select the Arroyo de la Laguna



AQPI - Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information





CW3E Watershed QPF Portal

AQPI Radar Viewer

AOPI Weather Information

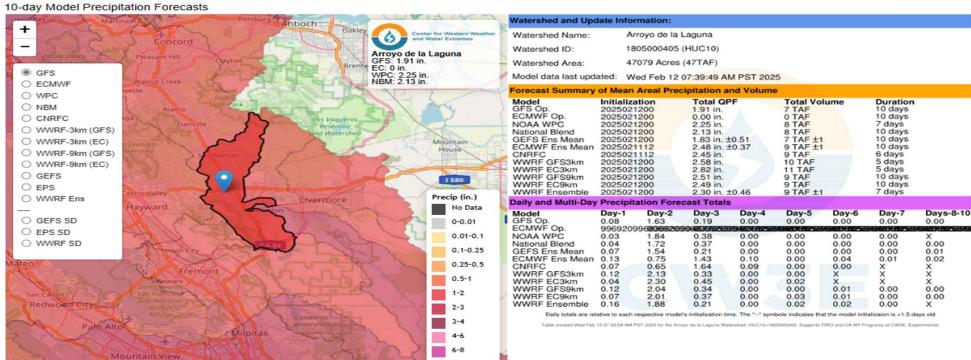
- •AQPI (Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information) AQPI Radar Viewer
- •Select Rocky Ridge for the layer. Zoom in and select the Arroyo de la Laguna

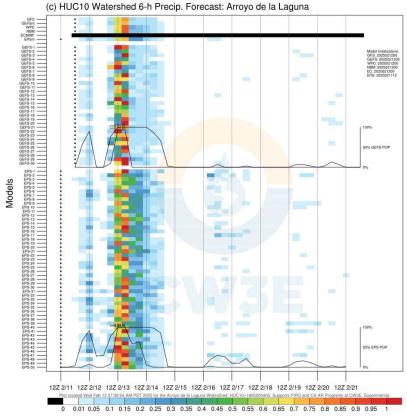
CW3E Precipitation Forecasts

Primary support by the California Atmospheric Rivers Program and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FIRO Program Return to CW3E Homepage.

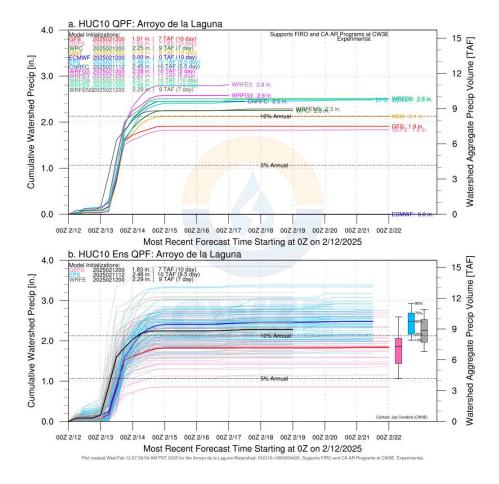
Western US Basins Select California Sub-Basins AQPI Sub-Basins Select Reservoir Catchments CONUS ASOS

Refresh Entire Page





Most Recent Forecast Time Starting at 0Z on 2/12/2025 | (inits may differ - dots)



•Weather models created for DSRSD service area. NOTE: "Run_time" for the reports is in UTC (similar to Zulu or GMT) so you will need to subtract 8 (7 during DST) hours to get local time in PST. These are being updated regularly. These contain various models so you can see where various predictions are similar. The more the models line up the higher the confidence level.

•The CW3E AQPI team is providing precipitation forecasts for your provided polygon.

Your files are being updated on these URL's:

- •36 Hour in 1 hr. increments: https://cw3e.ucsd.edu/Projects/AQPI/datashare/DSRSD_nbm.csv
- •18 Hour in 15 min increments: https://cw3e.ucsd.edu/Projects/AQPI/datashare/DSRSD_hrrr.csv
- •10 Day in 6 hr. increments: https://cw3e.ucsd.edu/Projects/AQPI/datashare/DSRSD_gfs.csv

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DSRSD	DSRSD	POINT (-121.96779064268298 37.729748025006145	5/5/2025 16:00	0	0	(0)) (0 0	() (0	0	0)	0	0	0
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Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 9:49 AM

Subject: RE: AQPI District Forecast for atmospheric river

All,

Below are the rainfall predictions based on the most recent models.

DSRSD AQPI 6-hour precipitation model was updated this morning at 4 AM. Total predicted rainfall for the below period is 1.88 inches.

Model Run Time 2/12/2025 4:00

Date	Wed 2/12	Wed 2/12	Wed 2/12	Thu 2/13	Thu 2/13	Thu 2/13	Thu 2/13	Fri 2/14	Fri 2/14	Fri 2/14	Fri 2/14	Sat 2/15	Sat 2/15	Sat 2/15
Time	10:00 AM	4:00 PM	10:00 PM	4:00 AM	10:00 AM	4:00 PM	10:00 PM	4:00 AM	10:00 AM	4:00 PM	10:00 PM	4:00 AM	10:00 AM	4:00 PM
6-hour total	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.90	0.49	0.20	0.14	0.06	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6-hour total	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.72	0.59	0.18	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average 6-hour totals	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.81	0.54	0.19	0.10	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

DSRSD AQPI hourly precipitation model was updated today at 5 AM. Total predicted rainfall through Thursday at 5 PM is 1.8 inches.

2/12/25 5:00 AM

Date	Wed 2/12																	
Time	6:00 AM	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM
1-hour avgs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.06

2/12/25 5:00 AM

Date		Thu 2/13																	
Time		12:00 AM	1:00 AM	2:00 AM	3:00 AM	4:00 AM	5:00 AM	6:00 AM	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM
1-hour	ravgs	0.08	0.12	0.14	0.17	0.20	0.19	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.07	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.05





Flows 2/12/2025: Avg - 13.98 Min - 6.95 Max - 21.50



Flows 2/13/2025:

Avg - 26.28

Min - 12.13

Max - 36.43

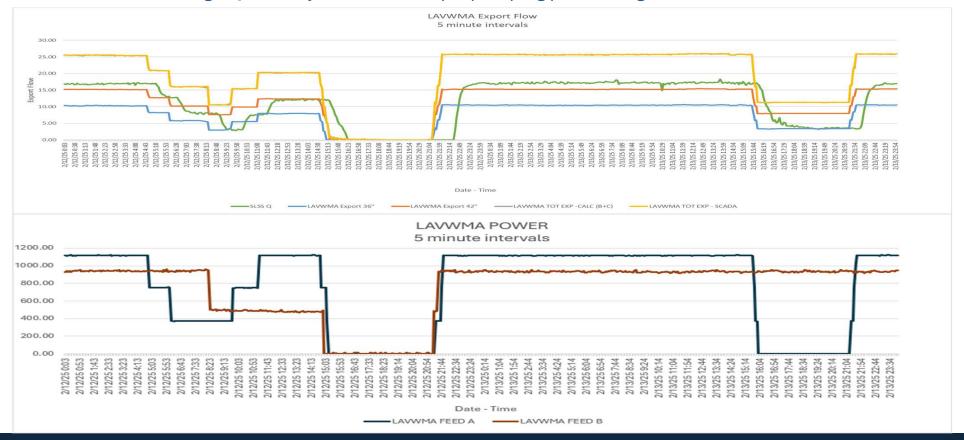
Use of AQPI for pumping decisions.



- Demand Charge for pumps
 - Small Pump \$15.5K
 - Large Pump \$19.8K
- LAVWMA Storage
 - 3 Basins totaling 18 MG



LAVWMA storm flows with 3 small and 2 large Pumps. No impact to the usual demand charges as a result of utilizing AQPI hourly data to develop a pumping plan during and after the storm.





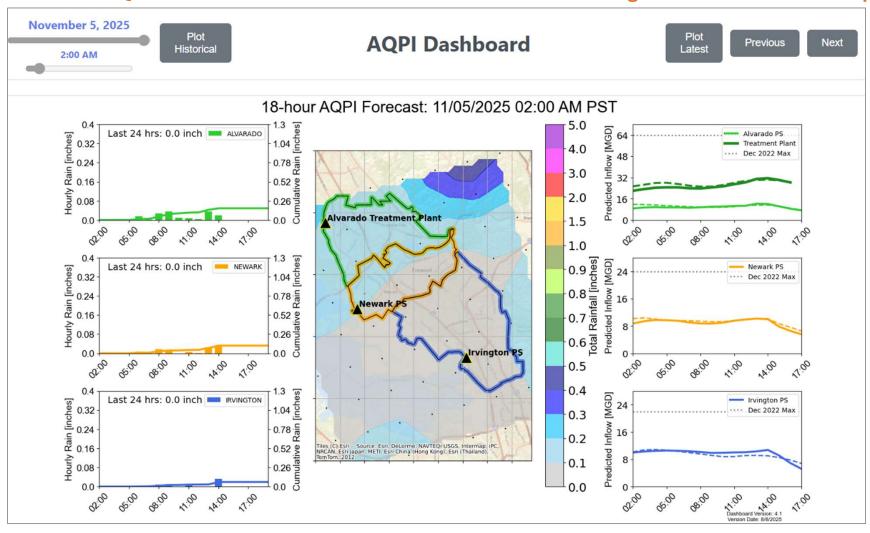


UNION SANITARY DISTRICT BACWA - Predictive Rainfall Model Update 11/5/25



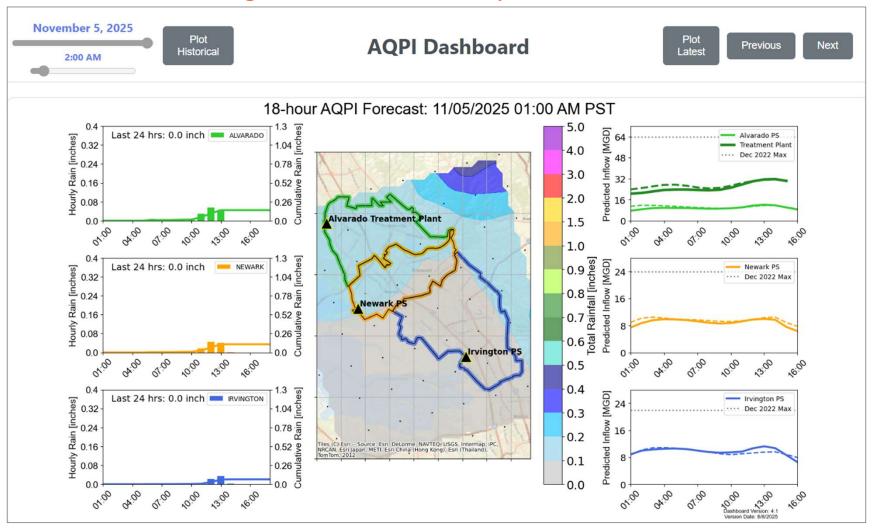
November 5, 2025, Storm Event: forecast at 2:00 am

USD uses AQPI Rainfall Rates and Forecasts with Machine Learning to Predict Flows to Pumps & Plant



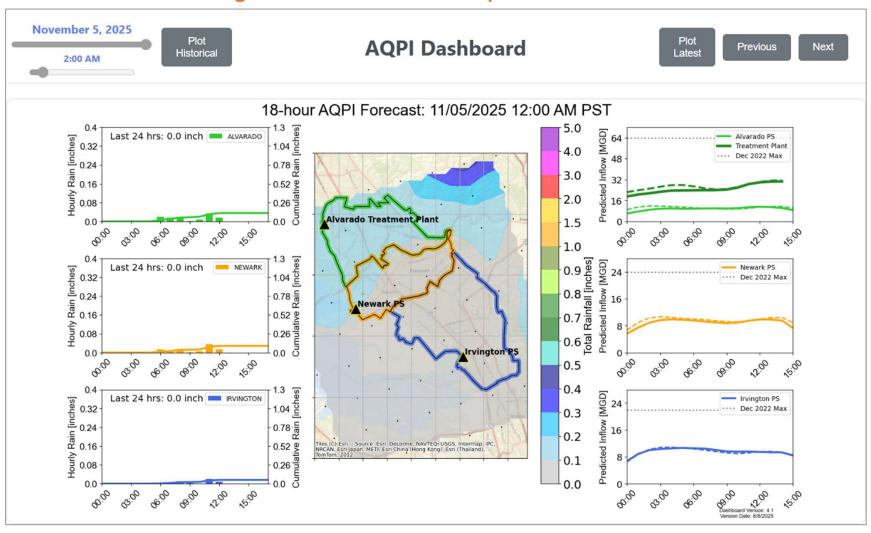
November 5, 2025, Storm Event: forecast at 1:00 am

Dashboard includes navigation tools to look back at prior forecasts



November 5, 2025, Storm Event: forecast at 12:00 am

Dashboard includes navigation tools to look back at prior forecasts



Data Flow Diagram

Dashboard is deployed on AWS Cloud to reduce cyber security and data storage concerns

