



Strong & Cold Winter Storm

Thursday through Saturday Night

Presenter : Eric Boldt

Weather Forecast Office

Los Angeles, CA

Wednesday, February 22



Photo: Bill Reid



Key Points

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Los Angeles, CA
Wednesday, February 22

- **Lowest snow levels of the season**
- **Blizzard Warning for southwest CA mountains**
 - Rare event for the combination of strong winds and high snowfall rates
 - Heavy snow loads on structures, trees, powerlines
 - Definition for blizzard: >35 mph winds AND ¼ mile visibility for 3-hr duration
- **Moderate to heavy rain Friday and Friday night**
- **Small stream and urban flood potential**
 - Road impacts due to mud and rocks, especially Santa Monica Mtn area
 - Elevated risk of shallow mud and debris flows at recent burn scars
- **Thunderstorm potential Friday night and Saturday**
 - Small hail, gusty winds, plus waterspouts over ocean
- **High surf, minor coastal flooding, & additional beach erosion**
- **Another storm expected late Monday to Wednesday**



Rainfall Amounts, Rates, and Timing

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● Thursday through Friday Evening

- **Scattered showers Thursday**
- **Increasing widespread steady rain Friday**
 - Peak rainfall Friday Central Coast to Santa Barbara County
 - Peak rainfall Friday afternoon and night Ventura and Los Angeles Counties
 - RATES: 0.50-1.0" per hour during highest intensities
- **Totals:**
- **Coasts/Valleys 1.5-3" Central Coast, 2-5" south Santa Barbara, Ventura, LA Counties**
- **Foothills/Mtns 4-6"** transitioning to snow between 4000-4500 ft (some uncertainty)
- *Snow levels 2000-3000 ft Thursday rising to ~4000 ft Friday, then dropping to 2000 ft or lower Friday night/Saturday*

● Heavy shower potential Friday Evening through Saturday

- Peak rain rates 0.25-0.75" per hour
- Potential lightning with small hail/graupel
- Isolated waterspouts over ocean



Rain Timing & Intensity

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Rain Timing & Intensity

Counties	Wed 6pm to Thu 12am	Thu 12am to Thu 6am	Thu 6am to Thu 12pm	Thu 12pm to Thu 6pm	Thu 6pm to Fri 12am	Fri 12am to Fri 6am	Fri 6am to Fri 12pm	Fri 12pm to Fri 6pm	Fri 6pm to Sat 12am	Sat 12am to Sat 6am	Sat 6am to Sat 12pm	Sat 12pm to Sat 6pm	Sat 6pm to Sun 12am	Sun 12am to Sun 6am	Sun 6am to Sun 12pm	Sun 12pm to Sun 6pm	Sun 6pm to Mon 12am
San Luis Obispo																	
Santa Barbara																	
Ventura																	
Los Angeles																	

Rain Intensity and Rates				
None	Light if any	Moderate	Heavy	Very Heavy
0.00 in/hr	0.00-0.25 in/hr	0.25-0.50 in/hr	0.50-0.75 in/hr	1.00+ in/hr

= Slight chance of Thunderstorms

Total Rain Through Sunday:
Coasts & Valleys: 2.00 - 5.00 inches.
Mountains & Foothills: 5.00 - 10.00 inches.

Peak Rain Rates:
0.25-0.75 inches/hour.
Local 1.00-1.25 inches/hour mountains & foothills.

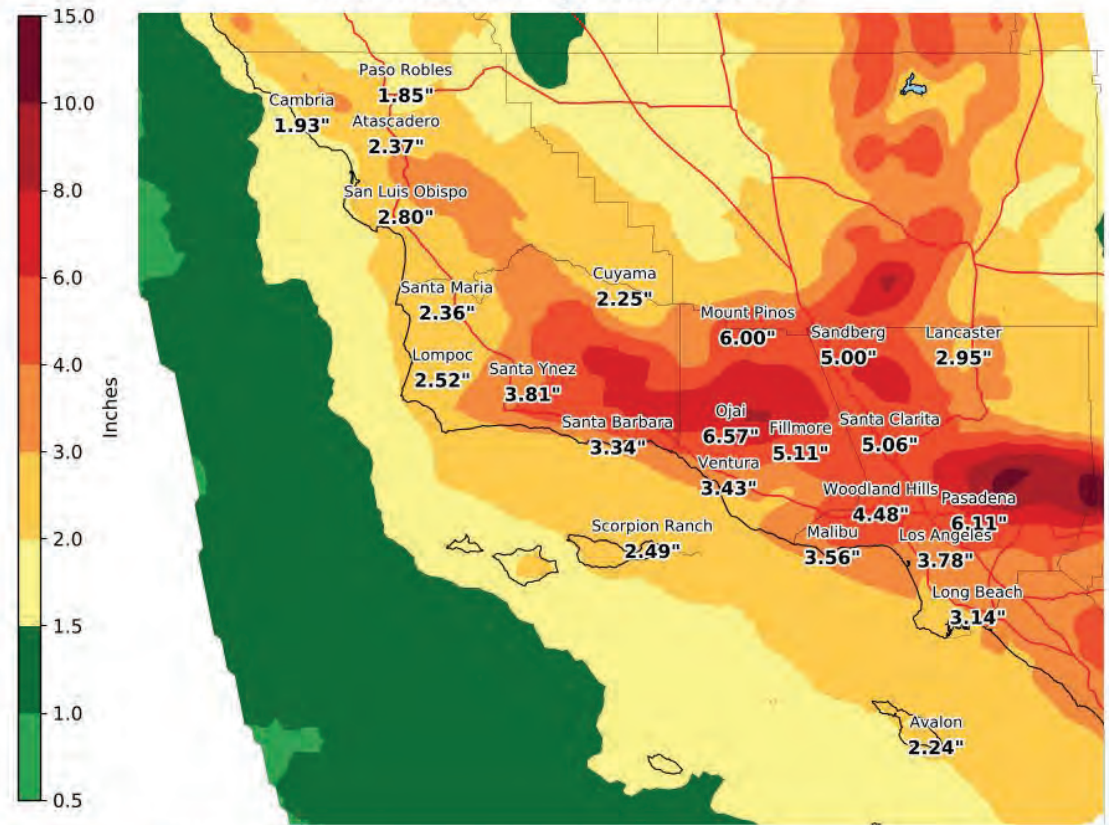
Confidence:
Total Amounts & Rates: Moderate. Timing: Moderate.



TOTAL RAIN: Through Sunday

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Storm Total Rain
Valid: Through Sunday February 26th, 2023



National Weather Service
Los Angeles/Oxnard California
02/22/2023 08:42 PM GMT

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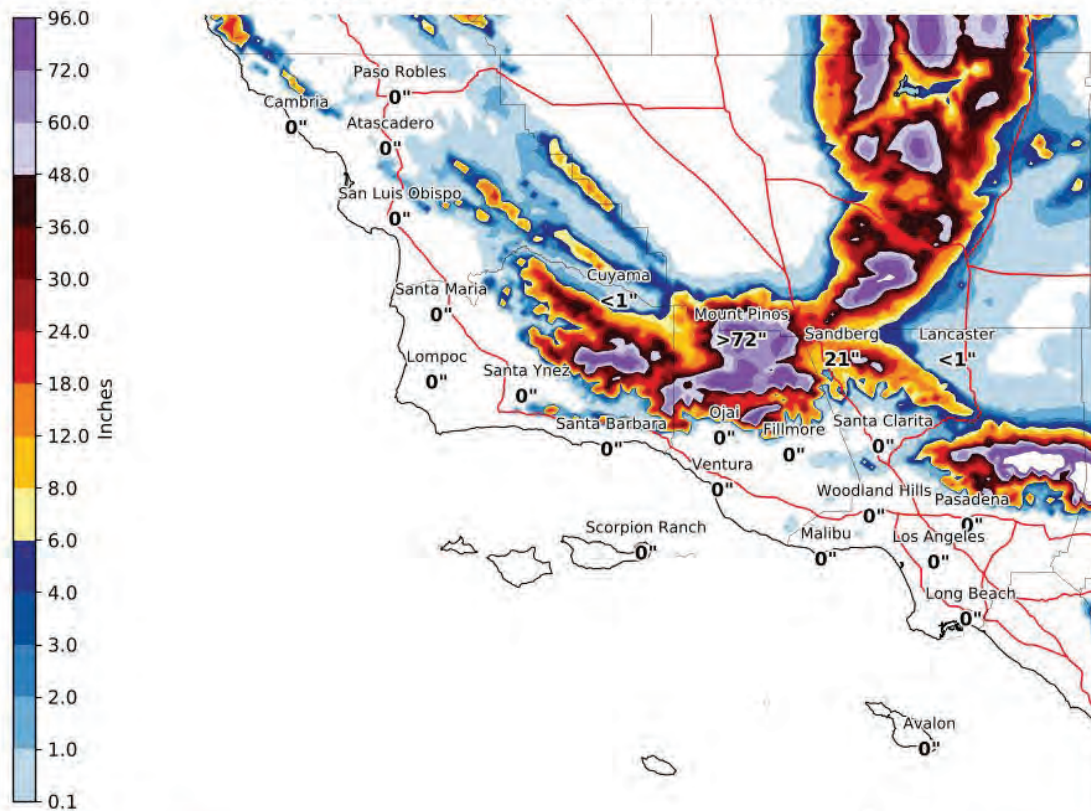


TOTAL SNOW: Through Saturday Night

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Expected Storm Total Snow

Valid: 02/21/2023 11:00 PM - 02/26/2023 04:00 AM PST



- Very heavy snow amounts totally 2-5 feet mainly above 4500 ft with isolated 7-8 feet at higher resort areas
- Moderate chance of snowfall rates of 2-4" per hour, **especially Friday-Friday night**
- Heavy snow loading on structures, trees, and powerlines likely
- Blizzard - means whiteout conditions with significant blowing and drifting snow
- Dangerous travel over mountains



National Weather Service
Los Angeles/Oxnard California
02/22/2023 10:46 AM PST

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Wind and Rain Impacts - Friday to Saturday

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- **Strongest SE-S winds on Friday turning SW-W Friday night**
 - *Gusts 30-50 mph for coasts and valleys*
 - *Gusts 60-75 mph for mountains and Antelope Valley foothills*
 - *Airport delays, tree damage, and power outages possible*
- **Potential flood issues for south Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles Counties Friday into Saturday**
 - *Small stream and urban flooding*
 - *Rock falls and mud, especially on canyon roads of the Santa Ynez Range and Santa Monica Mountains*
 - *Low potential for mainstem river flooding (Santa Clara @ Piru)*
 - *Airport delays due to water on runway and/or flooding (SBA, LAX, BUR)*



Additional Storm Late Monday-Wednesday

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- **Uncertainty on timing and strength**
 - Currently expecting another cold low pressure system
 - Much weaker system
 - 0.50" to 2.0" rainfall totals
 - Additional significant mountain snowfall, low snow levels
 - Minimal drying or warming between events