



El Niño and Fall and Winter Weather Outlook

Water Operations Committee Meeting
Sept. 23, 2026

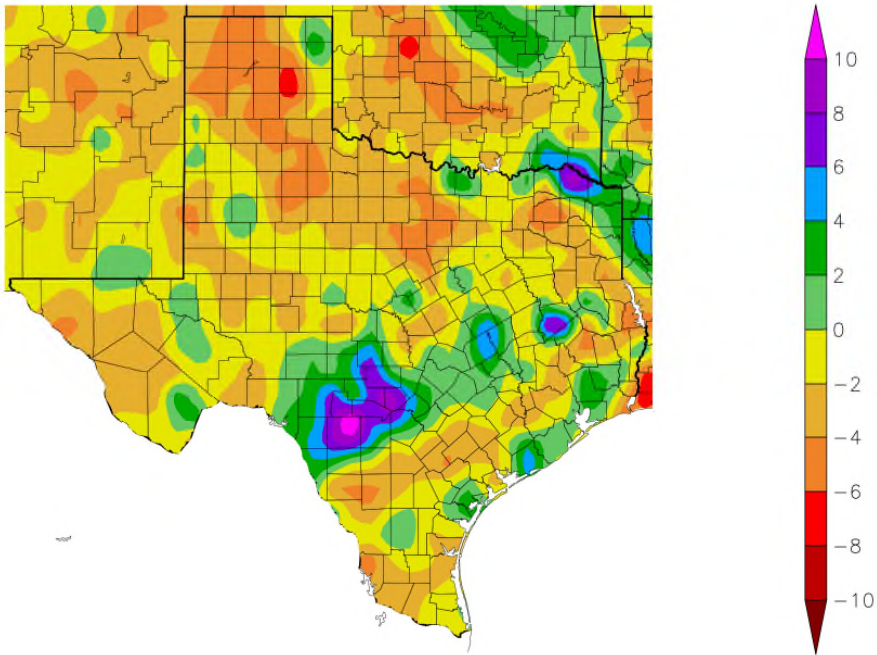
Summer Weather, Fall-Winter Forecast

- Summer: very wet July followed by very hot and dry August
- One of the strongest El Niño weather patterns on record forecast for this fall and winter
 - Expected to affect Texas weather starting October or November
 - Above-normal rainfall forecast fall through winter
 - Potential for heavy rain, flooding, cooler winter temperatures

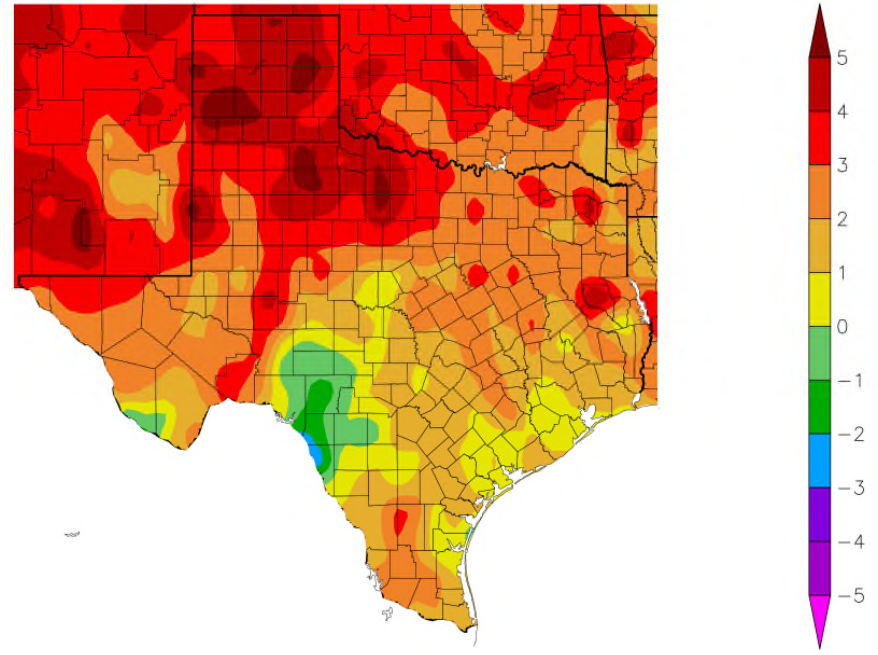
Fourth-Hottest Summer on Record

**Summer weather was dominated by a very wet July
and an unusually hot and dry August**

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
6/1/2026 – 8/31/2026



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
6/1/2026 – 8/31/2026



U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

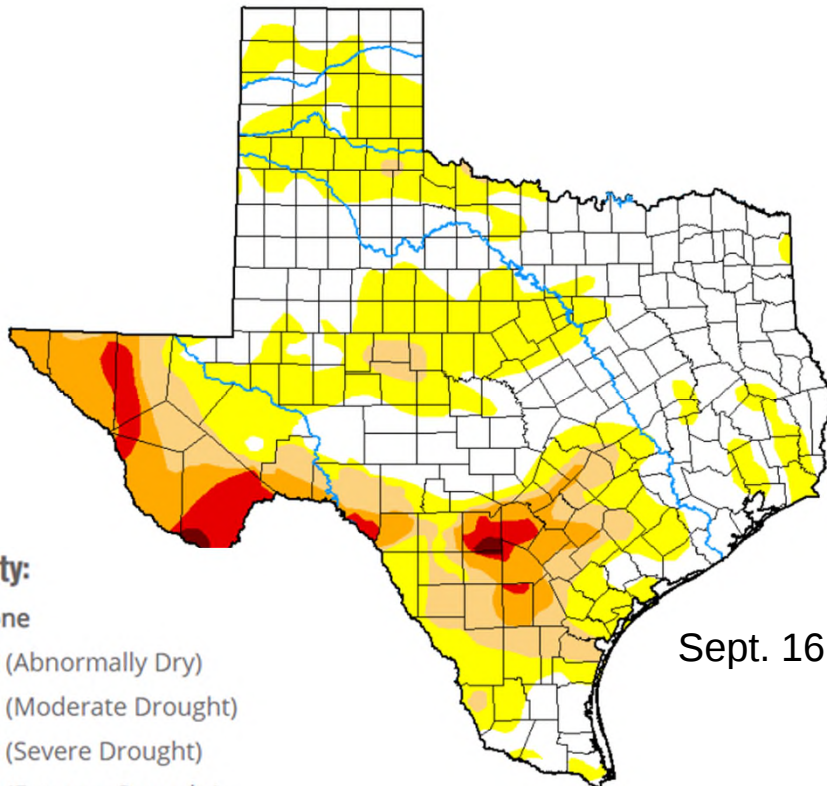
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

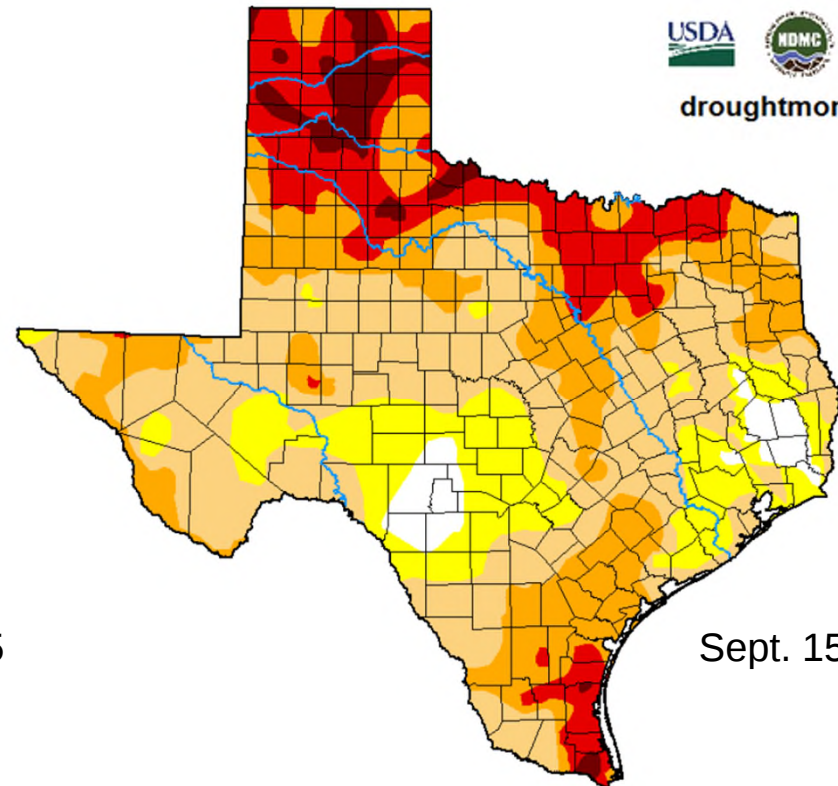
Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Sept. 16, 2025



Sept. 15, 2026

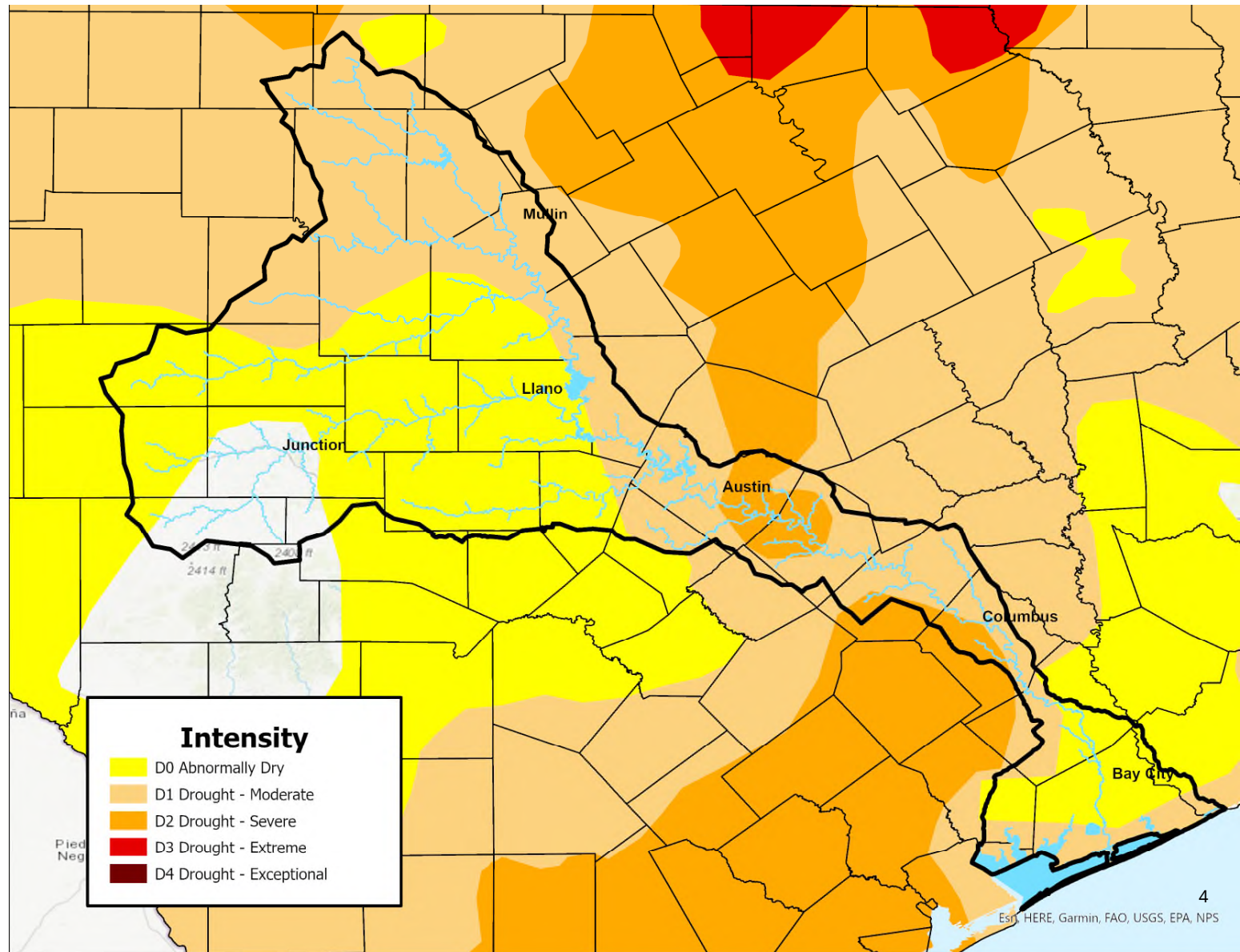
Intensity:

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

U.S. Drought Monitor

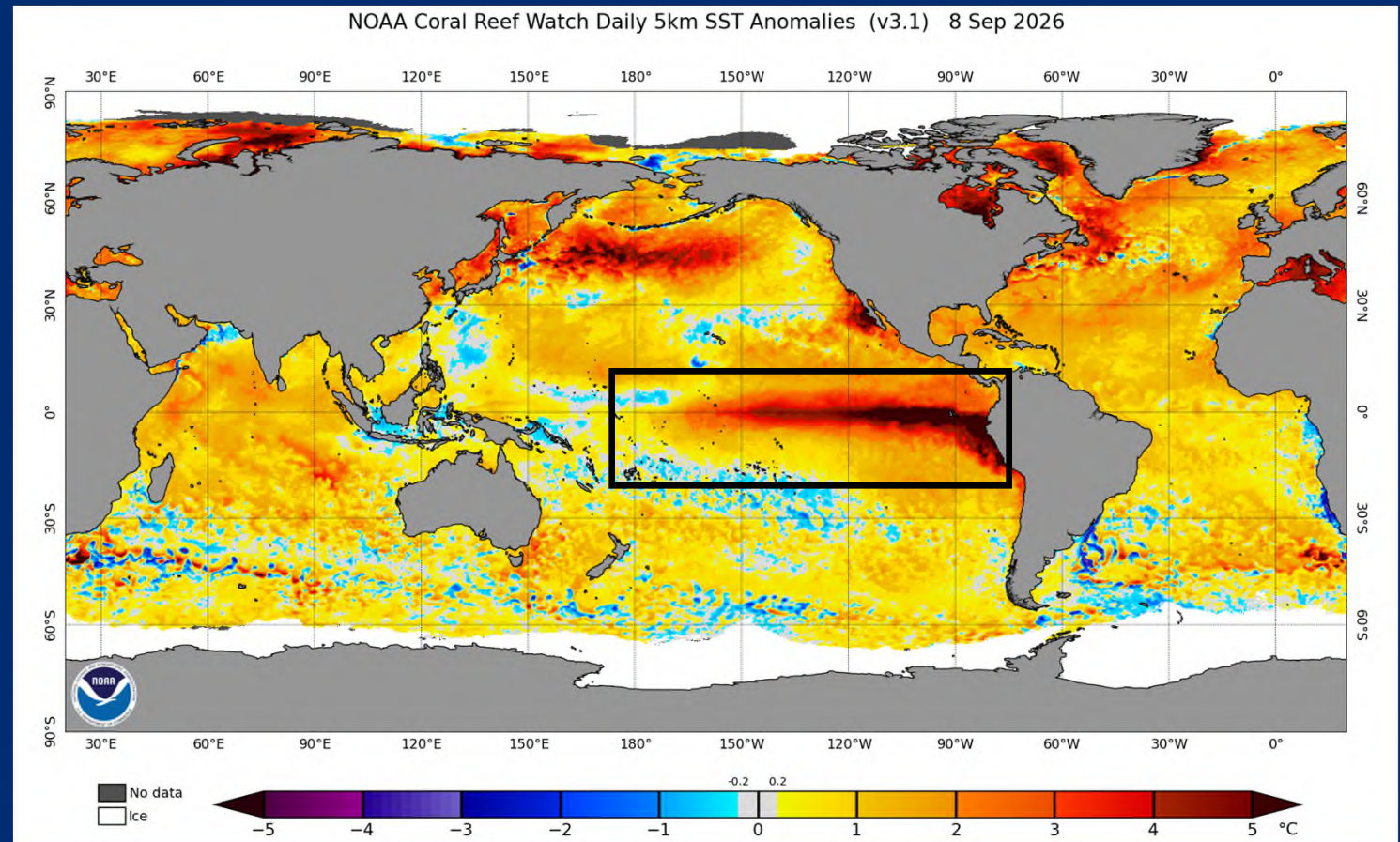
Lower Colorado River Basin

As of Sept. 15, 2026



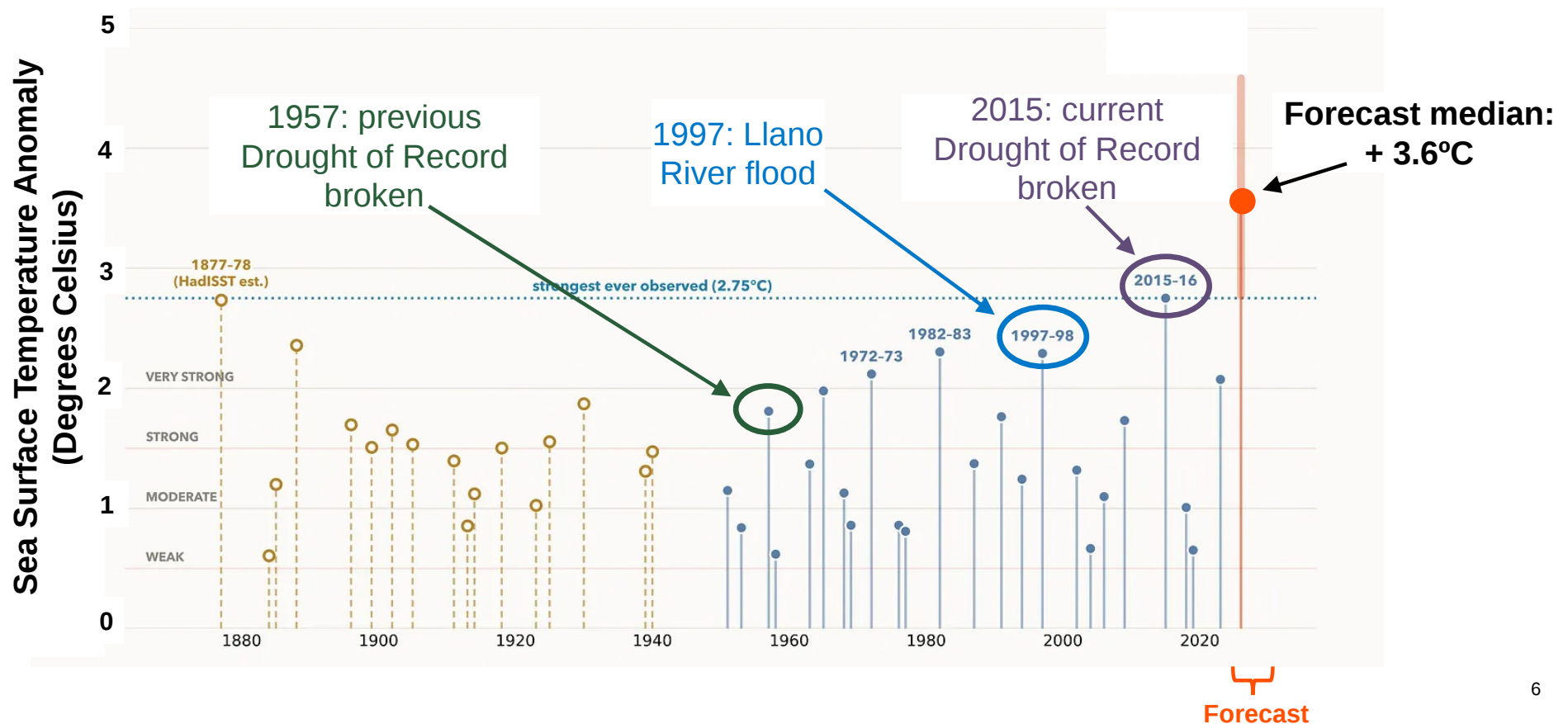
“Super” El Niño Forecast to Develop

- Changes position of jet stream
- Forecast to be strongest on record



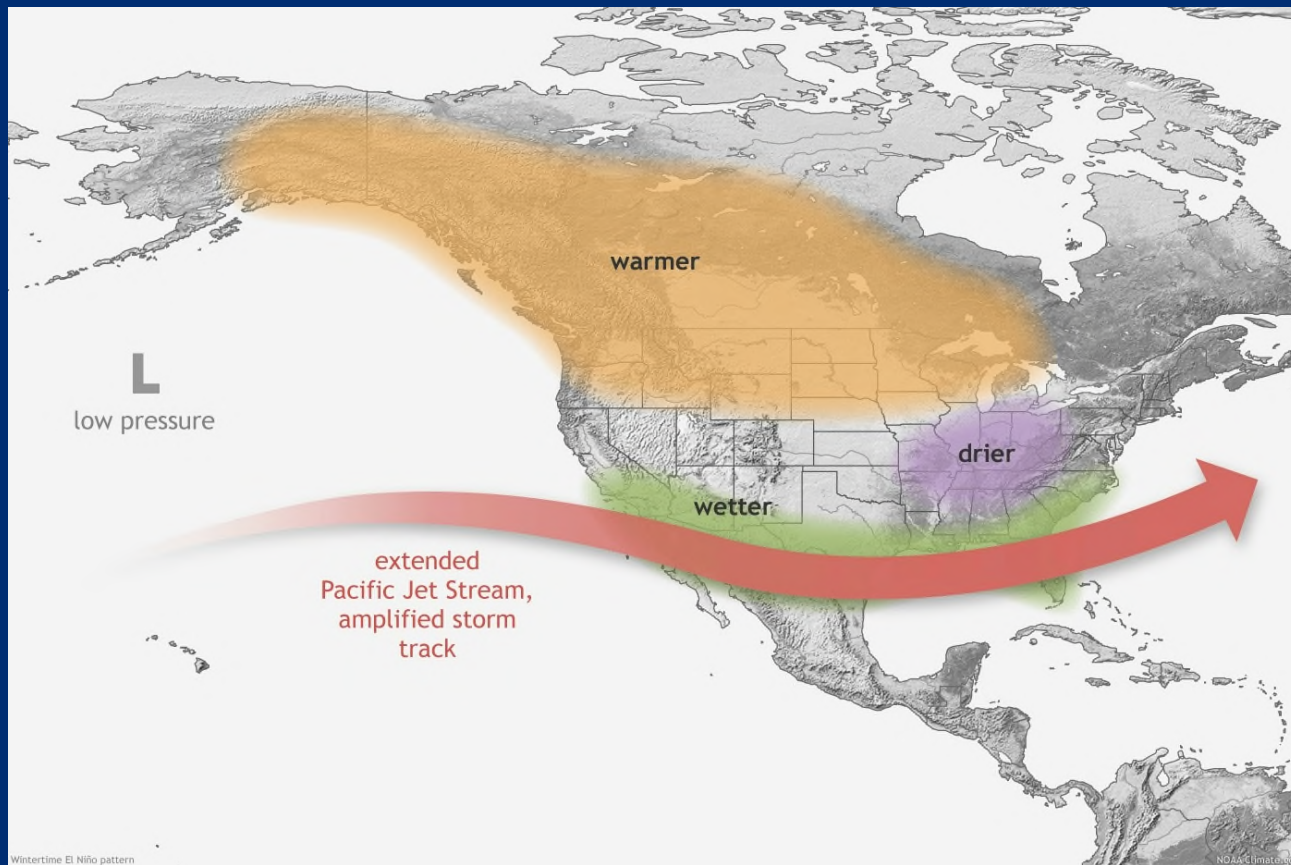
Potentially the Strongest El Niño Ever

Sea surface temperature – a measure of El Niño – is forecast to be significantly higher than the previous record



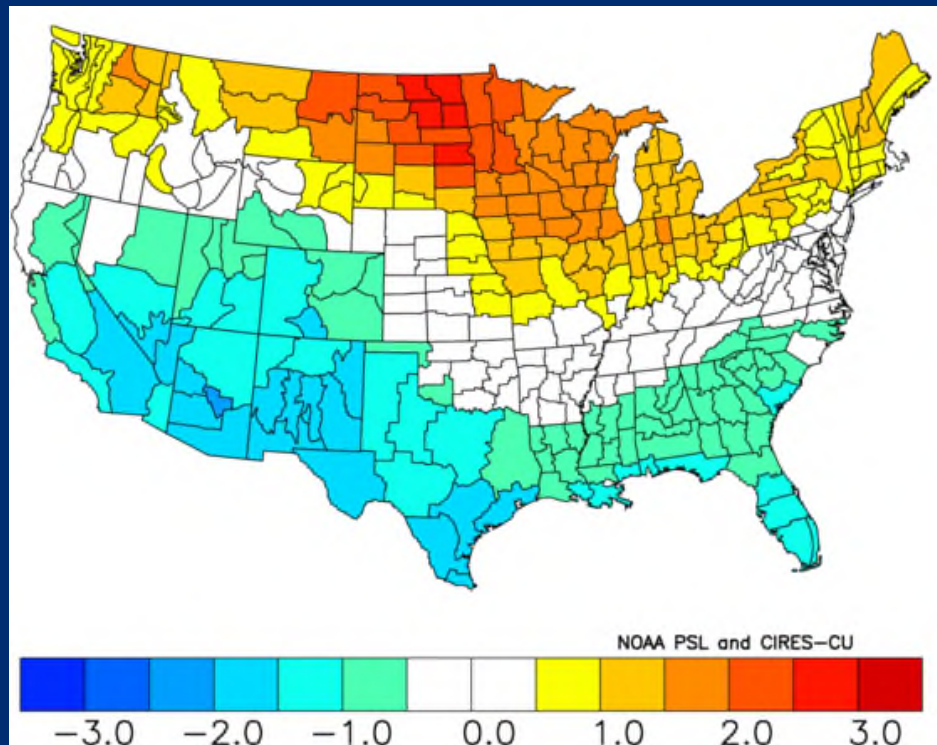
Typical Responses From El Niño Pattern

El Niño has the potential to bring more storms over Texas

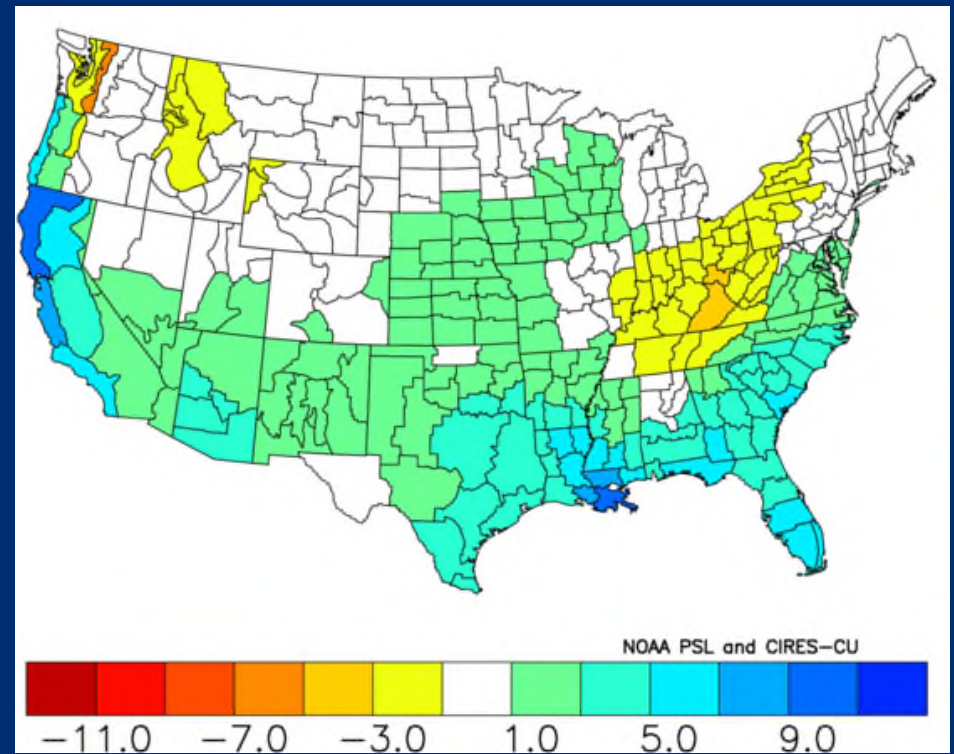


Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies for Strongest El Niños Since 1951 (October-March)

Temperature



Precipitation

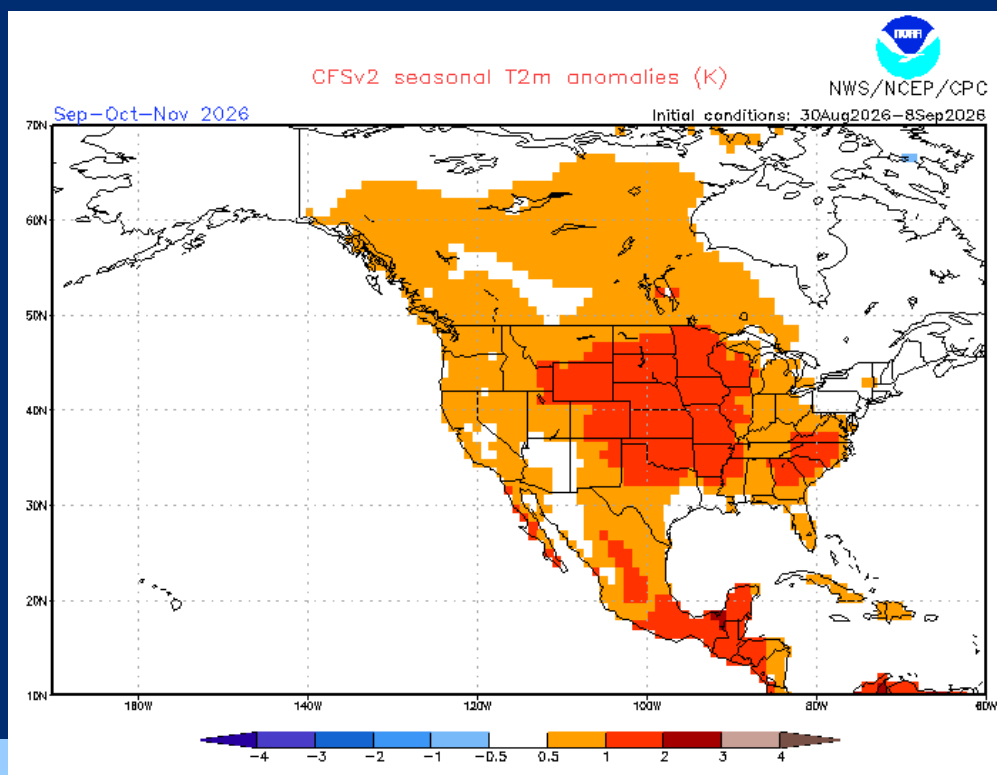


September-November

Climate Forecast System Version 2

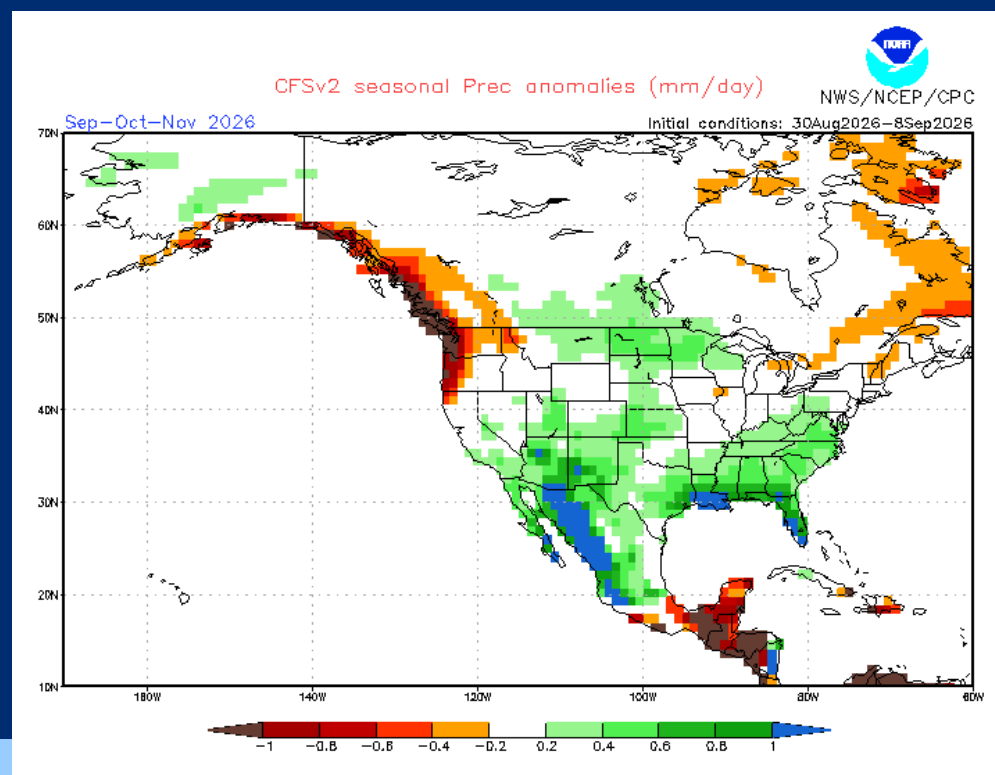
Temperature

Forecast: near normal



Rainfall

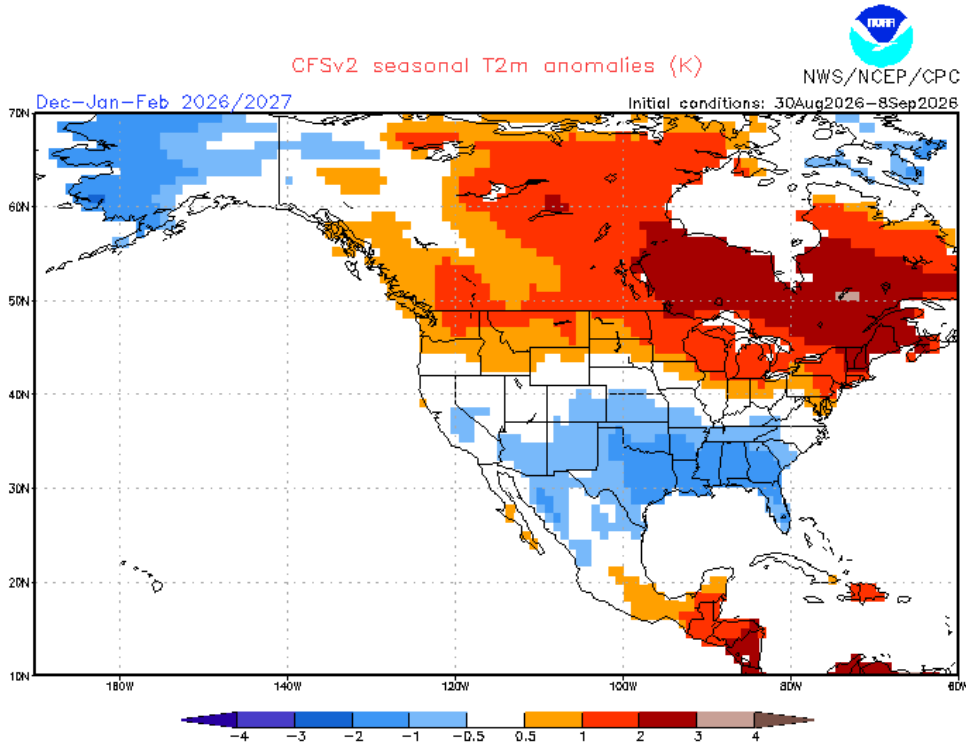
Forecast: above normal



December-February

Temperature

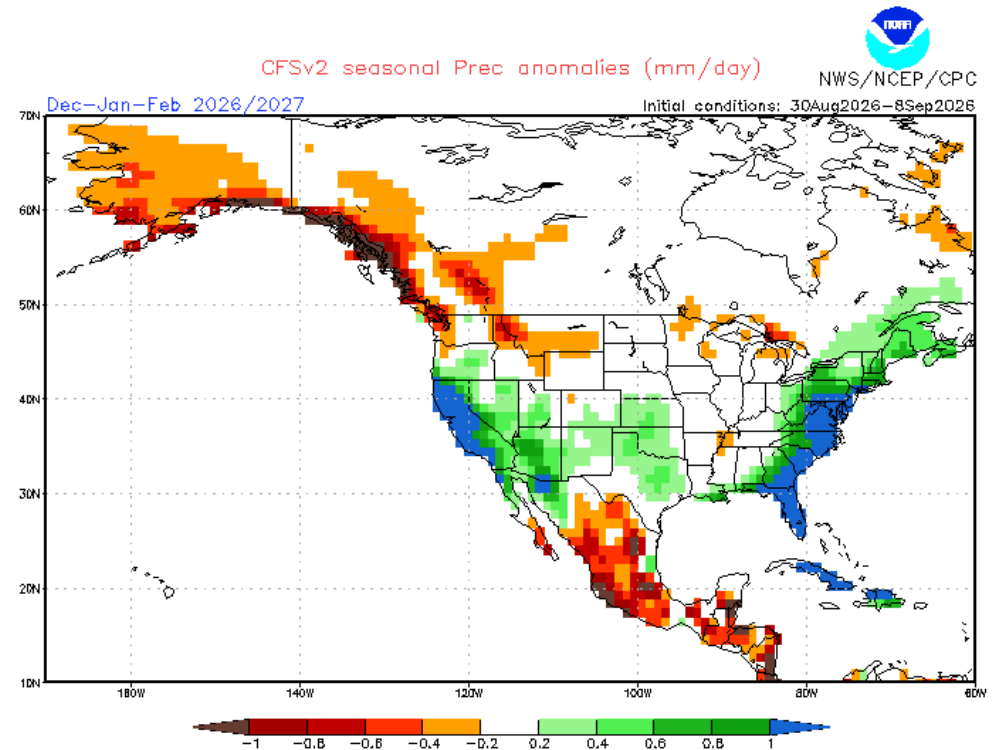
Forecast: near normal



Climate Forecast System Version 2

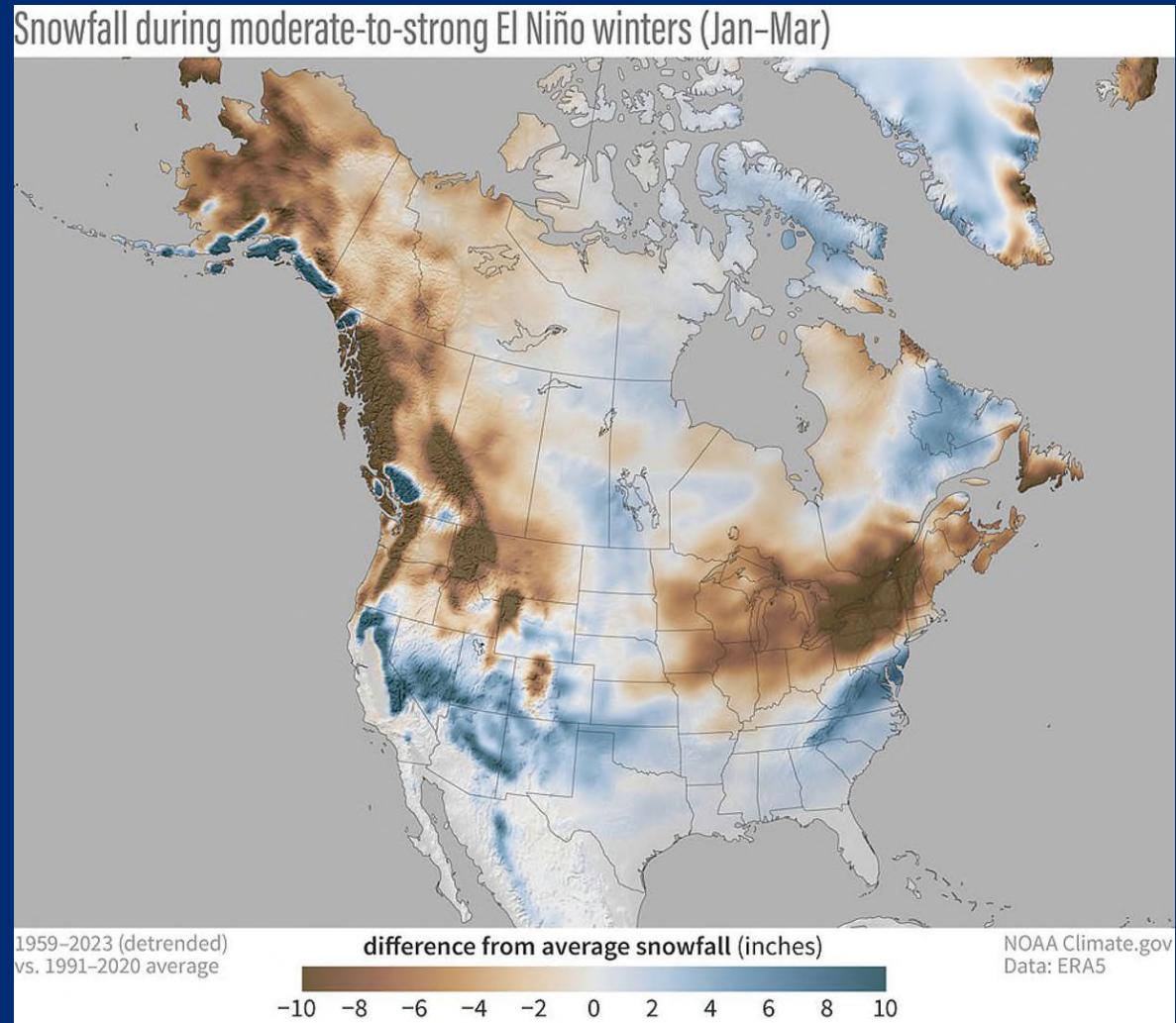
Rainfall

Forecast: above normal



Typical Winter Snowfall During Moderate to Strong El Niños

El Niños increase the potential for snow in parts of Texas



El Niño – Summary of Potential Impacts

- Precipitation trending above normal this fall, continuing through winter
- Increased chance of heavy rain and flooding
- Cooler-than-normal temperatures expected this winter



