

# Rainfall double normal January amount

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Watsonville received more than twice the usual amount of rain in January and nearly four times what the city received last year.

A series of sub-tropical storms and low pressure areas in January drenched California. Watsonville received measurable rainfall on 24 of the 31 days in January, bringing the rainfall total for the rain year up to 16.79 inches, nearly two inches more than it received all of last year. Normal annual rainfall for Watsonville is 21.75 inches.

The city received 10.68 inches of rain last month. Normal for

the month is 4.43 inches.

The Monterey Bay Area is getting its first prolonged spell of dry weather since New Year's Eve, but the National Weather Service said there is a chance of rain here Sunday.

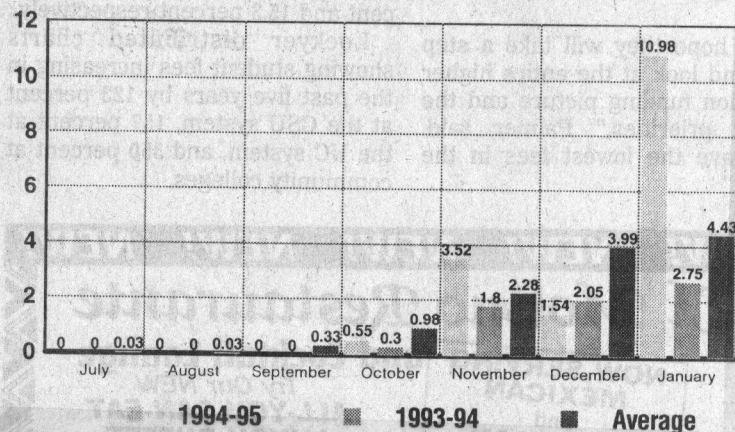
California's snow pack and reservoirs hold a full year's water supply for the state already, with three normally wet months still ahead, say water experts.

"It's looking real good," said state Department of Water Resources spokesman Jeff Cohen.

But the conditions that spell abundant summer water sup-

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## Watsonville rainfall



Source: Register-Pajaronian records

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plies could pose a threat of more flooding, officials said.

A series of heavy, warm storms could hasten runoff from Sierra snow, fill remaining space in reservoirs faster than expected and test major river levees in the Central Valley and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

Throughout the Sierra Nevada, the water content in snow is nearly twice normal for this time of year. A state survey Tuesday along Highway 50, about 75 miles east of Sacramento, showed that the water content of snow was 190 percent of average for this date.

Below the Sierra, precipitation along the Sacramento River is another major indicator of statewide water supply. Storms have made it the fourth wettest January this century and pushed the rainfall total to nearly 90 percent of normal for the entire year.

Most of California's major reservoirs are about three-quarters of capacity, which is considered full this time of year. Operators leave room to capture additional river flows.

Widespread flooding in January was mostly due to rain overwhelming smaller rivers and creeks.

The rains have washed away the drought worries of much of the past decade, however.

Cities will get full deliveries this summer from the state and federal water projects.

Farmers will get a full supply from the State Water Project and up to 75 percent from the federal Central Valley Project.

The government waterworks channel melting snow through rivers, the Delta, and canals to valley farms and Southern California cities. Together, the projects supply water to two-thirds of the state's population.

Rainfall percentages compared to normal from October through January, according to the state Water Resources Department:

Los Angeles, 246 percent; San Diego, 186 percent; Santa Barbara, 318 percent; Bakersfield, 174 percent; Fresno, 174 percent; Yosemite, 145 percent; San Francisco, 154 percent; Sacramento, 209 percent; Shasta Dam near Redding, 149 percent; Eureka, 129 percent.