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Brief respite before next storm arrives

By The Associated Press

Northern Californians can take a breather from their seemingly relentless wet weather, but forecasters warn that another system is heading south from the Gulf of Alaska.

"It looks like maybe things will start clouding up Tuesday and by Wednesday it will be raining again," National Weather Service lead forecaster Ron Wagner said Sunday night.

He said that storm would last at least through Thursday "and maybe linger into Friday morning."

While Sunday brought a blush of sunshine — 47,344 fans enjoyed dry, blue skies for the opening game of the United States

Football League's Oakland Invaders at the Oakland Coliseum — earlier rains were leaving their mark.

A house in the Oakland hills slid 30 feet downhill and crumbled, and officials said a neighboring home in the saturated area had also moved, leaving more than two feet of the foundation suspended in mid-air.

Wagner said the weekend downpour brought with it "significant flooding" to Marin, Napa and Sonoma Counties and areas around Sacramento, and residents used to such inconveniences found alternative routes where slides closed roads.

Minor slides also obstructed roads in

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Alameda, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties.

Waters rose beyond flood stage at "just about every major river in Northern California," Wagner said, but there were no reports of damage. Tehama County authorities had been bracing for new floods, but Shasta Dam operators cut back on their water releases and averted new overflow problems.

Wagner said he sees no end to the wet streak. "There doesn't seem to be any major shift happening in the weather pattern that would put it to a halt," he said.

And even when the rains do stop, he noted, the water won't. The snow packs are saturated with water, and when they start to thaw, the reservoirs will fill rapidly.