



# FROM THE AIR PROGRAM

## Atmospheric River Activity

What are “...the biggest fresh water rivers on Earth”? According to the Martin Ralph, the Director of the Scripps Institute Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, atmospheric rivers of condensed water are. In February 2019, Scripps/CW3E developed a 1-5 rating scale (pictured below) for atmospheric rivers based on water vapor content and duration, which you may see in use now. The system that pushed through the Owens Valley/Payahuunadü over Valentine’s Day 2019 was a category 3.

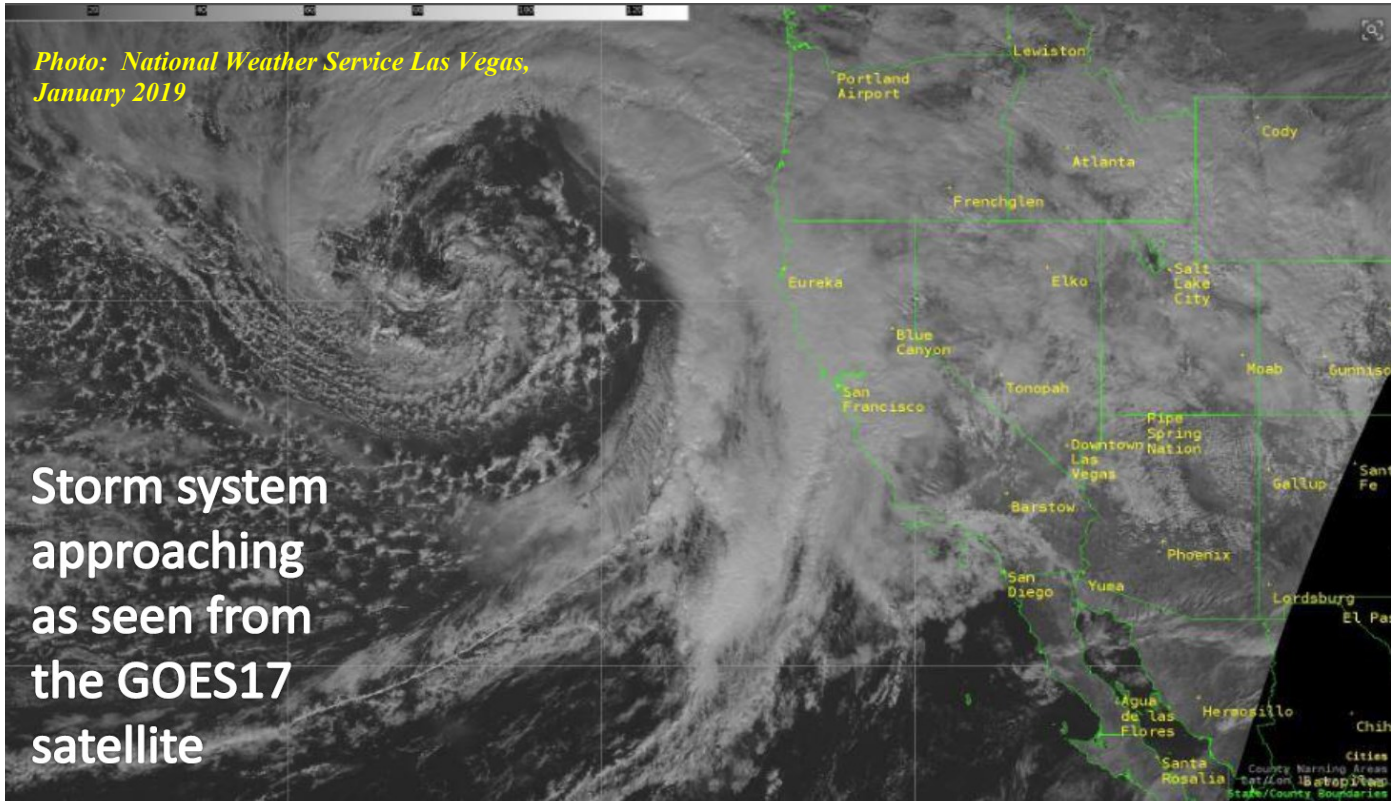


Photo: National Weather Service Las Vegas, January 2019

Storm system approaching as seen from the GOES17 satellite

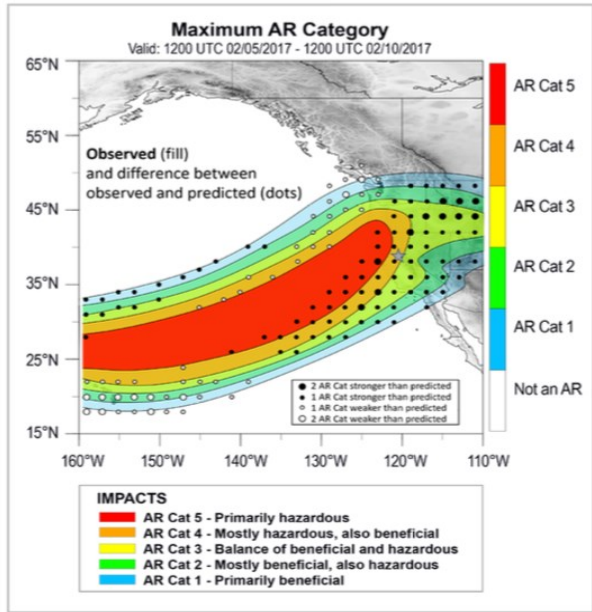


Photo: 2/15/19 BPT EMO.  
Reading a measurement of 1.05” of rain using the NWS manual gauge. The inner column holds 1” of rain. Additional rain >1” or overflow due to ice or debris can be poured back into the inner column for a cumulative total.

The Reservation received 1.12” during the AR event 2/3/19—2/5/19, and 1.05” during the 2/13/19—2/15/19 event.

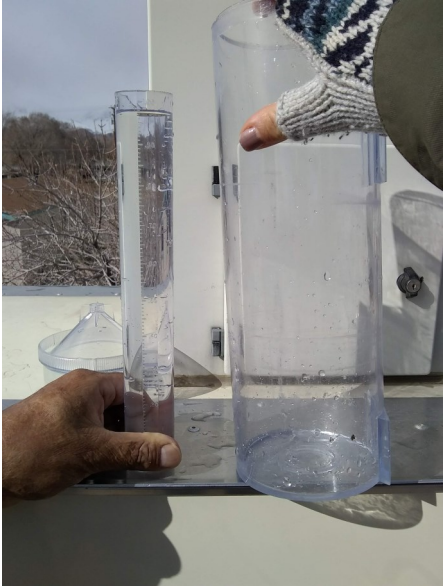


Photo: CW3E/UCSD/Scripps 2019