

NOAA confirmed today that "La Nina conditions have arrived and are likely to remain through early 2018." The La Nina had been predicted for months, but not confirmed until Thursday.

This means that there is a 65- to 75-percent chance of weak La Niña conditions continuing through the winter months ahead based on the latest forecast guidance, NOAA said. This would mark the second consecutive winter with weak La Niña conditions as a potential weather influence.

A strong La Nina really can produce drought-like conditions in our region. However, weak La Ninas, like the one forecast, don't always do that. In fact, last winter's weak La Nina gave the West one of its wettest winters on record. Will it do the same in the Bay Area this year? And what about Southern California? The new forecast map released by NOAA on Thursday predicts all of Southern California will be "likely drier than average."

If we get "average" rainfall, as is predicted by NOAA for the Bay Area, it will still be far more than during the drought years. Meanwhile, NOAA is forecasting "near or slightly below average" temperatures for our area.

Here are the just-released forecast maps and an article discussing the predictions:

<https://weather.com/news/climate/news/2017-11-09-la-nina-noaa-updates>

Meanwhile, our Rain Parade is getting even bigger, with storms #4 and #5 joining the first three arriving in November. None of these systems are expected to give us heavy rain, but the sheer number of storms arriving is a very hopeful sign for the future.

Storm #1: November 3, already arrived and gave us light rain

Storm #2: November 8-9, already arrived and gave us light rain

Storm #3: Monday, November 13, 50% chance of showers; Wednesday, 50% chance of showers

Storm #4: Saturday, November 18, 40% chance of p.m. showers; Sunday, November 19, 40% chance of showers

Storm #5: Thursday, November 23, 40% chance of showers