

Prediction of wet winter waning

By Steve Scauzillo, San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Not too long ago in this season of California's massive and extended drought, climate experts saw a small glimmer of hope on the horizon: Predictions for a wet El Niño season coming in the winter that would bring badly needed rain and relief to a parched state.

Now that glimmer is fading fast, and the drought has gotten even worse.



A minimal amount of snow remains on Mount Tallac.

Photo/LTN

One hundred percent of California is in a severe drought, 77 percent is in an extreme drought and 33 percent is in an exceptional drought, according to a report released last week by the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, Neb.

“Those are remarkable numbers,” said Mark Svoboda, a climatologist and the center's monitoring program leader.

The drought monitoring team in Lincoln has never seen an exceptional drought since it started keeping detailed data in 1999. The D4 category – a foreboding maroon color on a

California drought map – extends from Sacramento and the Bay Area through the Central Valley, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

fight the drought, now in its third year, Svoboda said.

Predictions for a much-anticipated wet 2014-15 winter are waning.

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