

Best start in 30 years to NorCal wet season

By Dale Kasler and Ryan Sabalow, Sacramento Bee

It's only a beginning. But it's a strong beginning, and it offers at least a rain gauge's worth of hope to a state enduring its fifth year of drought.

The National Weather Service said Monday that the rainy season in the northern Sierra Nevada is off to its wettest start in 30 years. Mountain conditions are critically important to monitoring the drought because a major share of the state's water supply is stored for months as snow.

Citing state data from a string of eight gauges scattered around the northern Sierra, the service said precipitation has come in at about twice the average for this time of year, making for the wettest kickoff to the water year in 30 years. The water year, as defined by climatologists and others, begins Oct. 1.

Read the whole story