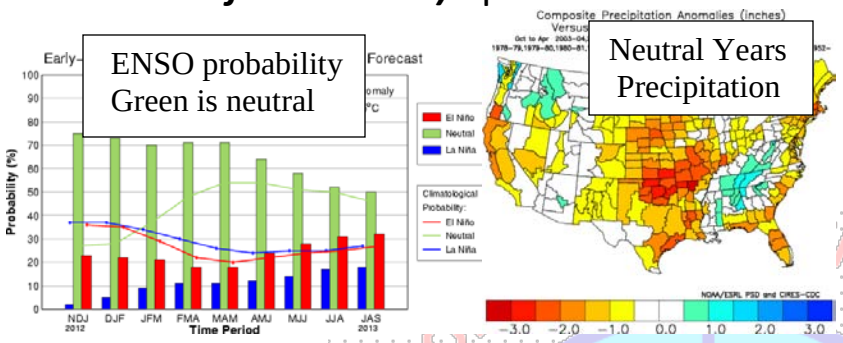
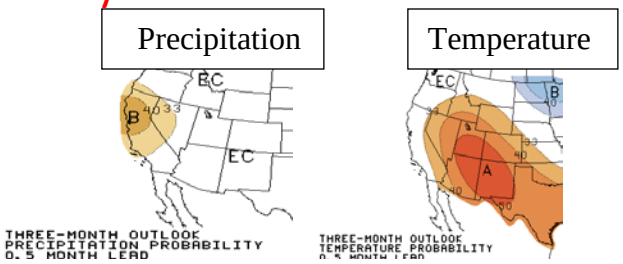
Winter Weather 2012-13 Summary

Updated November 26, 2012
NWS San Diego

- Low confidence of El Nino conditions (sea surface temperatures above normal) in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. High confidence of **Neutral Conditions** ***(Oceanic Nino Index of 0.0 to +0.5)*** episode for winter 2012-13



- These conditions have minimal seasonal impact on the atmosphere in the Pacific (storm track), with the primary impact November to May only on a few individual storm cycles
- El Nino conditions can produce more weather events with <u>an</u> ***<u>elongated extended Pacific Jet stream (storm track)</u>*** which can bring more frequent storms to southern California (more precipitation events but not necessarily flooding)
- **Past El Nino years and neutral years** have brought *considerable* ***<u>variability</u>*** in seasonal precipitation in Southern California (below normal precipitation or dry seasonal conditions despite El Nino such as 2006-07 and 1969-70
- The floods of January 1980 and 1993 were neutral ENSO. 2010 was La Nina.
- Strong El Nino (as measured by Oceanic Nino Index) have a much better correlation to wet winters (such as 1965-66, 1982-83 and 1997-98)
- Heavy precipitation events can occur any year
  - <u>Near normal precipitation and equal chances of below or above normal</u> **precipitation** year for 2012-13 in Southern California