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On March 5, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued an El Niño Advisory announcing that, although weak, conditions for El Niño have been established. Characterized by unusually warm temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, El Niño conditions typically lead to increased rainfall and precipitation in the southern U.S., less rainfall in the northern U.S., and above average temperatures nationally in comparison to normal years. This year's El Niño is not expected to bring much, if any, relief to California's drought, though the Gulf Coast may see greater than average precipitation this spring. Sources: NOAA, E&E News