



PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **PGCD's SPRING - SUMMER WEATHER OUTLOOK**

**Written By: Corey Clay - PGCD Meteorologist**

The District finally saw an end to La Niña last year as it transitioned to a neutral phase and then to El Niño by July.

Typically, El Niño brings cool and wet conditions to the southern states with warm and dry conditions to the north. By the winter, the Panhandle started to feel the effects of El Niño as above precipitation occurred from December to February.

Unfortunately, for the Panhandle, it appears that a switch back to La Niña is looming with the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) forecasting a return to neutral by as early as this month with a 55% chance of La Niña by June and lasting through the winter. This is unwelcome news as the heat, and dry weather that we saw just a couple of years before could return. The three-month CPC outlook indicates above-average temperatures with below-normal precipitation through June.

Looking at the most recent La Niña event (2020-2022), the June - September months for Amarillo, TX all recorded below-average precipitation except for August 2022. Temperatures were also above average over 50% of the time with July and August seeing the greatest spread. This is typical during La Niña as the jet stream stays to the north and subsidence dominates our weather. However, it is important to note that ENSO (La Niña, El Niño, neutral) events have the most impact during the winter months with less impact during the summers, but the recent ENSO events can give us an idea of what we can expect.

Other La Niña years in the recent past include 2011, 2012, and 2018. All three years saw below-average precipitation totals with 2011 being one of the hottest summers on record. Overall, another hot and dry year is expected for the Panhandle with drought conditions likely returning.

For the U.S. Drought Monitor Map of Texas visit:

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/currentmap/statedroughtmonitor.aspx?TX>

For more information visit the District's website [www.pgcd.us](http://www.pgcd.us) or call the District Office 806-883-2501