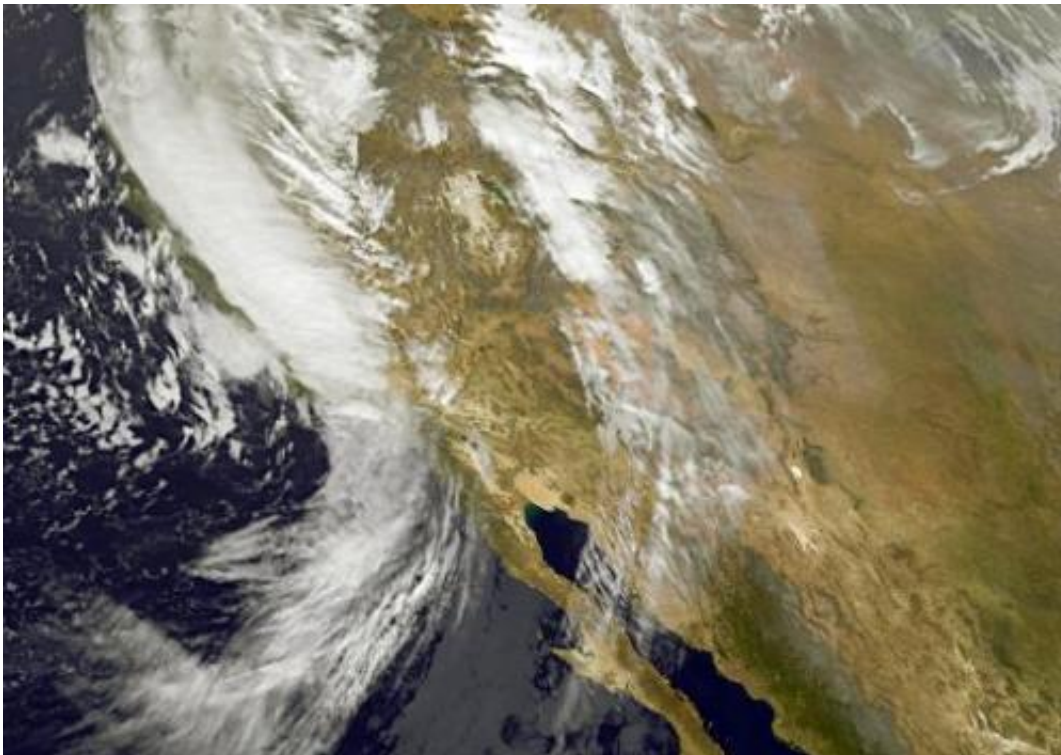


Weather delays NASA launch of satellite to study soil

January 29 2015



Windy weather forces NASA to delay the launch of a satellite that aims to study soil moisture on Earth

Windy weather forced NASA on Thursday to delay the launch of a satellite that aims to study soil moisture on Earth.

The SMAP observatory —short for Soil Moisture Active Passive—will make another attempt to blast off atop a United Launch Alliance Delta II

rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California early Friday, the US space agency said.

The high-resolution maps that it returns to scientists should help prepare for the future in which severe weather like droughts and storms are expected to become more frequent, by giving experts better tools to forecast how crops and forests will change as the planet warms.

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