NWS FORM E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA:
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE **SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - HANFORD , CA**

REPORT FOR:

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

MONTH: **DECEMBER** YEAR: **2004**

TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH12x1
National Weather Service/Office of Hydrology
1325 East-West Highway #7116
Silver Spring, MD 20910

SIGNATURE:

Kevin Durfee
(In Charge of Hydrologic Service Area)

DATE: January 4, 2005

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (WSOM E-41).

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¦ **X** ¦ An **X** inside this box indicates that no flooding occurred for the month
+---+ within this hydrologic service area.

Much of December was free of precipitation across the central California interior. However, a significant change to wet weather during the last week of the month boosted monthly total precipitation to well above normal in most areas. During the first three weeks of the month, A persistent upper level ridge of High pressure produced dry weather and above normal temperatures, especially over the foothills and higher elevations. A few foothill locations recorded high temperatures near 80 degrees during the 2nd and 3rd week of the month.

A cold frontal passage on the 7th was the only break in this otherwise dry pattern. On this date, heavy snow fell over the high Sierra while beneficial rain fell in the lower elevations. In the San Joaquin Valley, low clouds and fog prevailed during the first three weeks of the month with several mornings of near zero visibility.

The pattern changed abruptly during the last week of the month as retrogression of the upper level Ridge allowed a succssion of storm systems to trek southward into California from The Gulf Of Alaska. Very heavy snow,upwards of 4 to 6 feet,accumulated over the Sierra summits between the 26th and 31st. Up to 2 feet of the white stuff accumulated above 4500 feet in the Tehachapi mountains during the last couple days of the month. In the community of Frazier Park, snow drifts were 3 feet deep and travel became snarled over the Grapevine. It’s been at least 6 years since a snowstorm of this magnitude affected the Kern County mountains. Meanwhile, copious rain in the lower foothills and in the San Joaquin Valley on the 30th and 31st caused minor urban and small stream flooding.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED

Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory – (Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills)	1355Z	28-DEC
Flood Statement (Kern Co Desert)	1132Z	29-DEC
Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory	2245Z	30-DEC
(Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills)	1200Z	31-DEC

cc:
W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC

WFO HNX
WFO STO