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: **2005**

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 5, 2006

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).

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

No flooding occurred along any of the mainstem rivers in the San Joaquin Valley HSA during December, 2005. However, a transition to a wet weather pattern during the last week of the month produced moderately high water flows along many rivers by the 31st.

The month was predominantly dry with below normal precipitation and milder than normal temperatures. A cold frontal passage accompaned by some showers on the 2nd heralded the arrival of a Canadian airmass during the first week. From December 3rd through the 7th, the weather was dry with temperatures averaging 2 to 5 degrees below normal. An upper level ridge of High pressure centered over the Intermountain West kept the central California interior dry through the middle of December and deflected eastward-moving Pacific storms toward the Pacific Northwest. This ridge finally began to break down by the 3rd week of December and allowed the storm track to briefly settle southward over central California from the 20th through the 22nd.

The upper level ridge regained its footing over the HSA on the 23rd and maintained dry weather through Christmas Day. A strong zonal flow that extended across the entire Pacific finally broke the pattern on the 26th and brought copious amounts of subtropical moisture into the central California interior. Precipitation between the 26th and 31st was largely orographic and generated high QPF over the foothills and mountains of the southern Sierra Nevada. Although snow levels were generally at or above 8,000 feet, water storage capacity of the reservoirs remained high. By the end of the month, the Merced River at Pohono Bridge rose to about 9.0 feet, which is one foot below flood stage. Excess stream runoff in the foothills on the 31st produced localized flooding and isolated debris flows.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED

Small Stream Flood Advisory...foothills and mountains of Mariposa, Madera & Fresno counties	1859Z	25-DEC
Flood Watch...all zones except the Kern County Desert	2052Z	29-DEC
Flood Warning for the Merced River @Pohono Bridge	1548Z	31-DEC
Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory...entire HSA except for the Kern County Desert.	1748Z	31-DEC
Flood Statement for the Merced River @Pohono Bridge	1614Z	31-DEC
Flood Statement for the Merced River @Pohono Bridge	0431Z	01-JAN

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO