

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - HANFORD , CA

REPORT FOR:

**MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND
FLOOD CONDITIONS**

MONTH: **APRIL** YEAR: **2006**

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: May 6, 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).

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

The month was abnormally wet, and in many locales it was the wettest April in nearly 40 years. Storm systems lined up over the Pacific and tracked in succession right over the central California interior with abundant precipitation. In every event, rain fell over a dense snowpack in the Sierra and provided plenty of snowmelt runoff. This forced dam operators to make large water releases at the reservoirs with consequential high flows along all of the major rivers below the dams. In turn, this tested the integrity of many downstream levees, particularly along the San Joaquin River. A breach occurred along the banks of the Berenda Slough in western Madera County on the evening of the 4th and resulted in localized flooding of roads and agricultural land south of Chowchilla. Minor flooding of primarily mobile homes, highways and agricultural land also occurred in Merced County, due largely to the overflow of Black Rascal Creek and Bear Creek. Large volumes of water were diverted through the Chowchilla bypass and Mendota Pool during the 2nd and 3rd week of April and increased the threat of flooding in the vicinity of Firebaugh where thousands of sandbags were used to fortify the banks of the San Joaquin River.

While no forecast points along the mainstem rivers ever rose above flood stage, water levels remained above monitor stage at Stevinson and Newman for most of the month. Specifically, the Merced River at Stevinson first rose above monitor stage on April 4th at 1845 Z and the San Joaquin River at Newman first rose above monitor stage on April 6th at 1800 Z. Both forecast points remained above their respective monitor stages for the remainder of the month. Additionally, it was the first time since February, 1997 that water flows and stages of this magnitude were observed along the upper San Joaquin River and the lower Merced River.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED

Flood Warning....Sierra foothills, Kern County mountains	1445Z	03 APR
Flood Warning (extended)....Sierra foothills, Kern County mountains	2054Z	04 APR
Flood Warning (extended)....Sierra foothills, Kern County mountains	1600Z	05 APR
Flood Warning....San Joaquin River below Friant Dam	0230Z	04 APR
Urban and Small Stream Advisory...central San Joaquin Valley (Merced Co and Madera Co)	1515Z	04 APR
Flood Warning...central San Joaquin Valley (Merced Co)	1648Z	04 APR
Flood Warning (extended)...San Joaquin Valley (Merced Co)	2054Z	04 APR
Flood Warning (extended)...San Joaquin Valley (Merced Co)	1600Z	05 APR
Urban and Small Stream Advisory...San Joaquin Valley south of Merced Co	2058Z	04 APR
Urban and Small Stream Advisory (extended)...San Joaquin Valley south of Merced Co	1600Z	05 APR
Flash Flood Watch...San Joaquin Valley portion of Madera Co	0130Z	05 APR

Flash Flood Warning...San Joaquin Valley portion of Madera Co	1357Z	05 APR
Flood Warning...San Joaquin River below Friant Dam	0538Z	05 APR
Flood Warning (extended)...San Joaquin River below Friant Dam	1203Z	05 APR
 Flood Warning...San Joaquin River below Friant Dam	 2020Z	 07 APR
Flash Flood Warning...Tulare County foothills	2254Z	14 APR
Flash Flood Warning....Fresno County foothills	2318Z	14 APR
Small Stream Flood Advisory...Madera County foothills	0023Z	15 APR
Small Stream Flood Advisory...Fresno Co and Tulare Co foothills	0107Z	15 APR
 Small Stream Flood Advisory...Mariposa County foothills	 0441Z	 17 APR
Flash Flood Warning...west side of the San Joaquin Valley (Fresno Co)	0029Z	22 APR
Flash Flood Warning (extended)...west side of the San Joaquin Valley in Fresno County	0129Z	22 APR
 Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory...San Joaquin Valley	 1545Z	 23 APR

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO