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: **MAY** YEAR: **2008**

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: June 3, 2008

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.

May was certainly a month of extremes. New records were established for heat during mid month, then followed by unseasonably cool weather from the 21st through the 29th. Although the month was drier than normal, more precipitation fell this May than the months of March and April combined in most areas.

During the first twelve days of the month, a series of upper level troughs that originated in the Gulf Of Alaska trekked through the Pacific Northwest to the Great Basin, keeping California entrenched in a cool northwest flow aloft. A major change in the pattern occurred by the 14th and persisted for nearly a week as a strong upper level ridge of high pressure anchored itself along the West coast. During this time, temperatures averaged well above normal across the central California interior, and in fact rose to 100 degrees or higher for the first time this year in the San Joaquin Valley, lower foothills and the Kern County desert.

By the 21st, the pattern reverted back to what it was earlier in the month. An unusually deep upper level trough dropped southward from the Gulf of Alaska, busted down the high pressure ridge over California and brought the first measurable rain in months to the San Joaquin Valley from the 23rd through the 27th in addition to unseasonably cool temperatures. During this period, temperatures averaged well below normal throughout the HSA and snow showers frequented the southern Sierra Nevada above 7000 feet. While the precipitation was indeed beneficial, it was not enough to replenish the seasonal deficit. However, it did slow an otherwise early start to the fire weather season.

At month's end, most of the major reservoirs in central California were at 50 percent of their normal water capacity.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED

Urban and Small Stream Flood Advisory…foothills of Mariposa and Madera County 2212Z 27-MAY

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
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WFO HNX
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