

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - HANFORD , CA

REPORT FOR:

**MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND
FLOOD CONDITIONS**

MONTH: **JULY** YEAR: **2008**

TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH12x1 **SIGNATURE:**
National Weather Service/Office of Hydrology
1325 East-West Highway #7116 Kevin Durfee
Silver Spring, MD 20910 (In Charge of Hydrologic Service Area)

DATE: August 7, 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).

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

For much of the month, central California became a battleground between an upper level trough over the eastern Pacific and a strong ridge of high pressure aloft centered over the Four Corners Region. In most cases, the upper level trough had greater influence on the weather pattern and produced a moderate onshore flow accompanied by shallow marine intrusions in the San Joaquin Valley. From the 7th through the 11th, however, the Four Corners ridge flexed its muscle and dominated the pattern, resulting in a spell of very hot weather over the central California interior. During this time, high temperatures of 105 to 112 degrees were common in the San Joaquin Valley, lower foothills and the Kern County Desert. Minimum temperature records were broken in Fresno and Bakersfield on the 9th and 10th with lows respectively in the lower 80s.

Although the month was characteristically dry, an influx of monsoonal moisture produced isolated thunderstorms with very heavy rain over the mountains and desert on two separate occasions. The first monsoonal surge occurred from the 12th through the 16th. During this period, torrential downpours from nearby thunderstorms produced dramatic mud and debris flows and flash flooding along Erskine Creek Road in the vicinity of Lake Isabella. The excessive runoff originated over the Piute burn area and flowed quickly down Erskine Creek. Fortunately, prompt evacuations were conducted and no lives were lost. However, several homes were flooded and a few families had to be rescued by helicopter.

The next bout with the monsoon was short-lived, but produced flash flooding in the city of Ridgecrest and along a portion of highway 14 near Robbers Roost on the afternoon of the 20th. High water left many motorists stranded in the above mentioned areas during the late afternoon hours of the 20th. In a few localities, water was reportedly two feet deep. Historically, it was the worst flash flooding in Ridgecrest since the flash flood of July 23rd, 1974 with property damage estimated to be near a half million dollars.

All mainstem rivers remained well below flood stage during the month with water capacity in most of the major reservoirs averaging 15 to 25 percent of normal.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED (see next page)

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED...

Flash Flood Warning...southeast Tulare County	2152Z	12-JUL
Flash Flood Warning...Kern County mountains	2342Z	12-JUL
Flash Flood Warning...Kern County desert	0205Z	13-JUL
Flash Flood Warning...Kern County desert	2257Z	13-JUL
Flash Flood Warning...Kern County mountains	2321Z	13-JUL
Flash Flood Warning...Kern County mountains	1923Z	14-JUL
Flash Flood Warning...southeast Tulare County/ Kern County mountains	2059Z	14-JUL
Flash Flood Warning...Kern County mountains	2117Z	15-JUL
Flash Flood Warning...southeast Tulare County/Kern County mountains	1903Z	16-JUL
Flash Flood Warning...Kern County desert	2130Z	16-JUL
Flash Flood Warning...Kern County desert	0012Z	21-JUL

Note: Numerous flash flood statements were issued as follow-up products to the Flash Flood Warnings issued above.

Small Stream Flood Advisory...Kern County desert	0141Z	14-JUL
Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisory...Fresno County foothills/mountains	2009Z	14-JUL
Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisory...Sierra foothills/mountains north of Fresno County	2236Z	14-JUL
Flash Flood Watch...Kern County mountains and desert	0818Z	13-JUL
Flash Flood Watch...Yosemite N.P to Kings Canyon N.P.	2135Z	13-JUL
Flash Flood Watch...Tulare County mountains/Kern County mountains/desert	1832Z	14-JUL
Flash Flood Watch...Sierra Nevada/Kern County mountains and desert	1140Z	15-JUL
Flash Flood Watch...Sierra Nevada/Kern County mountains and desert	1100Z	16-JUL
Flash Flood Watch...Kern County mountains and desert	0930Z	21-JUL

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO