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: **JANUARY** YEAR: **2009**

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: February 9, 2009

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.

January, 2009 was not kind to the seasonal precipitation deficit as the month proved to be much drier than normal. In the San Joaquin Valley, for example, measurable rain only fell on 7 days of the month. A few weak cold frontal passages between January 2nd and 9th produced meager amounts of precipitation across the HSA. From a hydrological aspect, the part of the month that brought the most beneficial precipitation Occurred between the 21st and 25th. During this time, 3 separate storm systems trekked through the HSA. The combined effects of these storms dumped a fresh 2-4 feet of snow over the higher elevations of the southern Sierra Nevada with as much as a foot of new snow in the Kern County mountains. Of the 3 storms, the last two brought snow to elevations as low as 3000 feet and disrupted travel over the Grapevine. Additionally, the San Joaquin Valley received generous rainfall from showers and isolated thunderstorms, but it was hardly enough to relieve the ongoing drought.

Otherwise, it was a strong, persistent upper level ridge of High pressure that dominated the month's weather. This ridge brought unseasonably warm temperatures to the central California interior from the 12th through the 21st as it amplified along the west coast. Throughout this period, a dry offshore flow prevailed across the HSA and relative humidities remained low over the higher elevations. Despite the frequent occurrence of night and morning fog in the San Joaquin Valley , most afternoons brought spring-like warmth with a good deal of hazy sunshine.

At the end of the month, the water in all of the major reservoirs was abnormally low, averaging only about 35 percent of normal capacity.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED

Flash Flood Watch for the Telegraph Burn area (Mariposa County)	1115Z	24-JAN

cc:
W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO