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: **FEBRUARY** 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: March 8, 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).

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

February, 2009 began much like January ended with a continuation of dry weather and above normal temperatures as a persistent ridge of high pressure aloft remained in control. A significant change in the upper air pattern began on the 5th, and was marked by a southward shift of the jet stream into California, which continued uninterrupted through the 22nd. During this time, an endless parade of storm systems, some of which were only a couple of days apart, produced copious precipitation across the HSA. Most of these storms originated in the Gulf of Alaska and not only brought several feet of new snow to the high Sierra, but occasionally blanketed elevations as low as 2500 feet with a few inches of the white stuff. Two particularly cold storms, one on the 8th and another on the 13th and 14th, produced a small accumulation of snow along Interstate 5 through Tejon Pass and Highway 58 through Tehachapi pass, resulting in long travel delays for many motorists. Additionally, a cold, unstable airmass that accompanied the storm system on the 8th produced isolated thunderstorms in the San Joaquin Valley the following day. One of these thunderstorms spawned a very weak tornado in Merced County during the midday hours of the 9th. Blustery winds in the wake of the storm system on the 15th gusted to hurricane force over the Grapevine. In fact, the automated gage at Grapevine Peak (elevation 4700 feet) recorded a peak gust of 103 mph shortly after midnight on the 16th. Local wind gusts of 40 mph or higher also occurred in the San Joaquin Valley on the 15th, mainly on the west side. The last in a series of storms moved through the central California interior on the 21st and 22nd and dumped another foot of snow on the southern Sierra Nevada with generous rain in the foothills and the San Joaquin Valley.

A dry and more tranquil pattern returned to the HSA during the final week of the month as the storm track retreated slowly northward into the Pacific Northwest. Nonetheless, the wet weather that occurred during the first few weeks of the month brought total precipitation for the season to about 80 percent of normal and replenished a deep snow pack over the Sierra Nevada.

By late in the month, all of the major reservoirs reported increased inflow, however, water storages remained low. As of March 1st, water levels at the reservoirs averaged about 62 percent of normal.

NO HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO