

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - HANFORD , CA

REPORT FOR:

**MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND
FLOOD CONDITIONS**

MONTH: **MARCH** 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: April 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).

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

March, 2009 brought another setback with precipitation averaging much below normal. Only two storm systems brought measurable precipitation to the central California interior during the month. The first storm had a subtropical moisture connection and dumped up to a foot of new snow over the high Sierra during the first few days of the month while the adjacent foothills received one to two inches of rain. In the drought-stricken San Joaquin Valley, rainfall amounts were considerably less, but nonetheless welcome, ranging from about two tenths of an inch at the south end to three-quarters of an inch in Merced county. The second storm originated in the Gulf of Alaska. As it trekked southeastward across the state on the 21st and 22nd, it brought scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to the valley and foothills with up to two feet of new snow over the higher elevations of the Sierra. Rain amounts from this second storm were relatively unimpressive in the San Joaquin Valley and remained generally below two tenths of an inch. However, the Sierra foothills fared much better with rainfall totals of up to an inch.

Temperature-wise, the month averaged warmer than normal, in spite of frost and below freezing minimum temperatures in the San Joaquin Valley on the morning of the 10th and frosty early morning temperatures in the wake of the second storm on the 23rd and 24th. Otherwise, a northwesterly flow aloft resided over the HSA for most of the month as an upper level ridge of high pressure anchored itself over the eastern Pacific and a series of dry cold fronts moved across the state.

By the end of the month, water storage levels remained low at the major reservoirs. However, the snowpack over the southern Sierra Nevada averaged about 80 percent of normal.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED

Flash Flood Watch ...foothills of Mariposa, Madera and Fresno County 1136Z 22 MAR

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO