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: **MARCH** YEAR: **2010**

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 5, 2010

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 began much like February ended as another storm on the heels of its late February predecessor brought copious precipitation to the central California interior on the 2nd and 3rd. By the time this storm exited into the Great Basin on the 4th, it dumped up to a foot of new snow on the high Sierra and brought a tenth to three quarters of an inch of rain to the San Joaquin Valley. The next storm system was a coastal hugger and brought little if any precipitation to the HSA as it moved inland over southern California on the 5th and 6th. The storm that followed was more generous and dusted the higher elevations of the Sierra with 4 to 7 inches of new snow between the 8th and the 10th. A cold airmass that followed this system produced a late season frost in the San Joaquin Valley on the morning of the 11th. The last in a series of storms tracked eastward across central California on the 12th and 13th and dumped up to 16 inches of snow over the higher elevations of the Sierra while producing up to a quarter of an inch of rain in the San Joaquin Valley.

For the next two and a half weeks, dry weather prevailed over the HSA as an upper level ridge of high pressure dominated the pattern. A cold storm system originating in the Gulf of Alaska quelled any fears that our wet season had come to an end. As the storm tracked down the California coast on the 31st, it brought up to a foot of new snow to the higher elevations of the Sierra. Rainfall from this system averaged around a half inch in the Sierra foothills while generally a tenth of an inch or less fell in the San Joaquin Valley. Due to the unseasonably cold air associated with this storm, snow fell as low as 2500 feet in heavier showers on the 31st.

In summary, the month ended up slightly drier and cooler than normal. As of April 1st, the snowpack over the southern Sierra Nevada averaged 92 percent of normal.

NO HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS WERE ISSUED THIS MONTH.

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
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WFO STO