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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: **APRIL** 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: May 6, 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.

April brought an abundance of rain and mountain snow to the HSA as storm systems trekked across central California with great regularity...generally on the order of every 7 days. The first storm originated in the Gulf of Alaska and dumped as much as 29 inches of snow on the high Sierra during the 4th and 5th and left a dusting to as much as 3 inches of snow in the foothills above 2000 feet in the storm's wake with similar snow accumulations in the Tehachapi Mountains.

The storm that followed was equally cold and brought up to 18 inches of new snow to the higher elevations of the Sierra with up to a half foot of snow in the Tehachapi mountains on the 11th and 12th. Meanwhile, a soaking rain fell in the lower elevations. Two-day rain totals from this storm averaged an inch or more in in the Sierra foothills as well as Merced county. Additionally, isolated thunderstorms with hail developed in the San Joaquin Valley on the afternoon of the 12th.

The next big storm moved into central California on the 20th. By the time this system exited into the Great Basin on the 22nd, it blanketed the higher elevations of the Sierra with a fresh 1 to 2 feet of snow and brought another 6 inches of new snow to the Tehachapi mountains. A generous rain fell in the lower elevations with as much as an inch in the San Joaquin Valley and local amounts of more than 2 inches in the adjacent foothills.

The fourth and final storm was not as wet as its predecessors, but still managed to bring a 5 to 11 inch snowfall to the high Sierra on the 27th and 28th. Rain amounts in the San Joaquin Valley ranged from a few hundredths to around a quarter of an inch while slightly higher amounts fell in the nearby foothills. Nonetheless, the cold air in the wake of this storm produced black ice over the Grapevine during the predawn hours of the 29th and forced Interstate 5 to close in both directions for a few hours. Additionally, the storm brought up to 4 inches of new snow in the Tehachapi mountains. In between the stormy periods, an upper level ridge of high pressure brought dry weather, light winds and seasonable temperatures to the HSA.

In summary, April was cooler and much wetter than normal. In fact, it was the 17th wettest April on record for Fresno and Bakersfield. By the end of the month, the snow pack over the southern Sierra averaged 121 percent of normal. Many of the major reservoirs were holding about 56 percent of their normal water capacity as of April 30th.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED THIS MONTH.

Small stream flood advisory…..Tulare county foothills 0543Z 21-APR

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO