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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: **MAY** 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: June 1, 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.

May is normally a time when the dry season becomes established across the central California interior as the westerlies retreat northward and the HSA is dominated by a ridge of high pressure aloft. But this May was quite the exception. On three separate occasions, storm systems that originated in the Gulf of Alaska tracked unusually far south and brought wet weather to the HSA. In fact, much like April 2010, storm systems moved through central California on a regular basis; generally on the order of every eight days. The first one brought up to a quarter of an inch of rain to the San Joaquin Valley with up to 9 inches of snow in the higher elevations of the Sierra on the 9th and 10th. The second storm system moved across California during the middle of the month. From the 17th to the 19th, precipitation from this storm ranged from as much as fourteen hundredths of an inch on the San Joaquin Valley floor to a half inch or more in the Sierra foothills. Precipitation took the form of snow above 8000 feet where up to 5 inches accumulated. The third and final storm of the month was a slow mover. Although the bulk of wet weather from this system occurred on the 25th and 26th, precipitation developed over the higher elevations of the Sierra as early as the 22nd while the storm approached from the northwest. By the time this system exited into the Great Basin on the 28th, it dumped up to 9 inches of new snow in the Sierra above 8000 feet and brought up to a quarter of an inch of rain in the San Joaquin Valley. Additionally, each of these storms produced strong winds through and below the mountain passes of Kern County and along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley.

The month was much cooler than normal. In fact, there were at least 22 days this May that temperatures at most reporting stations averaged below normal. The persistence of cool weather helped minimize snowmelt runoff over the higher elevations. Nonetheless, water levels increased slightly at all of the major reservoirs and were up to about 60% of their normal capacity by the end of the month.

NO HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS WERE ISSUED THIS MONTH.

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO