s
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: **2011**

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 1, 2011

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.

April was drier than normal, but it was a welcome respite from an extremely waterlogged March. In fact, only one storm system brought significant precipitation to the central California interior, and that was near the end of the first week of April. The month began unseasonably warm with record or near record high temperatures in the San Joaquin Valley. In fact, April 1st ended up being the warmest day of the entire month with 80-degree temperatures common to the San Joaquin Valley, the lower foothills and the Kern County desert. Thermometer readings did not top the 80 degree mark again in these areas until the 5th and the 17th, and never again during the month except at the south end of the San Joaquin Valley on the 18th and 28th as an upper level ridge of high pressure briefly built over central California. For much of the rest of the month, the ridge was suppressed by weak storm systems that trekked frequently through the Pacific Northwest, maintained a healthy onshore flow across the HSA, and kept temperatures generally within a few degrees of seasonal normals.

As mentioned earlier, the hydrological highlight of the month was the storm system that barreled through the state on the 7th and 8th. Although this storm would be the last significantly wet storm to affect the central California interior for the season, it packed a wallop much like its predecessors in the month of March. Considering its origins in the Gulf of Alaska, the storm came equipped with unseasonably cold air, blustery winds and winterlike weather over the higher elevations. By the morning of the 8th, the storm dumped up to 19 inches of new snow over the high Sierra and blanketed elevations as low as 2500 feet with up to 7 inches of the white stuff. A light dusting of snow fell down to pass level in the Kern County mountains and slowed traffic along Interstate 5 through the Grapevine. At the height of the storm, isolated thunderstorms rumbled through the San Joaquin Valley on the afternoon of the 7th, accompanied by pea sized hail in some localities. Otherwise, rainfall from this system totaled about a tenth of an inch to a half inch in the San Joaquin Valley with up to an inch in the adjacent foothills. A weaker storm system moved through the central California interior on the 20th and 21st and brought little more than sprinkles in the San Joaquin Valley with light precipitation over the higher terrain. Although showers were widely scattered over the mountains, a few spots in the southern Sierra Nevada received up to a half inch of water from this system.

Throughout the month, water releases continued at all of the reservoirs and resulted in moderately high flows on all of the mainstem rivers downstream of the dams. The San Joaquin River at Newman remained above monitor stage until April 23rd, then receded very slowly through the end of the month. The Merced river at Stevinson remained above its respective monitor stage a bit longer and finally receded below this stage on the evening of the 27th.

Temperature-wise, the month ended up slightly cooler than normal. A deep snowpack persisted over the southern Sierra Nevada, which, in spite of some melting, averaged 170 percent of normal by the end of the month. As of May 1st, most of the major reservoirs were holding 70 percent of their normal water capacity.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED

Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	2215Z	01-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1719Z	02-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1716Z	03-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1630Z	04-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	2124Z	04-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1717Z	05-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1658Z	06-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1917Z	06-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1645Z	07-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1858Z	07-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1509Z	08-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1614Z	09-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1606Z	10-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1519Z	11-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	2146Z	11-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1622Z	12-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	2136Z	12-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1559Z	13-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1509Z	14-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	2106Z	14-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1555Z	15-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	2141Z	15-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1555Z	16-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1632Z	17-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1617Z	18-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1740Z	19-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1556Z	20-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1521Z	21-APR
Hydrologic Statement……..San Joaquin River at Newman			
	Merced River at Stevinson	1653Z	22-APR

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED (continued…)

Hydrologic Statement…….. Merced River at Stevinson	1653Z	23-APR
Hydrologic Statement…….. Merced River at Stevinson	1640Z	24-APR
Hydrologic Statement…….. Merced River at Stevinson	1522Z	25-APR
Hydrologic Statement…….. Merced River at Stevinson	1622Z	26-APR

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO