

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND
FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:

MONTH: **OCTOBER** YEAR: **2011**

TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH12x1 **SIGNATURE:**
National Weather Service/Office of Hydrology
1325 East-West Highway #7116 Kevin Durfee
Silver Spring, MD 20910 (In Charge of Hydrologic Service Area)

DATE: November 8, 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).

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

October ended up much wetter than normal even though precipitation fell on only two days of the month. Had it not been for a major winterlike storm that trekked southward across the state from the 4th through the 6th, October, 2011 would've been bone dry. The storm, which originated in the Gulf of Alaska, brought the first wetting rain of the season to the San Joaquin Valley and crippled travel over the higher elevations of the Sierra with up to 18 inches of heavy, wet snow. As the storm exited into the Great Basin on the 6th, an unseasonably cold airmass settled in behind it with temperatures averaging a good 10 to 20 degrees below normal. In the San Joaquin Valley, rainfall from this system ranged from a quarter of an inch or less on the west side and south end to nearly an inch elsewhere. The Sierra foothills received 1 to 3 inches of rain from the storm.. In Kern County, up to a half inch of rain fell in the desert while up to 2 inches fell in the mountains.

Otherwise, much of October, 2011 was dominated by an upper level ridge of high pressure and a prevailing offshore flow which brought generally clear skies and above normal temperatures to the HSA. The ridge was temporarily flattened by the passage of a weak upper level trough on the 10th. The cold front associated with this system moved southward across the HSA on Columbus Day and produced scattered showers in the Sierra Nevada mainly north of Kings Canyon. Precipitation amounts were relatively light and ranged from just a few hundredths in the Tulare County mountains to nearly a quarter of an inch in Yosemite National Park. The ridge of high pressure aloft was flattened a second time during the middle of the month as another upper level trough moved through the Pacific Northwest. However, precipitation with this system remained well north of the HSA on the 16th.

Temperature-wise, October, 2011 averaged slightly warmer than normal. The warmest weather occurred ahead of a dry cold front on the 15th. On this date, afternoon temperatures soared into the lower 90s in the southern San Joaquin Valley making it the last occurrence of 90-degree weather in the valley for the year.

NO HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED THIS MONTH

cc: W/OH12x1
 W/WR2
 CNRFC
 WFO HNX
 WFO STO

