

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - HANFORD , CA

REPORT FOR:

**MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND
FLOOD CONDITIONS**

MONTH: **MAY** YEAR: **2012**

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, 2012

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 was much drier than normal throughout the HSA as an upper level ridge of high pressure centered over the Southwestern U.S. dominated the overall pattern. At times, this ridge was flattened by storm systems traversing eastward across the Pacific Northwest. Although cold fronts that trailed southward from each of these storms brought no precipitation to the central California interior, they did generate a healthy onshore flow across the HSA and were followed by intrusions of marine air in the San Joaquin Valley. One particularly deep marine influx was accompanied by low stratus in the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills during the morning of the 4th.

The jet stream, which resided well north of the HSA for much of the month, briefly buckled on the 25th and carried a storm system out of western Canada into central California. In addition to bringing an unseasonably cool airmass into the HSA, the storm produced isolated showers and thunderstorms in the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills with rain and higher elevation snow in the southern Sierra. Two to as much as 4 inches of snow fell in the Sierra above 6500 feet. In Yosemite National Park, the snow posed enough of a winter driving hazard to close Tioga Pass during the evening of the 25th. High temperatures that day stayed mostly in the 30s over the highest elevations of the Sierra. Even in the San Joaquin Valley, afternoon temperatures on the 25th struggled to reach 70 degrees and were no higher than the 50s right below the passes on the west side of the valley.

The month certainly had its share of unseasonably warm weather, too. On several occasions, amplification of the upper level ridge produced high temperatures well into the 90s in the San Joaquin Valley and the Kern county desert. As a whole, the month averaged warmer than normal. In fact, it was the 10th warmest May on record in Fresno where records date back to the late 1800s. The melting Sierra snowpack, which was nearly depleted by month's end, supplied water to the reservoirs. By June 1st, the major reservoirs averaged 72 percent of their normal water capacity.

NO HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED THIS MONTH

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO

