

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - HANFORD , CA

REPORT FOR:

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND
FLOOD CONDITIONS

MONTH: **JUNE** 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: July 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.

June was typically dry throughout the HSA. In fact, precipitation only fell on 3 days of the month, namely the 4th, 5th, and the 16th. A strong cold front brought isolated showers to the eastern San Joaquin Valley from Visalia northward on the 4th. Showers were more numerous in the mountains and lingered into the morning hours of the 5th behind the cold front. Although rainfall from this storm system was relatively light, some of the heavier amounts included nearly four tenths of an inch in the Merced area and close to an inch in Yosemite Valley. Precipitation even ended as a little snow over the highest elevations of the Sierra. Folks in Tuolumne Meadows, at an elevation of 9000 feet, woke up to a two inch blanket of snow on the morning of the 5th. Residents elsewhere across the central California interior faced an unseasonably cool day on the 5th. Afternoon temperatures that day were no higher than the 40s at and above the 6000 foot level, and in the San Joaquin Valley, thermometer readings got no higher than the mid 70s. The cold front that heralded the arrival of this dramatically cooler airmass produced extraordinary weather of its own in the San Joaquin Valley on the afternoon of the 4th. Blustery winds associated with this front created a large cloud of blinding dust as the front trekked southward through the San Joaquin Valley. Supporting northwest winds aloft carried this dust cloud into the Sierra foothills and as far south as the Kern county mountains by the early evening hours of the 4th.

The second precipitation maker of the month was considerably weaker as it moved eastward across the district on the 16th. Although this particular cold front was moisture starved, it did bring isolated showers to the Sierra Nevada with local rain amounts of up to a tenth of an inch. Other cold frontal passages, one on the 8th and another during the evening of the 21st, were bone dry. The cold front on the 21st was followed by a 5-day period of cooler than normal temperatures across the HSA. From the 22nd through the 26th, for example, a comforting onshore flow of ocean-cooled air into the San Joaquin Valley kept high temperatures generally below 90 degrees each day through the period. In contrast, June also had its share of hot days. On at least three occasions, high temperatures reached the century mark in the San Joaquin Valley, lower foothills and the Kern county desert. On the hottest day of the month, June 17th, temperatures rose as high as 111 degrees in the San Joaquin Valley (Taft). The high of 109 degrees in Fresno on the 17th was a new record for the date. Coincidentally, Bakersfield fell one degree shy of its record high of 109 degrees.

The 2011-2012 rainfall season across central California, which traditionally runs from July 1st through June 30th, ended up drier than normal. (See chart below) As a note of interest, June 21st is the only day in Fresno's climatological history dating back to 1878 that no measurable rain fell. As tradition would have it, this year was no exception. As of July 1st, the major reservoirs in the HSA were holding about 62 percent of their normal water capacity.

THE 2011-2012 RAIN SEASON (JULY 1ST through JUNE 30TH)

AIRPORT (inches)	SEASON TOTAL (inches)	NORMAL (inches)	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	PERCENT OF NORMAL
MERCED	7.40	12.50	-5.10	59.2%
FRESNO	8.15	11.50	-3.35	70.9%
HANFORD	5.82	10.10	-4.28	57.6%
BAKERSFIELD	4.93	6.47	-1.54	76.2%

NO HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED THIS MONTH

CC:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO