

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - HANFORD , CA

REPORT FOR:

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND
FLOOD CONDITIONS

MONTH: **JANUARY** YEAR: **2013**

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: February 5, 2013

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.

January, 2013 was not a good month, hydrologically. There were only 4 storm systems that brought precipitation into the HSA. The first storm tracked southward across the region from the night of the 5th through the 6th. The second storm tracked well north of California and swept a relatively moisture starved Arctic cold front southward across the HSA on the 10th. Light snow and flurries in the wake of this front produced a dusting of snow at elevations as low as 1500 feet and forced Interstate 5 through the Grapevine to shut down briefly during the morning of the 10th and again for several hours that night.

The third storm developed off the southern California coast around the 22nd and brought an influx of mid level subtropical moisture into central California from the evening of the 23rd through the 25th. Another cold frontal passage occurred on the night of the 26th. In each case, rainfall amounts were generally under fifteen hundredths of an inch in the San Joaquin Valley and a half inch or less in the Sierra foothills and the Kern county mountains. However, the first storm system drenched the San Joaquin Valley north of Fresno county with up to an inch of rain on the 6th. Although the southern Sierra Nevada fared a little better with precipitation than the remainder of the central California interior, there was an overall decrease in the snowpack, which averaged 87 percent of normal by the end of the month. Most of the major reservoirs lost water, too, and by February 1st were holding only 32 percent of their normal capacity.

Besides being considerably drier than normal, January, 2013 also averaged a little colder than normal. An invasion of Arctic air on the 10th sent temperatures plummeting below freezing each night in the San Joaquin Valley through the 20th. In the normally colder locations of the valley, nightly temperatures bottomed out in the lower 20s during this period. Although this was the harshest spell of cold weather for the month, frosty morning temperatures also occurred in the San Joaquin Valley during the first 5 days of January and from the 28th through the 30th. In fact, the automated weather station at the Hanford municipal airport reported 21 nights of below freezing temperatures this month.

NO HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED THIS MONTH

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO