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: **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: May 1, 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).

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

April, 2013, like every month so far this calendar year, was much drier than normal and only exacerbated the already large seasonal precipitation deficit. In the San Joaquin Valley, meager rainfall totals of less than a tenth of an inch were common from Fresno county southward while April rain totals farther north averaged closer to a half inch, which was still nearly a third of an inch below normal. The bulk of the month's precipitation in the San Joaquin Valley fell on the 4th, as a cold front and associated upper level disturbance moved through the HSA. Elsewhere, this system produced up to two tenths of an inch of rain in the foothills and higher elevations of the Sierra. Three other cold frontal passages, one on the 8th and the others on the 15th and the 24th, brought more bark than bite, packing blustery winds that produced areas of blowing dust on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley and the Kern county desert. The cold front on the 8th brought up to a half inch of rain in the mountains and at most a few hundredths of an inch in the San Joaquin Valley. The cold frontal passages on the 15th and 24th produced little more than isolated showers over the Sierra. On the mornings immediately following the cold frontal passages on the 8th and 15th, temperatures bottomed out in the mid to upper 30s in portions of the Kern county desert and in the Sierra foothills as well as the east side of the San Joaquin Valley where a brief but light frost was observed in the coldest wind-sheltered locations.

Much of April from the 19th through the 30th was dominated by a strong upper level ridge of high pressure centered over the eastern Pacific. During this period, dry weather prevailed with several days of well above normal temperatures. Maximum temperatures peaked at or above 90 degrees in many localities of the San Joaquin Valley from the 22nd through the 24th and again from the 27th through the 29th. In Fresno, it was the warmest April ever with records dating back to 1887.

As one would expect, the snowpack over the southern Sierra experienced rapid depletion this month. By April 24th, much of the Sierra snowpack below 9,000 feet had melted. The observed snowpack above this elevation was a paltry 17 percent of normal by the end of the month. Water losses occurred in all of the major reservoirs which, by May 1st, averaged about 42 percent of their normal water capacity.

NO HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED THIS MONTH

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO