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: **AUGUST** 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: September 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.

August was characteristically dry, although occasional northward influxes of monsoonal moisture produced thunderstorms over the mountains and desert, and even infrequently in the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills. Otherwise, a dry southwesterly flow aloft prevailed over the HSA for most of August as central California remain situated between a high pressure ridge centered over Texas and an upper level low pressure system anchored off the Pacific Northwest coast. For a week long period which began on the 13th and ended on the 20th, the high pressure ridge dominated the pattern and brought triple digit heat to much of the San Joaquin Valley, lower foothills and the Kern county desert. August 19th was the hottest day of the month and one of the hottest days of the summer season so far. On that particular afternoon, thermometers in a few locations of the San Joaquin Valley topped the 110 degree mark. So it is no coincidence that the month ended up slightly warmer than normal.

As referenced above, August, 2013 brought a few monsoonal surges and one of them produced significant hydrological impacts. The first monsoon event occurred from the 18th through the 20th. Its arrival fueled slow moving thunderstorms with very heavy rain in the Kern county desert during the afternoon of the 18th and flooded a portion of highway 58 near Boron. Additional thunderstorms in the Kern county desert during the early morning hours of the 19th produced flash flooding on Garlock road and Red Rock/Randsburg road from U.S. 395 to State route 14. As tropical moisture moved northwestward that afternoon, thunderstorms with heavy rain developed over the Kern county mountains. Mud and debris flows were reported along highway 178 near the town of Democrat and forced CHP to close the road. A southeast flow aloft carried some of these thunderstorms into the Sierra foothills later in the day and into the San Joaquin Valley during the evening hours of the 19th. Strong and gusty winds associated with a few of these storms downed trees and utility poles in the communities of Woodlake, Lemon Cove and Springville during the late afternoon hours of the 19th. Lightning also struck a transformer and knocked power out to several thousand Southern California Edison customers in the southern San Joaquin Valley during the evening of the 19th. By August 20th, winds aloft shifted to the southwest and kept thunderstorm activity confined to the higher elevations of the Sierra.

The second northward influx of monsoonal moisture occurred from the 26th through the 28th and produced isolated thunderstorms over the Kern county desert and in the mountains as far north as Kings Canyon National Park. Although a few of these thunderstorms produced heavy downpours, there were no reported incidents of flooding.

The third and final monsoonal surge into the HSA entrained moisture from the remnants of a former tropical storm (Kiko) off the Mexican coast. The arrival of this moisture near the end of the month triggered afternoon thunderstorms in the Kern county mountains and desert on the 31st. Heavy rain produced street flooding in the Frazier Park area and caused mud and debris flows along the Monterey trail heading toward Lake Of The Woods in the hills surrounding Frazier Park.

Typical for late Summer, water levels continued to drop at all of the major reservoirs during the month, which were already well below their normal water capacities at the beginning of the dry season. As of September 1st, the water capacity of the reservoirs averaged only 19 percent of normal.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED THIS MONTH

Small Stream Flood Advisory……	Kern county desert	2250Z 18-AUG
Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisory…..	Kern county desert	2332Z 18-AUG
Arroyo/Small Stream Flood Advisory….	mountains of Kern county and Tulare county	2244Z 19-AUG
Flash Flood Warning……..	Kern county mountains	2325Z 19-AUG
Flash Flood Warning……..	Kern county mountains	0044Z 20-AUG
Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisory……	San Joaquin Valley, foothills and higher elevations of the Sierra from Fresno county northward	0228Z 20-AUG
Small Stream Flood Advisory……	Yosemite National Park	2153Z 20-AUG
Flash Flood Watch……..	Kern county desert	1849Z 27-AUG
Flash Flood Watch……..	mountains of Kern county and Tulare county; Kern county desert	0955Z 30-AUG
Flash Flood Watch…….	mountains of Kern county and Tulare county; Kern county desert	1655Z 31-AUG
Flash Flood Warning……..	Tehachapi mountains	2008Z 31-AUG
Small Stream Flood Advisory……	Tulare county mountains	2028Z 31-AUG
Flash Flood Warning……..	Tehachapi mountains	2129Z 31-AUG

cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO