

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - HANFORD , CA

REPORT FOR:

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND
FLOOD CONDITIONS

MONTH: **MAY** YEAR: **2014**

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 3, 2014

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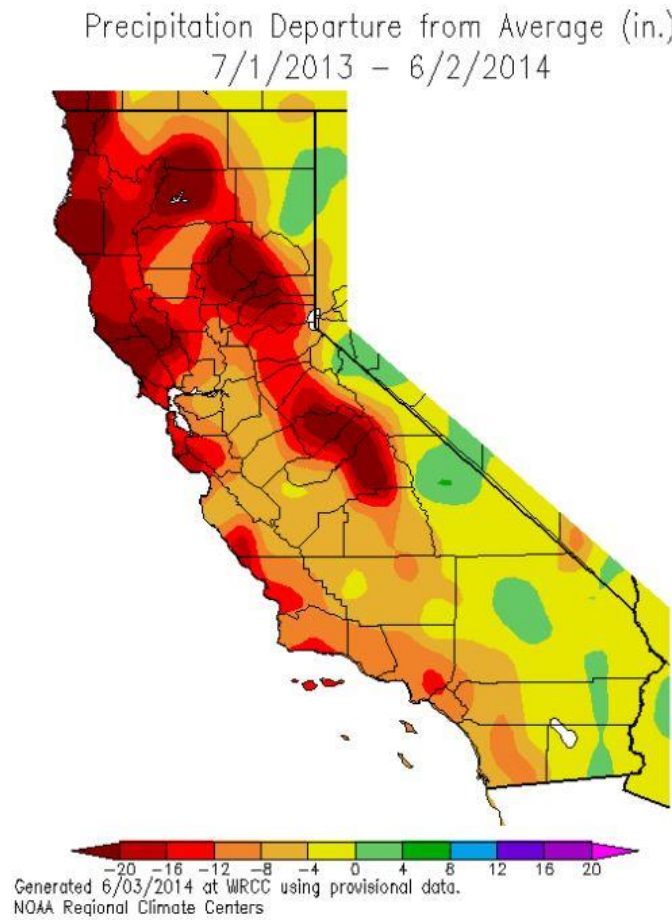
| **X** | An **X** inside this box indicates that no flooding occurred for the month
+---+ within this hydrologic service area.

May, 2014 was severely deficient of precipitation with a continuation of extreme drought conditions in much of the HSA. Only two storm systems the entire month produced beneficial showers, mostly over the higher terrain. The first storm originated in the Gulf of Alaska and brought wintry precipitation to the mountains above 6000 feet from the night of the 4th into the midday hours of the 6th. This storm left a 7 to 14 inch blanket of snow in the Sierra above 7000 feet while elevations as low as 5000 feet received a light dusting. Rain showers fell in the lower elevations and were most numerous along the east side of the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills, but it was hardly enough to settle the dust in the valley where rain amounts varied from a trace to several hundredths of an inch. The passage of a secondary upper level disturbance on the 8th and 9th produced even scantier amounts of precipitation; nothing measurable in the San Joaquin Valley and at most a tenth of an inch over the higher terrain north of Kern County. The second storm also proved to be a hydrologic disappointment in the San Joaquin Valley. Although this system tracked right over the central California interior on the 20th and 21st, most of its precipitation fell in the foothills and higher elevations of the Sierra where rain amounts ranged from a few hundredths to a few tenths of an inch. Some of the wettest locations in the Sierra received nearly a half inch in heavier showers. Isolated thunderstorms equipped with frequent lightning and gusty winds rolled out of the mountains and into the east side and south end of the San Joaquin Valley on the 22nd as the storm system moved into southern Nevada. Isolated thunderstorms redeveloped over the high Sierra and also popped up over the Kern County desert the following afternoon as the storm system drifted into southeastern California. Few if any of these thunderstorms produced measurable rain on the 23rd. During the stormy periods referenced above, temperatures averaged cooler than normal. Otherwise, May, 2014 was exceptionally warm (the 6th warmest on record in Fresno) as an upper level ridge of high pressure dominated the overall pattern. On at least 12 days, temperatures soared into the 90s in the San Joaquin Valley. May 15th was the hottest day and the first one this year of widespread triple digit heat in the San Joaquin Valley. On two separate occasions, a lengthy period of very low humidities, coupled with well above normal temperatures and extremely dry fuels prompted Red Flag Warnings in the Kern County mountains. Red Flag conditions occurred during the first two days of the month and between the 13th and 16th of May.

Area lakes and reservoirs remained at historically low water levels. In Yosemite National Park, the Merced river at Pohono Bridge, which generally peaks between the 3rd week of May and the first week of June in a normal snowmelt season, experienced unusually low flows and steadily receded through the month from a peak stage of only 5.3 feet on the 3rd to 3.5 feet by month's end. Water levels also continued to slowly drop in all of the major reservoirs and ranged from only 9 percent of normal capacity at Buchanan Dam to 62 percent of normal capacity at Friant Dam.

NO HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS WERE ISSUED THIS MONTH.

The map below shows how much below normal precipitation has been this rain season across California. .
The rain season runs from July 1st through June 30th.



cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO