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: **2016**

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 5, 2016

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.

Precipitation was highly varied throughout the HSA and averaged well above normal over much of Kern County as well as the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills from Fresno County northward. Elsewhere, April precipitation ended up slightly to much below normal, particularly over the higher elevations of the Sierra and on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley in Fresno County and Kings County. A graphical representation of precipitation distribution for the month has been provided at the end of this summary.

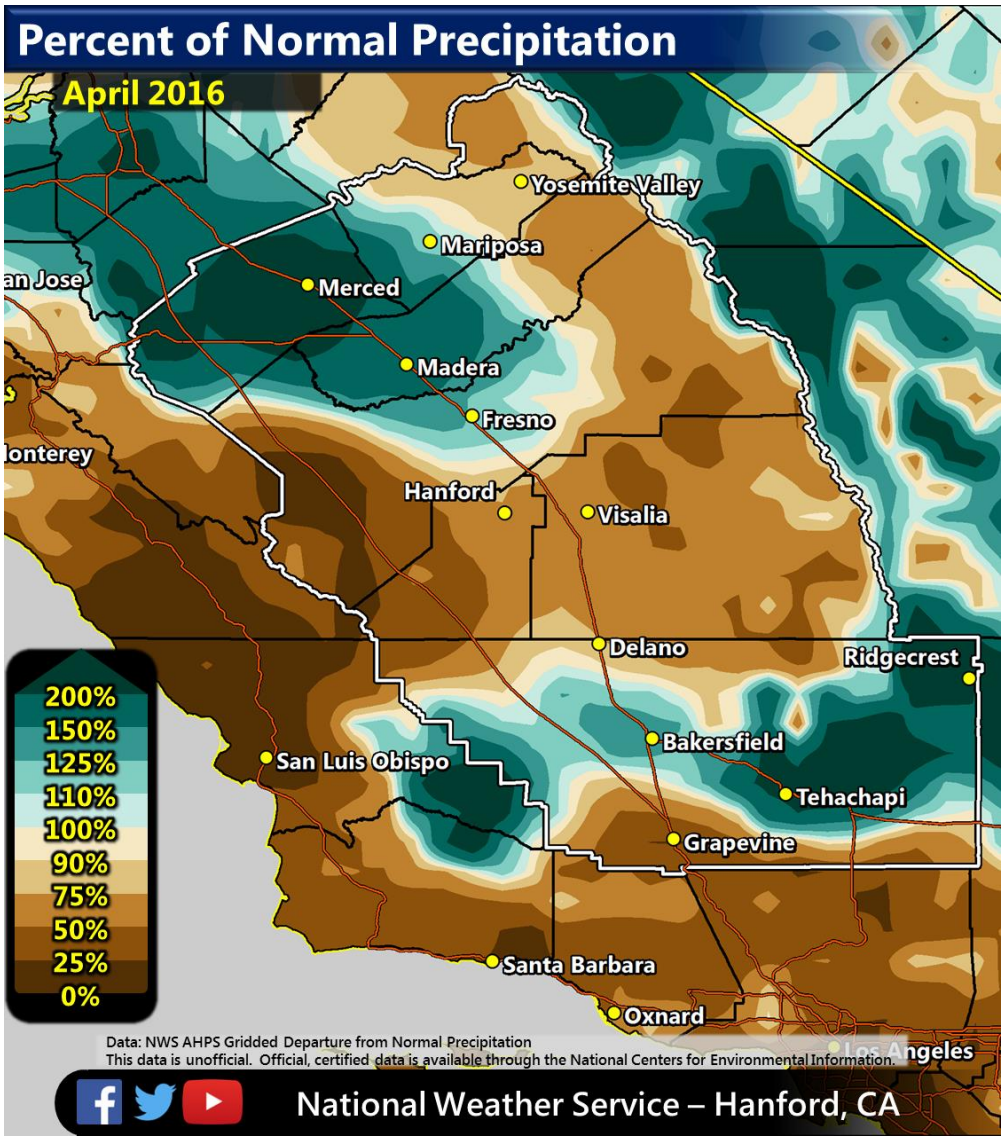
The hydrological highlights of the month occurred as follows:

Three back to back storm systems tracked eastward across southern California from April 8th through April 11th. Tropical moisture associated with these storms kept snow levels primarily above 9,000 feet. The northern half of the HSA was drenched with 1 to 3 inches of rain during this 3-day period. Water percolated readily into the soil without incidence of any major flooding. However, slow moving thunderstorms in Kern County during the afternoon of the 9th flooded several roads in the city of Bakersfield and its western suburbs as well as the city of Shafter. The weather pattern became fairly active again between April 22nd and 27th as a number of storm systems came ashore into the Pacific Northwest and tracked southeastward into the Great Basin. Although the bulk of precipitation with these storm systems remained well north of the HSA, the cold fronts associated with them produced showers and isolated thunderstorms as they moved southward across the central California interior. The cold frontal passage on the 24th triggered isolated afternoon and early evening thunderstorms over the southern San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills. A few of those thunderstorms reached severe levels and were equipped with large hail and strong winds. Another cold frontal passage on the 27th also produced isolated strong to severe afternoon and early evening thunderstorms in the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills. In advance of each of these cold fronts, gusty winds kicked up areas of dust on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley and reduced visibility to a mile or less in some localities. During this period, precipitation totals were generally less than three tenths of an inch throughout the HSA. One exception was in the eastern half of Merced County where nearly stationary thunderstorms during the late afternoon and early evening hours of the 27th produced local rain amounts of around 1.5 inches along with minor street flooding. An “inside slider” type storm system on the 30th produced isolated showers and thunderstorms over the higher elevations of the Sierra while the rest of the HSA remained precipitation-free.

Temperatures ended up above normal throughout the HSA this month. Bakersfield recorded its first 90 degree day of the year on the 6th but it wouldn’t be until the 18th when several more locations in the San Joaquin Valley first topped 90 degrees, with a repeat occurrence of 90 degree heat on the 19th. This was part of a 5 day stretch of weather between the 17th and 21st that a strong upper level ridge of High pressure parked itself over the Golden State. As one would expect, snow continued to melt over the high Sierra. This was good news for the reservoirs which saw an average increase in water capacity of about 6 percent this month, and a rise of about 47 percent of normal capacity by May 1st. The snowpack over the southern Sierra dropped to about 46 percent of normal by the end of April.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED THIS MONTH

Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisory…San Joaquin Valley/foothills north of Kern County	0409Z	09-APR
Small Stream Flood Advisory…Sierra Foothills	0509Z	09-APR
Small Stream Flood Advisory…Sierra Foothills	0604Z	09-APR
Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisory…San Joaquin Valley/foothills north of Kern County	1400Z	09-APR
Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisory…San Joaquin Valley/foothills north of Kern County	1856Z	09-APR
Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisory…San Joaquin Valley/foothills north of Kern County	0000Z	10-APR
Areal Flood Advisory for the Kern County portion of the San Joaquin Valley	0409Z	10-APR
Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisory…San Joaquin Valley/foothills north of Kern County	0510Z	10-APR
Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisory…Sierra foothills north of Tulare County	2131Z	22-APR
Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisory for Merced County	0024Z	28-APR



cc:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO