

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY - HANFORD, CA

REPORT FOR:

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND
FLOOD CONDITIONS

MONTH: **JULY** YEAR: **2017**

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: August 3, 2017

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.

July, 2017 was typically dry and averaged much warmer than normal across the HSA. In fact, it was the 2nd warmest July on record in Bakersfield and the 7th warmest July ever in Fresno with historical climatological dating back to the late 19th century. Triple digit heat was very prevalent in the San Joaquin Valley, lower foothills and the Kern county desert as a strong upper level ridge of high pressure anchored over the Four Corners region dominated the month's weather. Bakersfield's Meadows Field airport recorded 28 days of triple digit heat during the month. On two of those remaining three days, the high temperature was 99 degrees.

Northward influxes of monsoonal moisture, although rare this July, were rather shallow and occurred on the 9th, from the 16th through the 17th and between the 24th and the 26th. During these periods, isolated thunderstorms developed over the mountains and desert. Persistently hot weather and drying fuels led to an increased threat of wildfires throughout the central California interior. Of the more notable fires, the Garza wildfire in the hills west of Avenal grew to nearly 49,000 acres from the time it started on the 9th until the time it was fully contained on the 21st. A much larger and very destructive wildfire broke out in Mariposa county on the 16th and grew to nearly 82,000 acres by the end of the month. During the height of its rampage, the fire forced the evacuation of nearly 4,000 residents in the vicinity of Mariposa. Although flames from this fire came within a half mile of the town of Mariposa, the fire still destroyed 63 homes, one commercial building and 67 other structures and damaged another 13 homes and 8 structures. Additionally, wildfire smoke worsened the air quality throughout much of the central California interior from the 17th until the 26th.

Meanwhile, snow continued to melt rapidly over the high Sierra which in turn kept most of the reservoirs pretty full. Although there was a gradual decrease in water releases out of these reservoirs, higher than normal flows continued along many of the rivers below the dams all month. Fortunately, all river forecast points remained well below their critical stages with gradual recession of the rivers throughout the month. By August 1st, water capacities at the dams ranged from about 50 percent of normal at Hidden Dam and Isabella Dam to 90 percent or higher at Pine Flat, Success, San Luis and Exchequer reservoirs. Friant Dam was about 97 percent full as July came to a close.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED THIS MONTH

Flash Flood Warnings

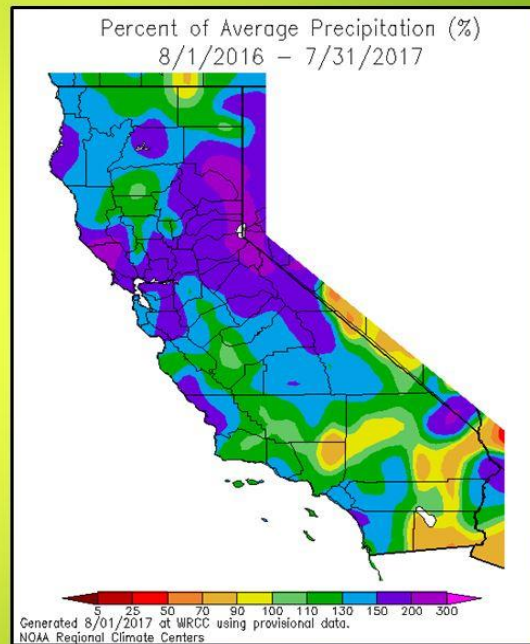
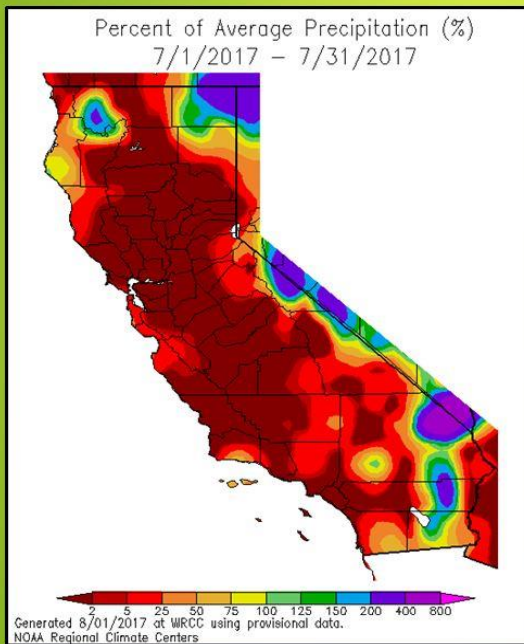
Kern County Mountains....Pine Mountain Club, Mount Pinos 2202Z 9-JUL

Flash Flood Statements

Kern County Mountains...Pine Mountain Club, Mount Pinos 2239Z 9-JUL

Kern County Mountains...Pine Mountain Club, Mount Pinos 2349Z 9-JUL

Percentage of normal precipitation...July, 2017 compared to the past 12 months



CC:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO