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: **JULY** YEAR: **2018**

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, 2018

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.

If only one word could be used to describe July, 2018, that word would be 'HOT'. In the San Joaquin Valley, temperatures averaged above normal on practically all 31 days. In Fresno, 28 of those days were at or above the century mark. Of those 28 days, 26 of them were strung back to back with highs in the triple digits, and surpassed the record of 21 consecutive days above 100 degrees previous established in 2005. Perhaps more impressive was the fact that July, 2018 ended up as the hottest July ever in Fresno with records dating back to the late 1800's. July, 2018 was the 2nd hottest July in Bakersfield's recorded climate history.

The month was void of rain in the San Joaquin Valley, but that was nothing unusual for a Summer month. On about a dozen or so days this July, afternoon thunderstorms popped up over the highest elevations of the Sierra, but only a small percentage of them brought measurable rain. Isolated afternoon thunderstorms occurred in the Kern County desert on July 20th and 21st, thanks to a shallow northward influx of monsoonal moisture. Otherwise, visits of monsoonal moisture into the HSA during the month were brief and very rare. A strong and persistent upper level ridge of high pressure was to blame for the relentless heat and generally dry weather over the HSA. This ridge remained anchored over the Desert Southwest for much of the month. This ridge effectively blocked any northward advancement of monsoonal moisture from Mexico, except on the occasions the center of this ridge migrated eastward to the Four Corners region Hot weather and very dry fuels kept the fire danger high throughout the HSA. The Ferguson wildfire, which started in Mariposa County just west of El Portal on the 13th, grew to nearly 60,000 acres by the end of the month. Smoke from this fire significantly reduced air quality over much of the central California interior during the last two weeks of July. The smoke posed so great a health risk by July 25th that it forced a portion of Yosemite National Park to close and remain closed into early August. This was the first time in 28 years that Yosemite National Park had to close because of a wildfire. Other relatively small wildfires in the Sierra also contributed to the poor air quality over the HSA.

Water levels in the major reservoirs continued to lower throughout the month due to daily water releases. As of August 1st, New Exchequer Dam and Friant Dam had the most water in them with a percentage of normal capacity of 77 percent and 66 percent, respectively. The overall average water capacity of the reservoirs dropped to about 40 percent of normal by the end of the month.

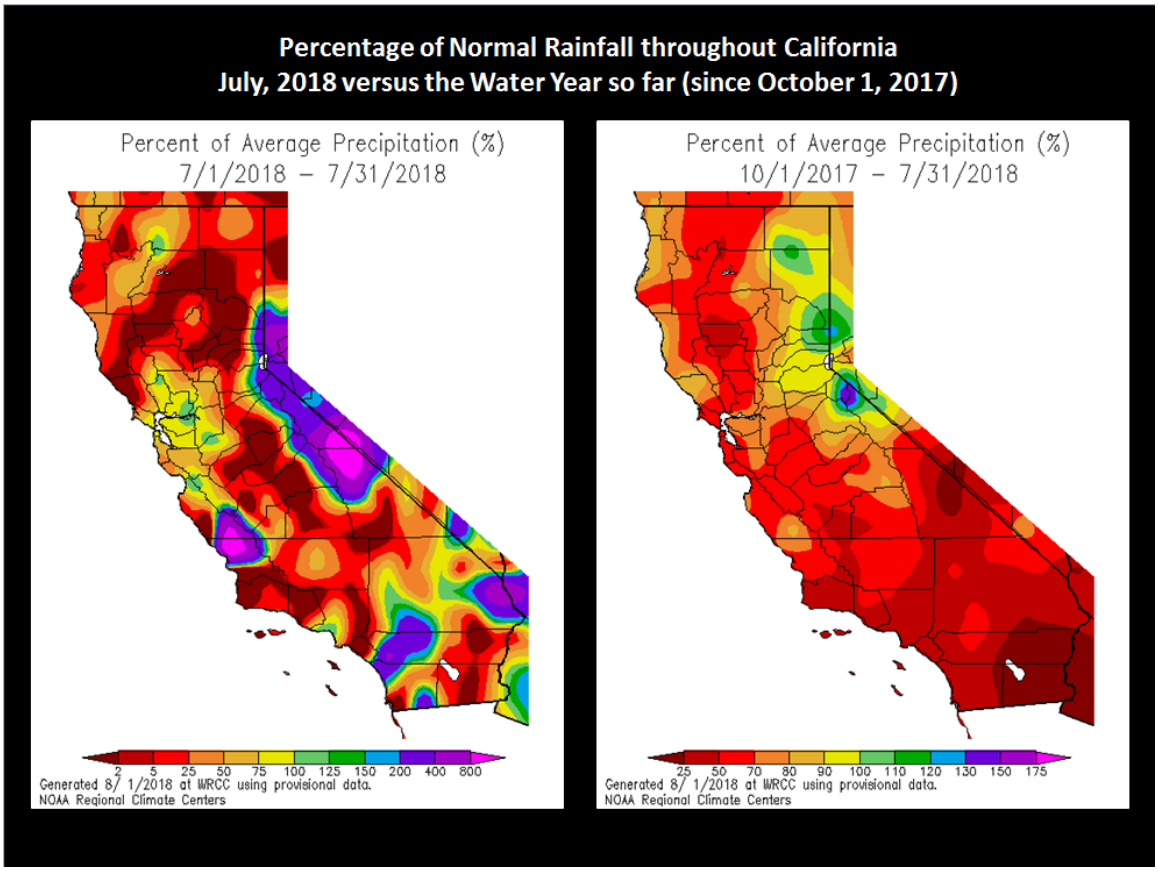
HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED THIS MONTH

Flash Flood Warnings

Higher elevations of the Sierra in Yosemite NP	0019Z	21-JUL
The Sierra crest in Fresno County & Tulare County	2304Z	21-JUL
Higher elevations of the Sierra in Yosemite NP	2236Z	22-JUL

Flash Flood Statements

Expiration of Flash Flood Warning for the Sierra in Yosemite NP	0153Z	21-JUL
Expiration of the Flash Flood Warning for the Sierra crest	0019Z	22-JUL
Follow up on Flash Flood Warning issued for the high Sierra in Yosemite NP	0029Z	23-JUL



CC:

W/OH12x1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO