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: **MARCH** YEAR: **2020**

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: April 2, 2020

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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¦ ¦ An **X** inside this box indicates no flooding occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.
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Several storm systems brought rain and mountain snow to the central California interior during the month, although the majority of those storms tracked through the southern part of the state. As March drew to a close, precipitation totals for the month ranged from a half inch to 1.5 inches in the Kern County desert, one inch to as much as 2.5 inches in the San Joaquin Valley and 2.5 to 4 inches in the foothills and higher elevations of the Sierra. As beneficial as this precipitation was, it still wasn't enough to bring water year totals to normal over the central California interior. Nonetheless, storms that frequented the HSA produced a slight gain in the Sierra snowpack, which increased to 45 to 55 percent of normal by the beginning of April. Most of the major reservoirs were holding a bit more water in them by month's end with an average water capacity of about 45 percent of normal. Graphical maps of precipitation totals, departures from normal and percentages of normal for the Golden State are provided below this summary. The maps depict above normal precipitation over much of the central California coast, the northern and central Sierra and a portion of the central California interior for the month. Southern California ended up much wetter than normal. In contrast, much of northern California with the exception of the Sierra ended up with a drier than normal March. In spite of the month's precipitation, the drought status changed little over much of the Golden State. The area of moderate drought actually expanded over northern California. (The California Drought Monitor is posted below this summary.)

March, 2020 was the wettest month of the year so far throughout the central California interior and certainly wetter than the months of January and February combined. Hydrologic impacts from the storms were relatively minor since much of the rain that fell in the lower elevations readily percolated into the ground. Nonetheless, the storm on the 10th did produce street and urban flooding in Buttonwillow and in the Bakersfield area. Some mud and debris was reported by CHP that afternoon along southbound I-5 near Lebec Road and on Mount Pinos Way in the Frazier Park area. Additionally, a section of Red Rock-Randsburg Road flooded on the afternoon of the 10th, and was closed for a couple of days until water receded. The storm system that moved through the HSA during the middle of the month produced the highest precipitation totals Nearly 60 percent of the month's precipitation fell on the 16th. Up to three feet of snow fell in the mountains above 5,500 feet from that storm. The longest stretch of wet weather occurred from the 19th through the 25th. A few relatively weak, upper level disturbances trekked through central California during this period. Measurable rain was observed on practically all of these days in the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills, especially north of Kern County. Each of these storms brought several new inches of snow to the high Sierra within this 7 day period.

Temperature-wise, March, 2020 averaged pretty close to normal throughout the central California interior. Minimum temperatures were in the lower to mid 30s in the normally colder rural locations of the San Joaquin Valley. On the warmest afternoons, generally from March 4th through March 6th, thermometer readings topped the 80 degree mark in the San Joaquin Valley and lower foothills. The HSA had its share of unseasonably cool days as well. High temperatures on the 16th and 17th were only in the mid to upper 50s over much of the San Joaquin Valley and peaked just below 60 degrees in most valley locations again on the 26th.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED

Flash Flood Watches

Kern County mountains and desert	1931Z	09-MAR
Tehachapi mountains over Tejon Pass	0938Z	11-MAR

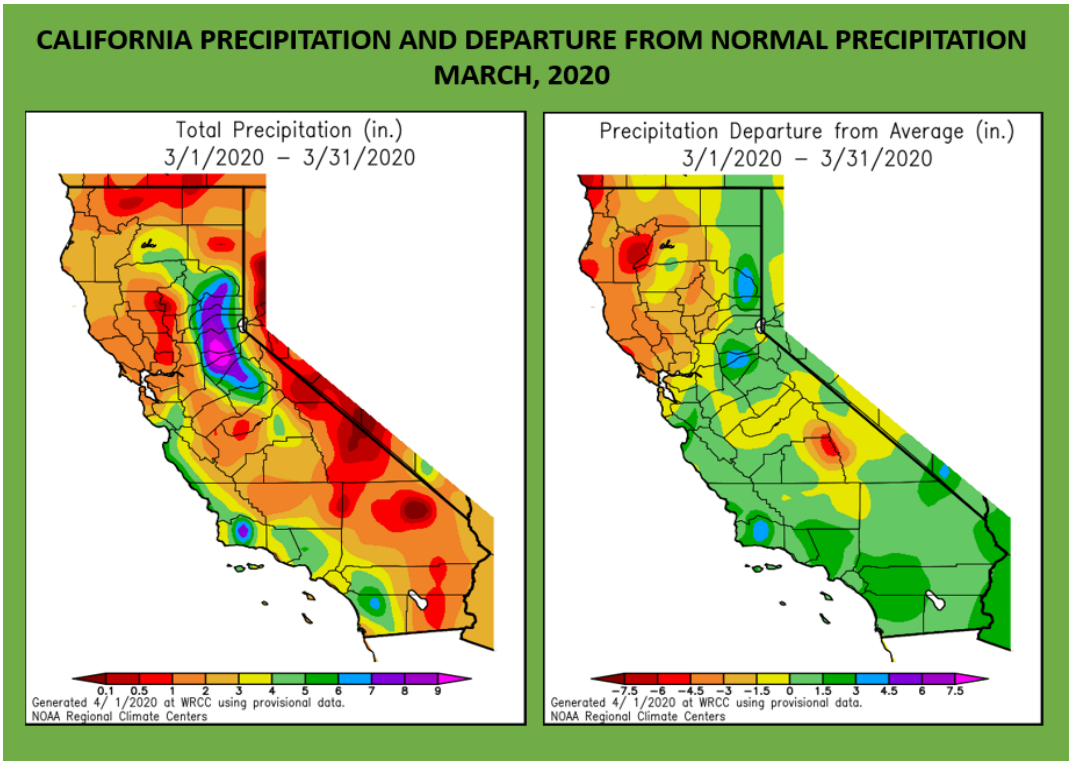
Flash Flood Warnings*

Kern county desert in the vicinity of Mojave	0057Z	11-MAR
Kern county desert in the vicinity of Red Rock/Randsburg Road	0138Z	11-MAR
Kern county mountains/desert (along desert facing slopes)	0309Z	11-MAR
Kern county mountains/desert (along desert facing slopes)	0439Z	11-MAR
Fresno county foothills and higher elevations (near Shaver Lake)	2157Z	11-MAR

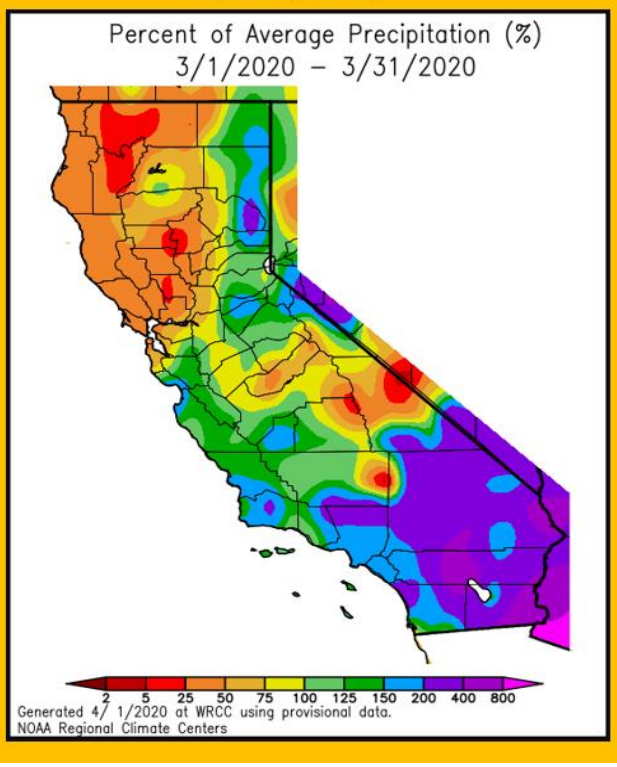
*Numerous Flash Flood Statements were issued as follow ups to the Flash Flood Warnings

Flood Advisories

Urban/Small Stream Flood Advisory (Kern county part of San Joaquin Valley)	0222Z	11-MAR
Small Stream Flood Advisory (Sierra foothills of Fresno Co/Tulare Co)	2335Z	11-MAR
Ferguson/Briceburg Burn Scar in Mariposa County	2341Z	11-MAR
Kern county mountains between Tehachapi and Mojave	0254Z	13-MAR
The San Joaquin Valley in Tulare county and Kern county	2106Z	16-MAR
San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills	2107Z	16-MAR
The San Joaquin Valley in Tulare county and Kern county	0007Z	17-MAR
The San Joaquin Valley in Fresno county and Tulare county	0021Z	17-MAR



PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION
MARCH, 2020



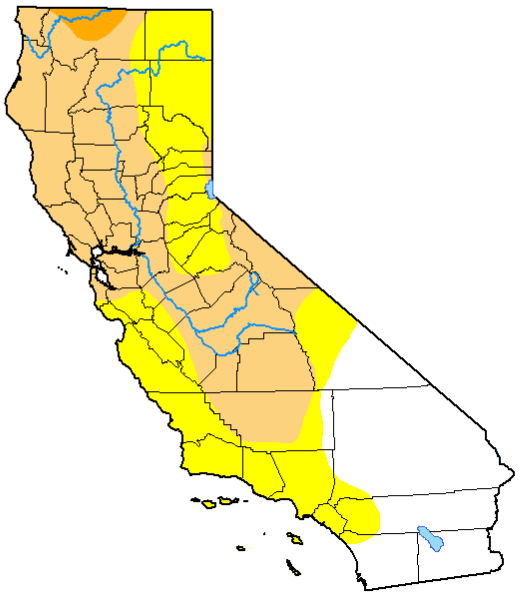
U.S. Drought Monitor

California

March 31, 2020

(Released Thursday, Apr. 2, 2020)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center

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