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: **MAY** 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: June 6, 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).

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

Only one storm tracked through the central California interior during the month and it brought wet weather to much of the HSA from the night of the 17th into the evening hours of the 19th. The entire month's precipitation fell during this 48-hour period. By the time the storm exited into the Great Basin, it left a 2-6 inch blanket of snow in the Sierra above 6,000 feet with local amounts of up to 9 inches at the highest elevations. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms equipped with marble sized hail, gusty winds and heavy rain accompanied this storm system in the lower elevations on the 18th. The storm even spawned a funnel cloud in the foothills of Madera County near the town of North Fork during the late afternoon hours of the 18th. Minor road flooding was observed in the San Joaquin Valley in the vicinity of Parlier and Riverdale that afternoon as well. Rain totals from this storm system ranged from just a few hundredths in the Kern county desert and along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley to nearly a half inch on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley and the Kern county mountains. Up to an inch of rain fell in the Sierra foothills. Precipitation totals of one to two and a half inches occurred in the Sierra above 4,000 feet with locally higher amounts of 3.25 inches. Within the HSA, precipitation for the month averaged below normal over much of the San Joaquin Valley and the Kern county desert and ended up wetter than normal in the Sierra. Much of northern California received beneficial precipitation this month but not enough to erase the drought. Maps that depict this month's total precipitation and the percentage of normal precipitation as well as the percentage of normal precipitation across California for the 2019-20 season through the end of May are provided below in addition to the California Drought Monitor which posted on May 28th.

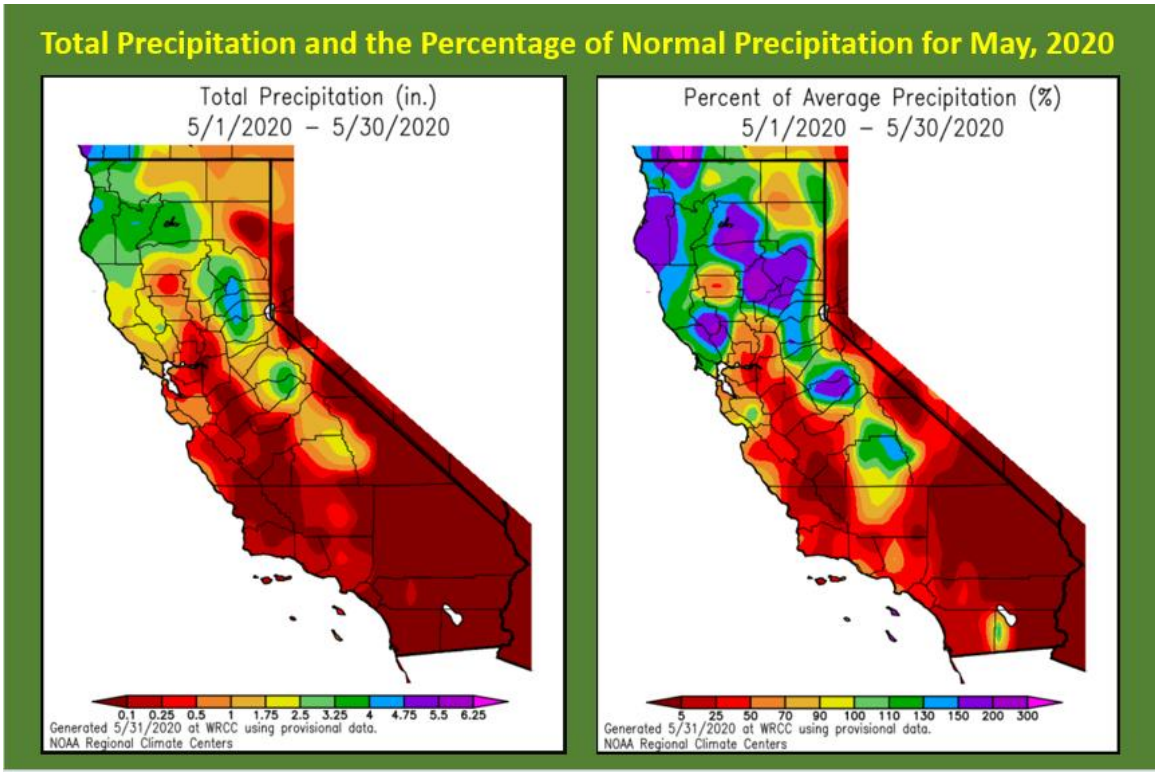
Considerable depletion of the Sierra snowpack left little snow to melt by month's end. As of June 1st, the snowpack over the southern Sierra averaged less than 3 percent of normal. Melted snow contributed to the increase in water content in the reservoirs and as the month drew to a close, the water capacity in the dams averaged about 63 percent of normal.

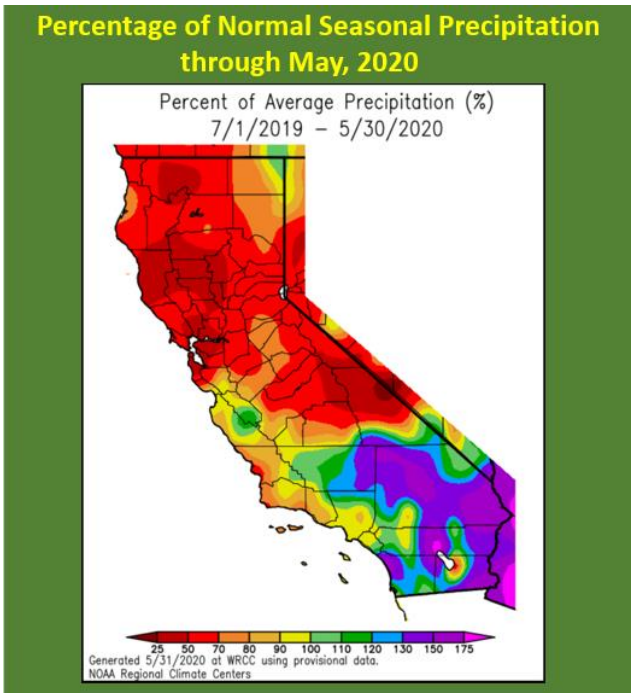
Temperature-wise, much of the central California interior ended up slightly warmer than normal. The first spell of triple digit heat of the year occurred in the San Joaquin Valley, lower foothills and the Kern county desert during the last week of the month and lasted for three consecutive days from May 26th through May 28th. Daily records for high temperatures were tied or broken in the San Joaquin Valley on the 28th as thermometer readings topped 105 degrees in several locations. Unfortunately, the downside of hot weather brought its share of cold water rescues and a total of three drownings during the 2nd and 3rd weekend of the month. A man drowned in the Merced River on the 9th. Two other drowning victims were male teenagers the following weekend. One of them was pulled from the Tule river in the vicinity of Angel Falls on the afternoon of the 17th while the other drowning victim was recovered from the icy cold waters of Willow Creek in Madera county the same afternoon.

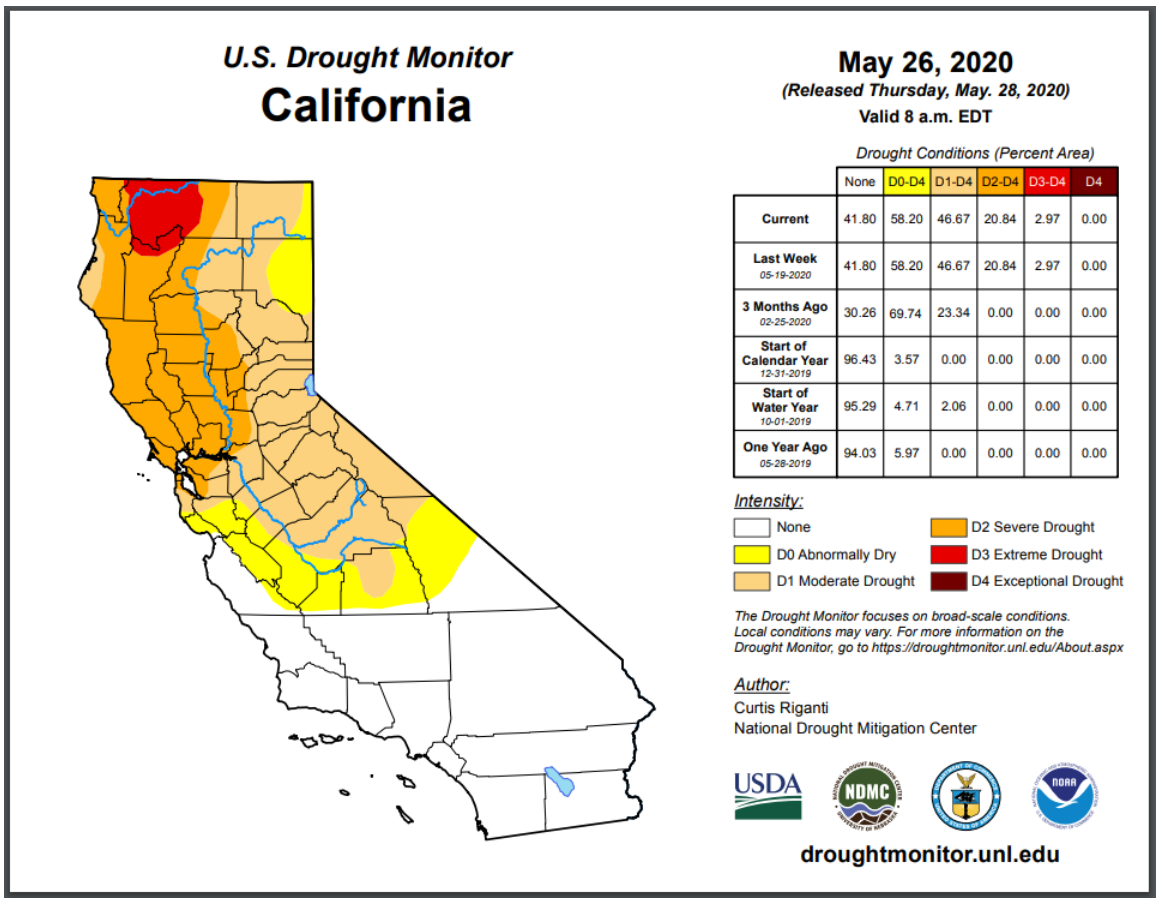
HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED

Flood Advisories

San Joaquin Valley in central Fresno county, northern Kings county	0017Z	19-MAY
Small Stream Flood Advisory-foothills and higher elevations of Fresno county	2236Z	19-MAY







CC:

W/OH12X1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO