

REPORT FOR:
MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND
FLOOD CONDITIONS

MONTH: **JUNE** 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: July 3, 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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| **X** | An **X** inside this box indicates no flooding occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.
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June, 2020 was typically dry over much of the central California interior. Several cold fronts tracked through the state during the first half of June. Although these cold fronts were often accompanied by showers over the northern part of the state, they brought too little precipitation to ease the drought over northern California. The frequency of cold frontal passages, however, did keep hot spells of weather rather short during the first few weeks of the month. In the San Joaquin Valley, no stretch of triple digit heat lasted more than two days during the first half of June. In the wake of the cold front on the 6th and 12th, afternoon temperatures in the San Joaquin Valley were no higher than the upper 70s despite mostly sunny skies. Isolated thunderstorms popped up at the south end of the San Joaquin Valley and in the Kern county mountains and desert ahead of the cold front on the 5th with local rain totals ranging from just a couple hundredths in the valley to nearly a quarter of an inch in the Kern county mountains.

The cold frontal passage during the late afternoon and early evening hours of June 12th produced strong, gusty winds and areas of blowing dust in the San Joaquin Valley. In some locations, the dust was so thick that it reduced visibility to less than a mile. Several fender bender accidents occurred along Highway 41 south of Fresno between Manning Avenue and the Kings County line during the late afternoon and early evening hours of the 12th. Thunderstorms erupted along this cold front over the eastern third of the San Joaquin Valley late that afternoon north of Fresno and moved into the foothills and higher elevations of the Sierra accompanied by frequent cloud to ground lightning, blustery winds and briefly heavy rain. Lightning from these storms sparked a few grass fires in mainly the Sierra foothill region that evening but fortunately most were completely contained within a few days.

Hot weather finally reared its ugly head during the 3rd and 4th week of the month as a strong upper level ridge of high pressure parked itself over the Golden State. A nearly week long stretch of triple digit heat consumed the San Joaquin Valley, lower foothills and the Kern county desert from the 22nd through the 27th. June 27th was the hottest day with maximum temperatures of 105 degrees and higher throughout these regions. Thermometer readings climbed to 110 degrees that afternoon in the hottest locations of the Kern county desert. The Fresno County Sheriff's office documented two heat related fatalities during this heat wave. Additionally, an upper level disturbance that tracked southward along the spine of the Sierra on the 25th produced scattered thunderstorms over the higher elevations of the Sierra. Isolated thunderstorms developed southward into the Kern county mountains and desert the following day as this disturbance exited into northwestern Arizona.

A cold frontal passage on the morning of the 28th brought an abrupt end to triple digit heat in the valley, lower foothills and desert. In the wake of this front, blustery winds gusted as high as 56 mph through Pacheco Pass and as high as 80 mph in the normally windiest mountain locations of Kern County that day. Afternoon temperatures on the 28th were a good 15 degrees cooler behind this cold front. A few snow flurries were even observed over Tioga Pass (elevation 10,000 feet) behind this cold front on the 29th. Otherwise, high temperatures averaged well below normal throughout the entire HSA on the 29th. Temperatures bounced back to seasonable levels on the 30th. All in all, June, 2020 averaged warmer than normal throughout the HSA.

The month did not come without its share of cold water rescues and drownings. A 62 year old man drowned on the 9th of June while attempting to rescue a 7 year old girl from the cold, swift waters of the Kings River near Winton Park. On the afternoon of the 14th, a 35 year old man was swept downstream on the Kern River after he jumped into the swift currents of the river to rescue an 11 year old boy. As of this writing, his body had not been found.

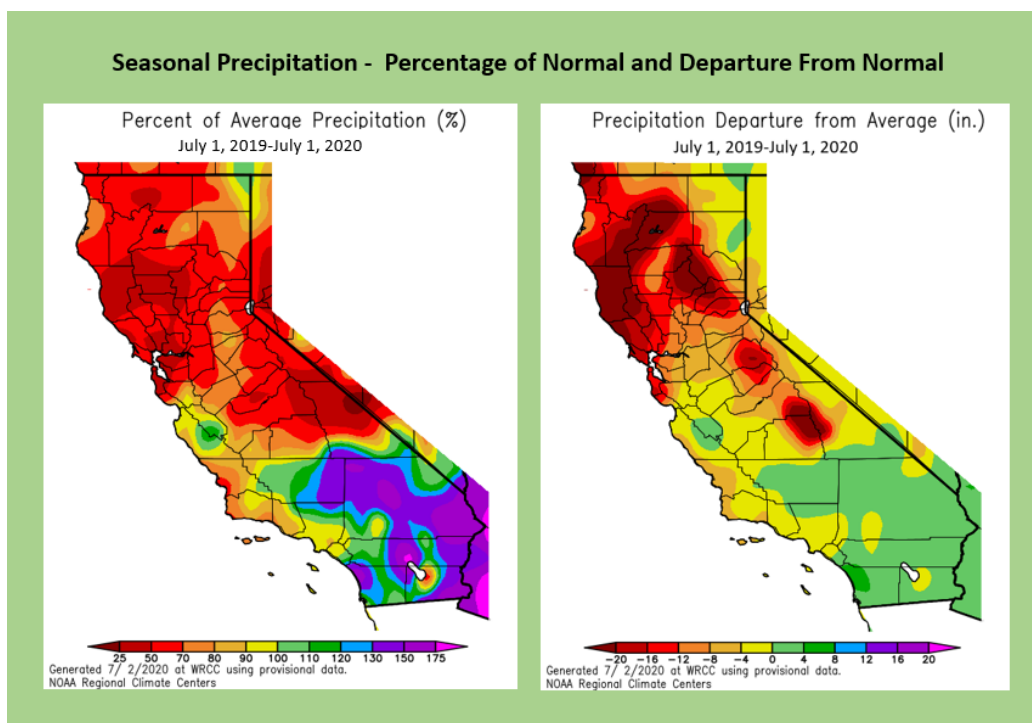
Despite water releases from many of the dams during the month, most reservoirs carried an adequate supply of water by month's end. As of July 1st, the water capacity of the reservoirs ranged from 29 percent of normal at Hidden Dam to 78 percent of normal at Friant Dam. The water capacity of all 9 major reservoirs within the HSA averaged about 52 percent of normal by the end of the month. With regard to precipitation, the 2019-2020 water season which ended June 30th, ended up slightly wetter than normal over much of southern California except along the coast from San Luis Obispo County to Orange County. North of Kern County, the 2019-20 season ended up drier than normal. Much of northern California remained in a moderate drought with below normal precipitation for the season. Maps that show the departure from normal precipitation (in inches) and the percentage of normal precipitation for the season from July 1st, 2019 through June 30th, 2020 are provided below.

HYDROLOGIC PRODUCTS ISSUED THIS MONTH

Flood Advisories

Small Stream Flood Advisory for the Sierra crest in Fresno County

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CC:

W/OH12X1
W/WR2
CNRFC
WFO HNX
WFO STO