



*June 30, 2006*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For More Information, Please Contact:

**STEVE HAUGEN, Kings River Watermaster, (559) 266-0767**

Copy by: **RANDY McFARLAND, (559) 896-4715**

## Kings River Flood Release Concludes

**F**lood releases have come to a conclusion on the Kings River, nearly three months after they began. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ended this year's flood management operations at noon today, Kings River Watermaster Steve Haugen said, because runoff from melting snow into Pine Flat Reservoir has dropped to flows that are being matched or exceeded by normal irrigation-demand releases. The reservoir remains virtually full.

By ending the flood release, the Corps of Engineers returns the Kings River's operational administration to the Kings River Water Association. Unless there is a marked change in conditions, all releases into the river will now be ordered by the KRWA's 28 member agencies, based on their scheduled entitlement.

"We continue to have full river-wide operations," Haugen said. "The river below Pine Flat Dam will continue to carry more than 8,000 cubic feet per second. That is nearly as high as it was during the latter stages of the flood release, and it will certainly still be swift, cold and dangerous."

In all, Haugen said, Kings River flood releases between April 3-June 30 amounted to 810,500 acre-feet, the equivalent of 81 percent of Pine Flat Reservoir's capacity. Flows totaling 728,000 acre-feet were directed over Crescent Weir near Riverdale into the North Fork system while a total of 82,500 acre-feet was discharged into the Tulare Lake bed through the South Fork system. The Corps began the flood release after unexpected heavy early April storms added some 600,000 acre-feet to the watershed's water supply.

"Although releases of up to 13,000 c.f.s. for flood control and irrigation were needed for a time, all levees and channels handled the flows very well," Haugen said.