



Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Richard Pierce, Sheriff **May 26, 2005**
News Release

Captain Colleen Mestas
(559) 488-3532
Colleen.Mestas@fresnosheriff.org

Fresno County Sheriff Announces Immediate Closure of Kings River Section

The Fresno County Sheriff's Department announces the closure of the Kings River north of Highway 180 due to high water levels. Pursuant to a Fresno County ordinance, access is denied to this section of the river whenever output from the Pine Flat dam reaches or exceeds 10,000 cubic feet per second. Water output from the dam reached 9963 cubic feet per second at 7 pm this evening and it is believed that the 10,000 cubic feet per second threshold will be reached later this evening. The Sheriff's Department will strictly enforce this ordinance and will deny entry onto the Kings River during all times when the water levels exceed those as established in the ordinance. Violators of this ordinance will be cited.

It is anticipated that due to a higher than average runoff of melting snow from the Sierras, levels on the Kings River could remain high throughout the next week. Recreational users of the Kings River should use caution during this time. The swift current and cold temperatures are likely to be different from those experienced by recreational users of this river in the past. The high water levels have also dislodged debris that is being carried downriver by the currents, presenting unexpected hazards for both boaters and swimmers.

The Fresno County Sheriff's Department will be continually monitoring water levels. Information on current water release records can be obtained from the Kings River Conservation District website at www.krcd.org/power/pine_flat_power/daily_report.html.