



Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Richard Pierce, Sheriff **May 23, 2006**
News Release

Lieutenant Bob Miller
Boating Enforcement Unit
Office 559-332-2247
BEU Office 559-488-3924

**Fresno County Sheriff's Department announces
Closure of the Kings River below Hwy 180 to the
Tulare County line**

FRESNO – The Fresno County Sheriff's Department is announcing the closure of the Kings River. Due to the recent winter storms in the Central Valley, Pine Flat Lake Reservoir is releasing water at a rate of over 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). This has led to an increase of the water level in the Kings River. The increased cold water flow and rising water level has created hazardous conditions along the Kings River, including fallen and submerged trees called "stainers" that are extremely dangerous to swimmers and boaters. Effective immediately the Sheriff's Department is closing the Kings River from Highway 180 to the Tulare County line.

Fresno County Ordinance 13.60.043:

"Portions of the Kings River closed to boats, swimming and swimming aids. The Sheriff shall monitor the water flow down the Kings River from the border between Fresno and Tulare Counties to Highway 180 and shall immediately report to the Board of Supervisors when conditions no longer warrant the closing of the River to insure the safety of persons and property."

The Fresno County Sheriff's Department announced the closure of the Kings River above Hwy 180 to the Pine Flat Dam back on May 5, 2006, pursuant to Fresno County Ordinance 13.60.030, which authorizes closure of that section of the river when water release from Pine Flat exceeds (10,000 cfs) as determined and announced by the Army Corps of Engineers. This Ordinance is also still in effect.

The Fresno County Sheriff's Department will be strictly enforcing the above County Ordinance.