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Summary of Precipitation and Streamflow for Potrero and San Clemente Creeks in Water-Year 2009

**Santa Lucia Preserve
Monterey County, California**

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this annual report is to present precipitation and streamflow summaries for the 2009 water year (October 1, 2008 to September 31, 2009). In March 2007 CSU–Monterey Bay began hydrologic monitoring of Santa Lucia Preserve for the Santa Lucia Conservancy. This project is a continuation of monitoring begun by Balance Hydrologics as part of the permit requirements for land development. Discharge, temperature, and specific conductance are reported for two creeks on the Santa Lucia Preserve, Potrero Creek and San Clemente Creek. Precipitation records are reported from two locations, the San Clemente Dam and Santa Lucia Preserve golf course.

This report can be cited as:

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1 Introduction

This report is a hydrologic data summary for Santa Lucia Preserve for Water Year 2009 (WY-09). Balance Hydrologics installed four continuously recording streamflow gages on Santa Lucia Preserve. These gages include two on Las Garzas Creek (Moore's Lake inflow and outflow, installed in 2001), one on Potrero Creek (installed in 2002), and one on San Clemente Creek (installed in 2002). Detailed information on gage installation, operation and individual gage sites is available in Balance Hydrologics (2002).

Operation of the Potrero Creek and San Clemente Creek streamflow gages was transferred to CSUMB Watershed Institute on June 21, 2007. Data summaries are presented for streamflow on Potrero and San Clemente Creeks and for precipitation on Santa Lucia Preserve and San Clemente Dam.

2 Precipitation Data

Precipitation data presented from the Santa Lucia golf course is from a Rain Bird weather station operated by Santa Lucia Preserve. Precipitation data recorded by California American Water Company at nearby San Clemente Dam are included for comparison.

At San Clemente Dam the total WY-09 rainfall was 18.14 inches (Table 1 and Figure 1), which represents slightly below average precipitation at the Dam. Based on the 88-year San Clemente Dam precipitation record, the average rainfall is 21.40 inches. Using Log-Pearson Type-III analysis, rainfall at San Clemente Dam should be 18.14 (or less) once every 1.7 years on average (Figure 2).

The recorded rainfall at the Santa Lucia Preserve Golf Course in WY-09 was 28.91 inches (Table 2 and Figure 3), which is above the 8 year average, 25.92 inches. The short duration of the record at the golf course may not be representative of actual long term precipitation patterns. The Preserve golf course received approximately 10 and a half more inches of rain than the nearby San Clemente Dam.

3 Streamflow, Temperature, and Conductance Data

The streamflow gaging stations on Potrero and San Clemente each consist of a Campbell CR10X data logger (powered by 10 or 20 watt solar panels), two Druck pressure transducers to measure water depth, Campbell specific conductance and water temperature probe, as well as staff plates for manual readings (Balance Hydrologics 2002). Data loggers record measurements of pressure, temperature, and conductance at 15-minute intervals.

In WY-09, streamflow gage data was downloaded to a laptop computer during monthly visits, at which time manual discharge measurements were also taken using standard hydrologic practices. A Swoffer (model 3000) current velocity meter was used to measure discharge. A portable Parshall flume was used during the latter part of the dry season when flows became too low to use the Swoffer meter.

3.1 Potrero Creek

The current gage station on Potrero Creek was installed April 29, 2002 and is located upstream of the T-11 well. In WY-09, Potrero Creek had a mean daily flow of 0.52 cfs, a maximum daily flow of 25 cfs, and a minimum daily flow of 0.01 cfs; the 7-day low flow was 0.03 cfs (Table 3). Mean daily streamflow and manual discharge measurements are plotted in Figure 4. Temperature and conductance data are presented in Tables 4 through 7, and in Figure 5.

3.2 San Clemente Creek

The current gage station on San Clemente Creek was installed April 30, 2002 and is located near the Santa Lucia Preserve property boundary. In WY-09, San Clemente Creek had a mean daily flow of 1.92 cfs, a maximum daily flow of 50 cfs, and a minimum daily flow of 0.03 cfs; the 7-day low flow was 0.04 cfs (Table 8). Mean daily streamflow and manual discharge measurements are plotted in Figure 6. Temperature and conductance data are presented in Tables 9 through 12, and in Figure 7.

4 Limitations

Streamflow gage data are based on the stage-discharge relationship unique to each stream and gage location. This stage-discharge relationship (rating curve) for each gage has been developed over time by making manual discharge measurements at various ranges of flow and noting the water level (stage) at

which a particular flow occurs. The rating curve for Potrero Creek was adjusted this year to reflect changes in the channel.

As more discharge measurements are made (particularly in the higher range of flows) the rating curves may change and it will be necessary to update the streamflow data to reflect these changes. For this reason, the streamflow data contained in this report should be considered provisional and caution should be exercised when using these data.

5 References

[Balance Hydrologics 2002]. Brown S, Porter S, Woyshner M, Hecht B. 2002. Hydrologic record for water year 2002: Las Garzas, Potrero, and San Clemente Creeks, Santa Lucia Preserve, Monterey County, California. 53 pp.

6 Tables

Table 1: Daily precipitation record and monthly totals, water year 2009

San Clemente Dam, Monterey County, California

Record obtained from: California-American Water Company, Monterey District

Values are inches

Day	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1		0.04										
2						0.74		0.42				
3		0.76		0.06		1.00						
4	0.07	0.17				1.41		T				
5				0.01	0.40	0.08						
6				0.01	0.28				T			
7					0.53							
8							0.41					
9		0.40			0.39							
10		0.12					0.02					
11					0.03							
12					0.28							
13			0.15		0.57			0.02				
14					0.20							0.06
15		0.52		0.41								
16			0.56		2.02							
17			0.01		1.35							
18					0.10							
19		0.01										
20												
21												
22			0.31	0.89		0.63						
23			0.14	0.21	0.41							
24			0.02		0.10							
25		0.43	0.26									
26		0.11	0.13	0.32								
27		0.53										
28												
29												
30												
31	0.04											
Total	0.11	2.13	2.28	1.76	7.07	3.86	0.43	0.42	0.02	0	0	0.06

Annual

Total 18.14

Note: Rainfall recorded on day of measuring. T = trace, which is rainfall of less than 0.01 inches

Table 2: Daily precipitation record and monthly totals, water year 2009
 Santa Lucia Preserve Golf Course, Monterey County, California
Record obtained from: Santa Lucia Preserve

Value are inches

Day	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1		1.15				0.30		0.38				
2		0.52		0.16		1.98		0.02				
3		0.39				1.59						
4	0.32	0.05				0.69						
5			0.02	0.60	0.37							
6					0.73	0.01						
7					0.02		0.63					
8		0.34			0.61		0.29					
9		0.58			0.34							
10						0.01						
11					0.37	0.01						
12					0.29							
13		0.19		1.15								
14		0.50		0.19								
15		0.55		2.31								
16		0.36		2.43								
17		0.01		1.44								
18		0.03		0.01								
19		0.04										
20												
21		0.67	0.20	0.12	0.28							
22		0.40	1.13	0.28	0.66							
23		0.15	0.18	0.55								
24		0.01	0.06									
25		0.04	0.47	0.05								
26		0.79	0.10	0.09	0.04							
27			0.16	0.43								
28												
29												
30		0.02										
31		0.05										
Total	0.39	3.86	3.64	2.32	11.48	5.88	0.94	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Annual

Total 28.91

Note: Rainfall recorded on day of measuring. T = trace, which is rainfall of less than 0.01 inches

7 Figures

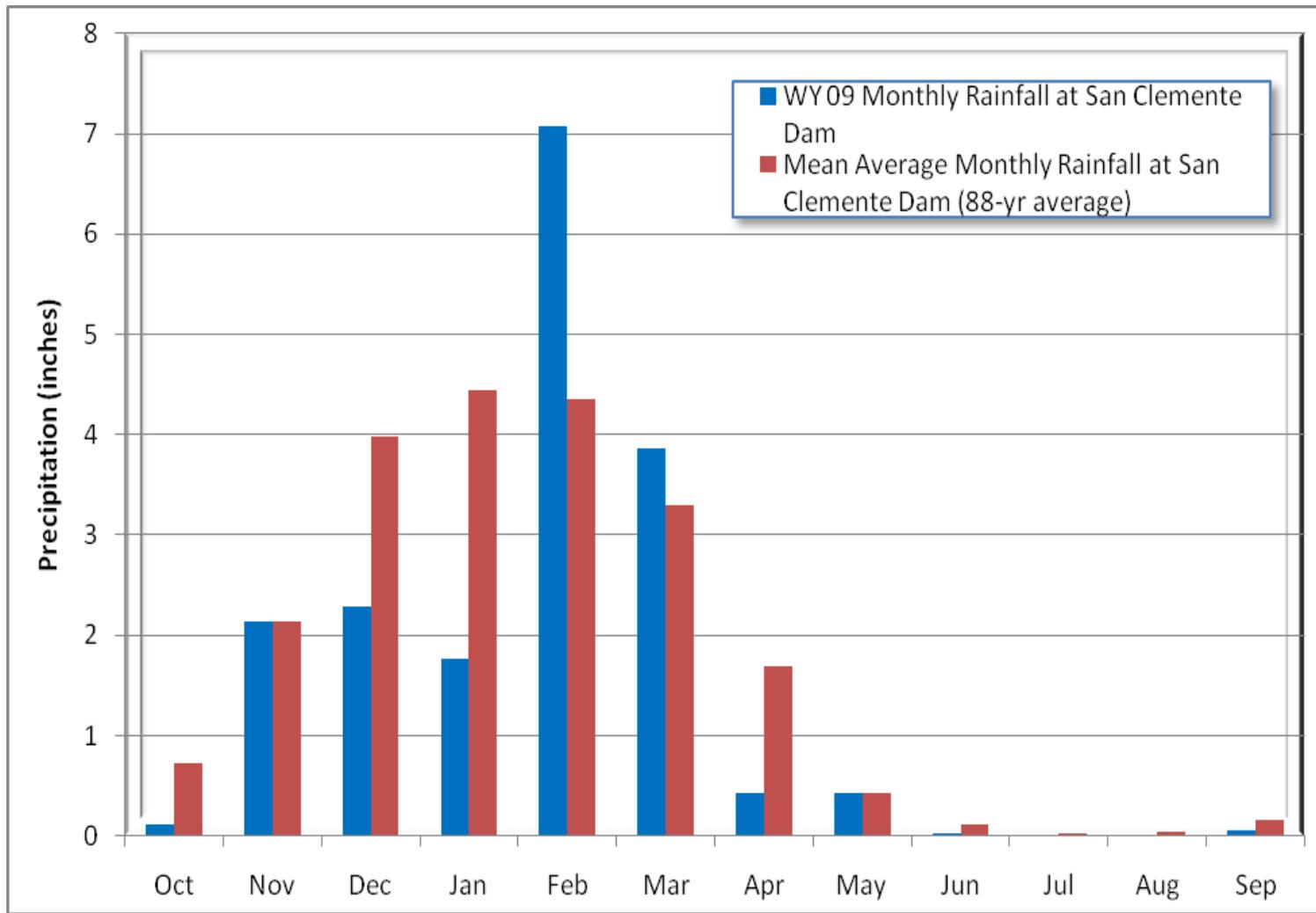


Figure 1. Monthly precipitation at San Clemente Dam for Water Year 2009. WY 2009 precipitation was slightly below average. Total precipitation in WY 2009 at the dam was 18.14 inches compared to the average total precipitation at the dam, 21.40 inches. Mean monthly data is based on Water Years 1922 – 2008. October, January and April received less than half of average precipitation. Precipitation in February was well above average and contributed a large portion of the precipitation for WY 2009. Precipitation data is from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (2009).

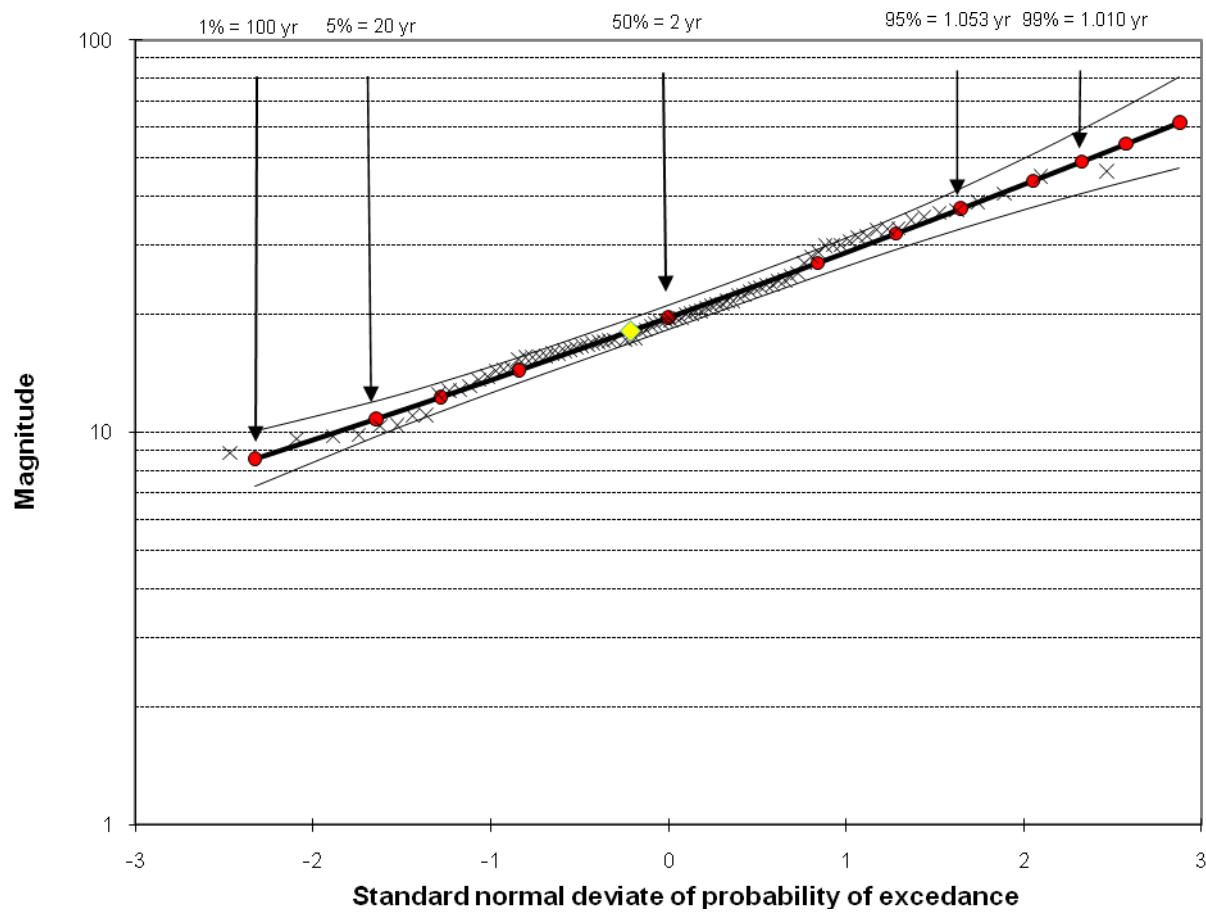


Figure 2. Log-Pearson Type-III statistical analysis of historic precipitation data from San Clemente Dam. Thin curved lines represent upper and lower 95% confidence bounds for precipitation and non-exceedance probability. The yellow diamond symbol marks the 18.14 inch precipitation of the 2009 water year.

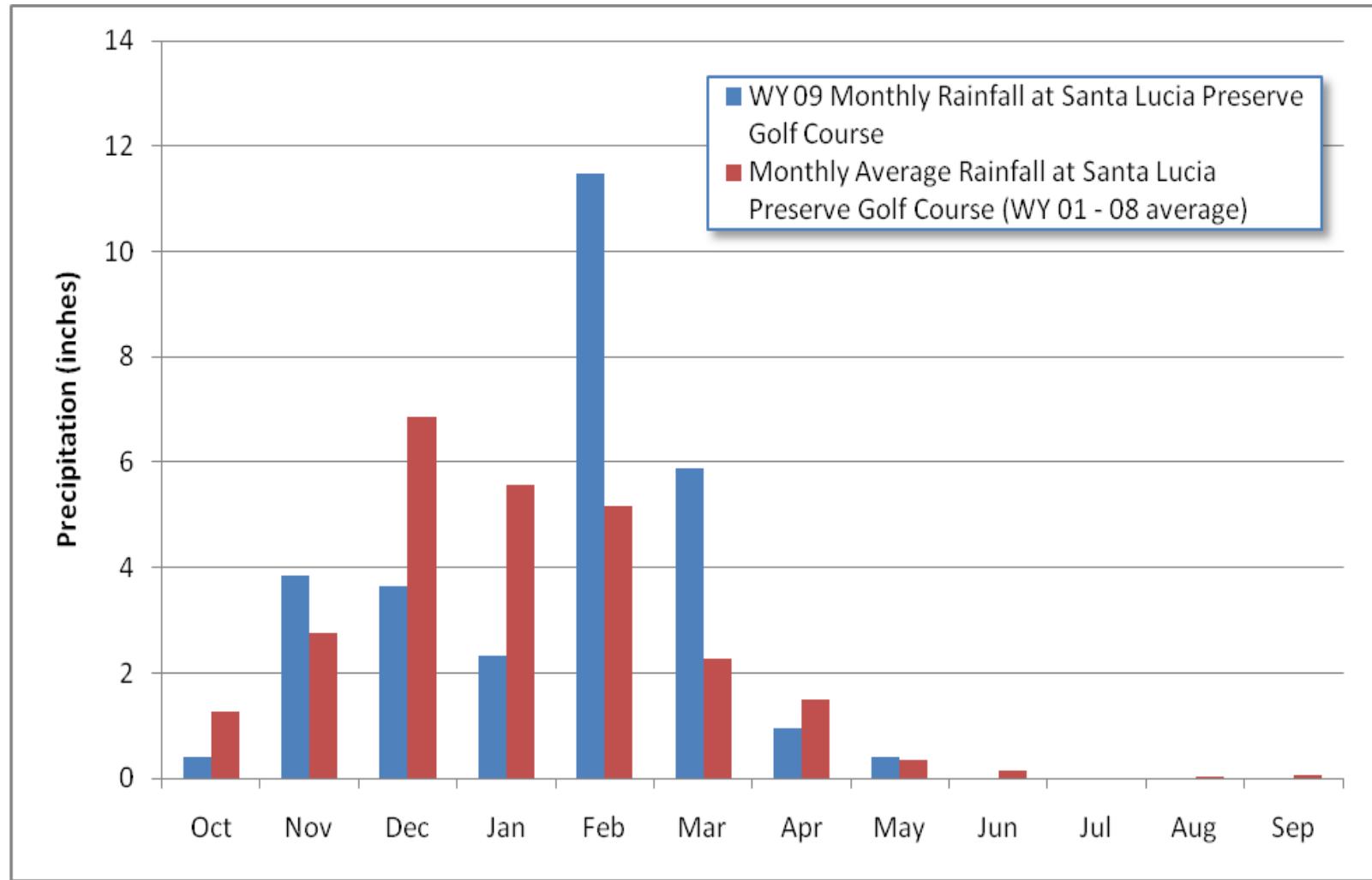


Figure 3. Monthly Precipitation at Santa Lucia Preserve Golf course for Water Year 2009. WY 2009 precipitation was slightly above average at the golf course. Precipitation was 28.91 inches in Water Year 2009 compared to the 8 year annual average of 25.92 inches. Mean monthly average is based only on Water Years 2001 – 2008 and is probably not an accurate characterization of actual long-term patterns (mean monthly data from Forrest Arthur, Santa Lucia Preserve, 2009).

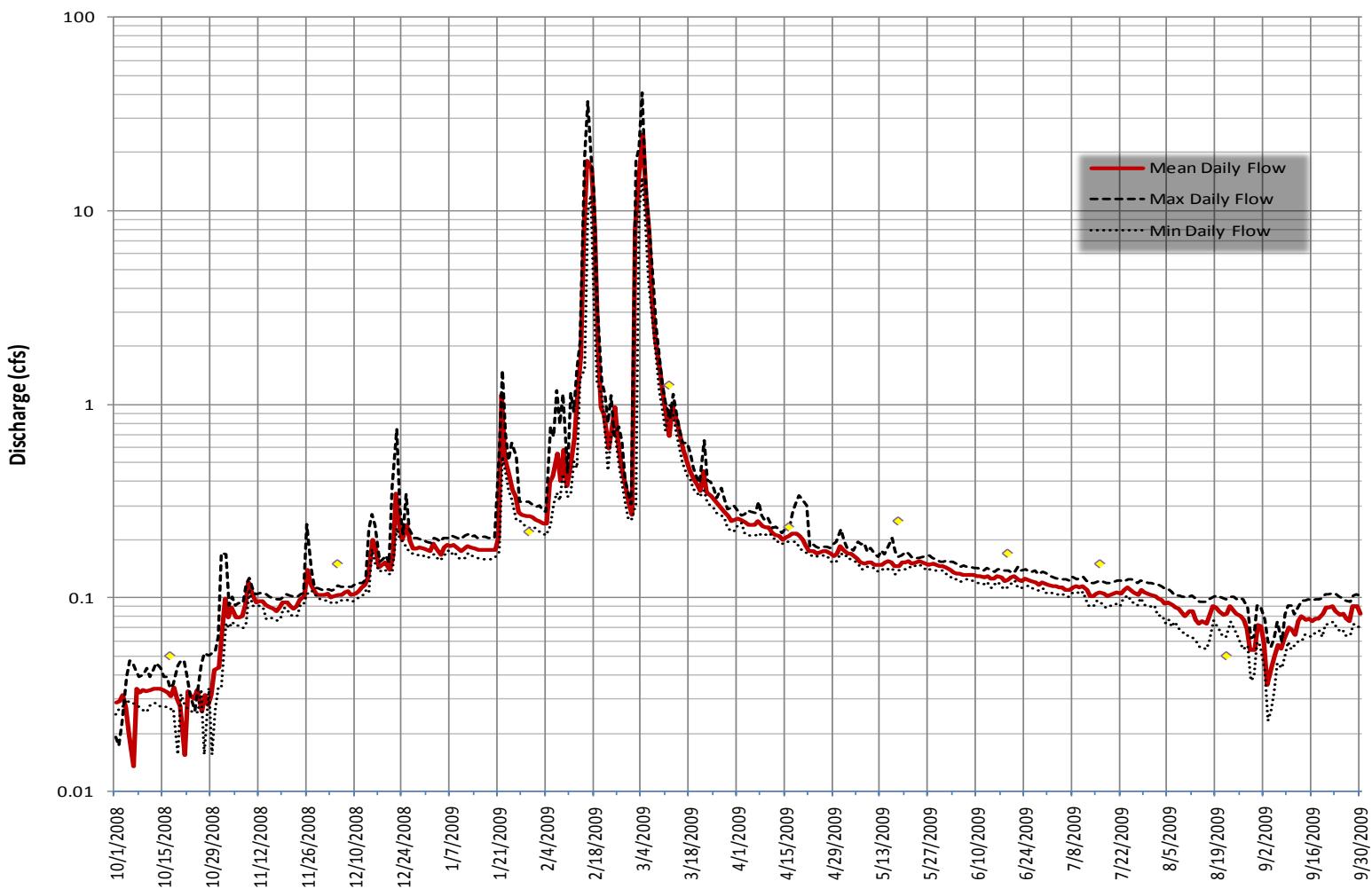


Figure 4. Mean Daily Streamflow at Potrero Creek gage for Water Year 2009. Red line is mean daily streamflow. Minimum and maximum daily flows are also shown. Yellow points represent manual discharge measurements.

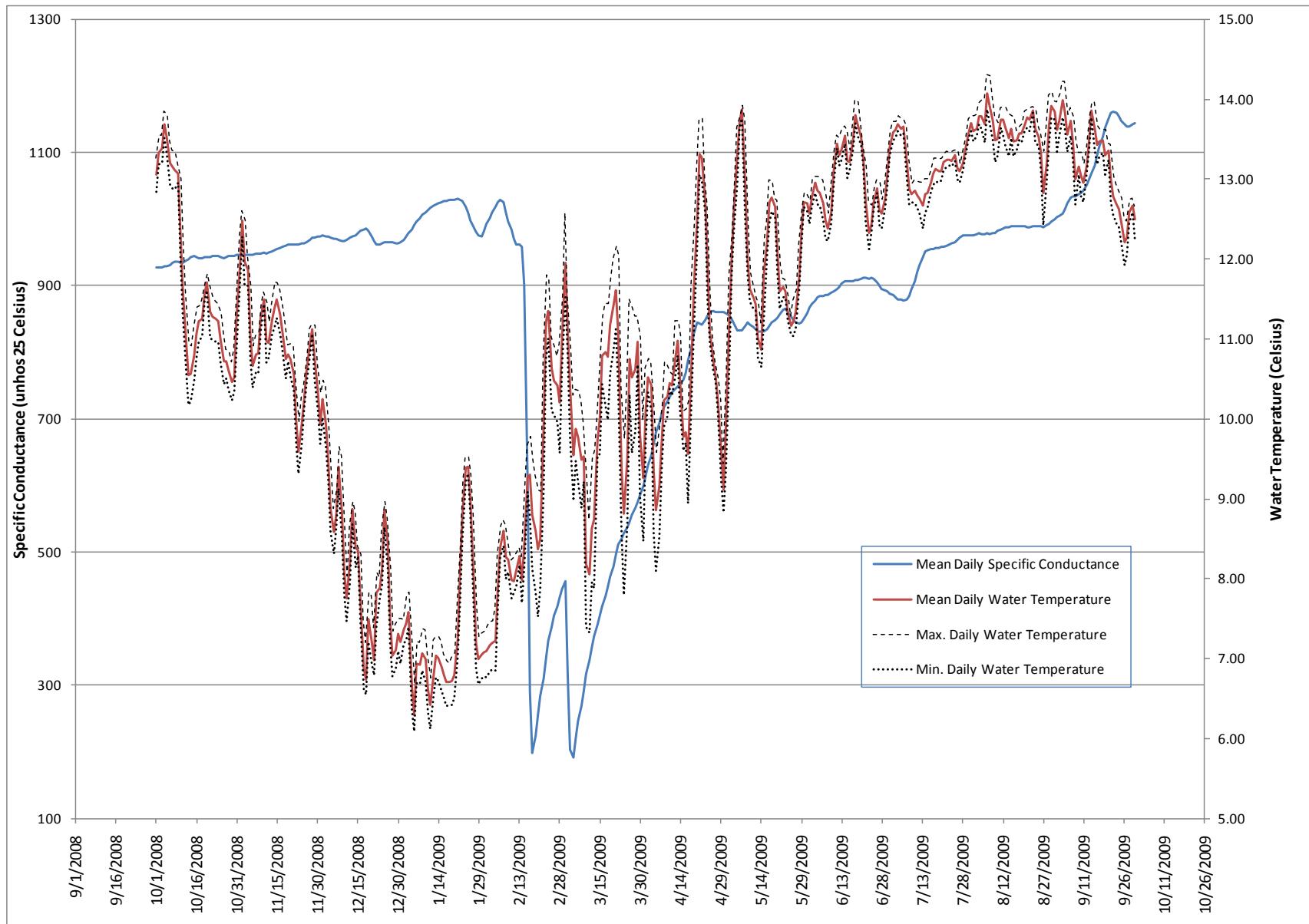


Figure 5. Daily Specific Conductance Water Temperature data at Potrero Creek gage for Water Year 2009.

Blue line is mean daily specific conductance; red line is mean daily water temperature; dotted lines represent minimum and maximum daily water temperature values.

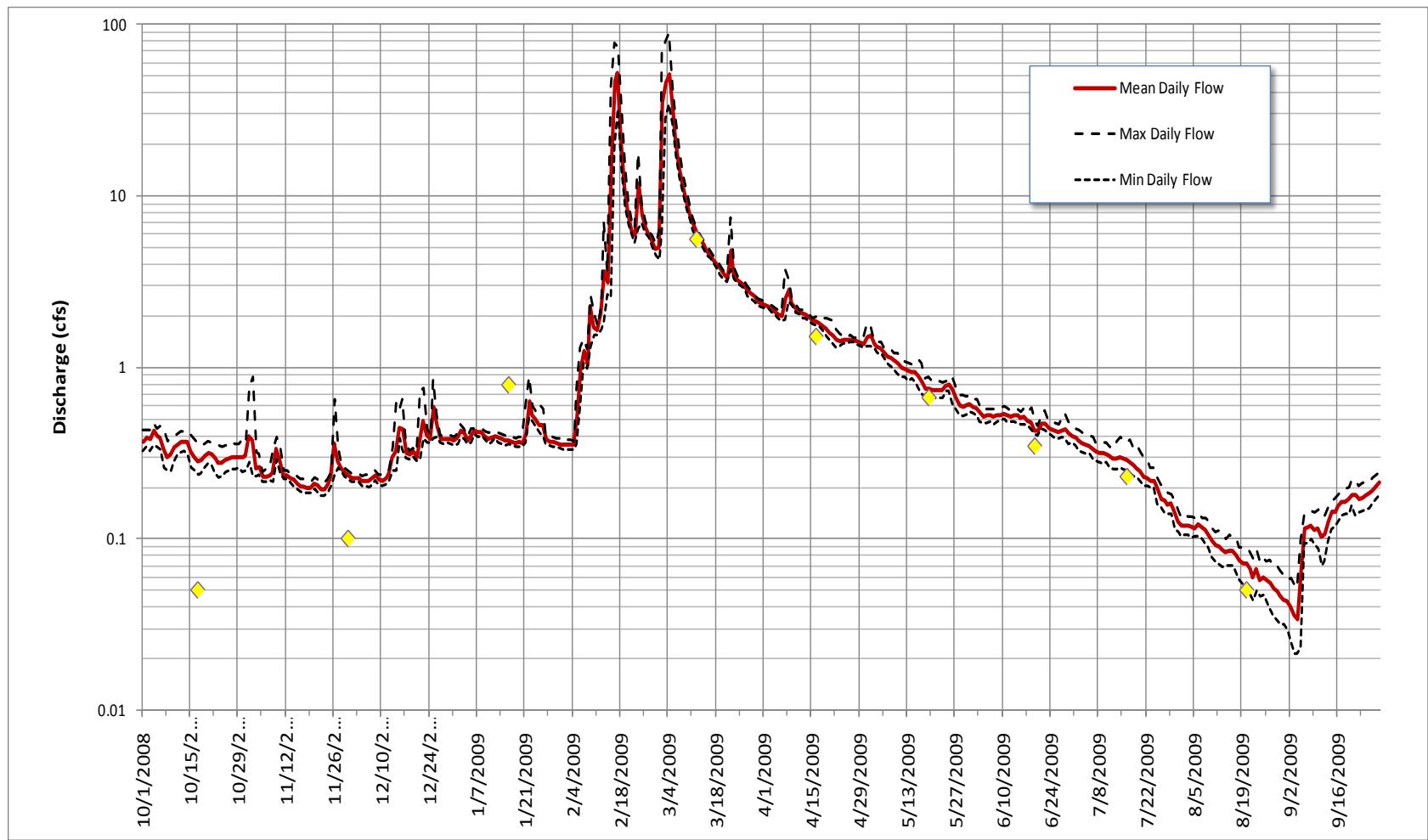


Figure 6. Mean Daily Streamflow at San Clemente Creek gage for Water Year 2009. Red line is mean daily streamflow. Minimum and maximum daily flows are also shown. Yellow point represent manual discharge measurements.

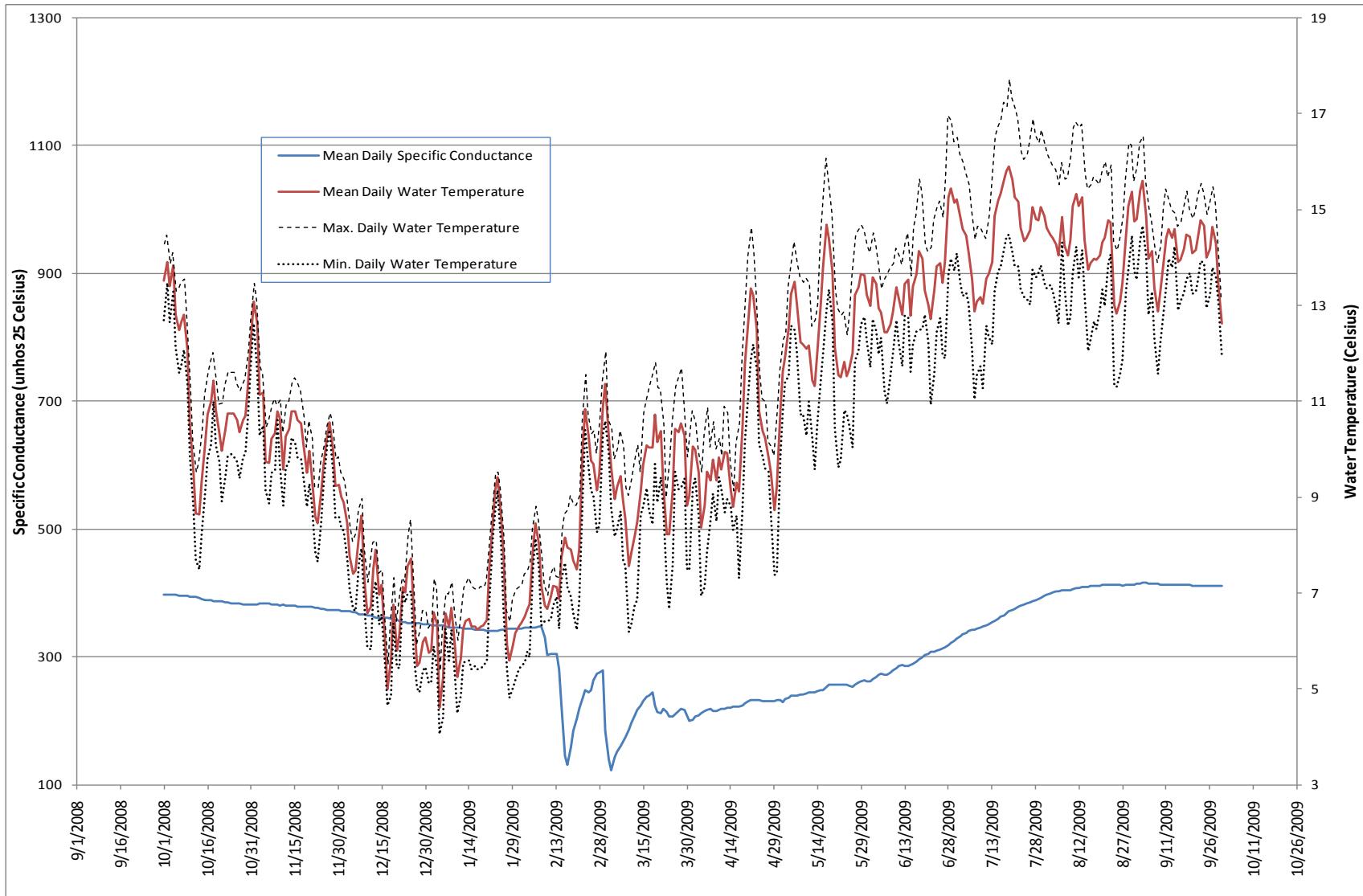


Figure 7. Daily Specific Conductance and Water Temperature data at San Clemente Creek gage for Water Year 2009. Blue line is mean daily specific conductance; red line is mean daily water temperature; dotted lines represent minimum and maximum daily water temperature values.

