

Pounding not over for Valley

■ Rain expected in Fresno; more snow on way in mountains.

By David John Chavez
The Fresno Bee

The winter weather pattern that has battered the state this month will continue today as rain — heavy at times — falls on the Valley.

The National Weather Service Tuesday issued a winter storm warning for the Sierra Nevada from Kings Canyon National Park to Yosemite. The warning should continue through today.

Tuesday brought .15 of an inch of rain to Fresno as of 4 p.m., bringing the season-to-date total to 11.10 inches. Normal through Jan. 21 is 4.96 inches. Last year, Fresno had received 2.51 inches of rain to date.

In other parts of the Valley, .09 of

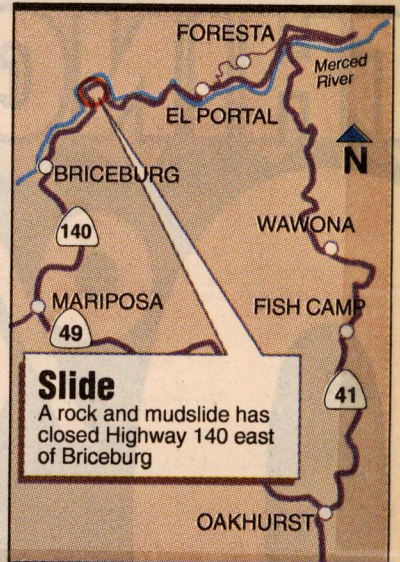
- ▶ Officials urge improvements in mapping of floodplains. **Page A3**
- ▶ Valley lawmakers push for flood bill. **Page A10**
- ▶ Offices open to help victims with loans. **Page A10**

an inch of rain fell in Merced and Madera Tuesday and .10 of an inch in Hanford and Porterville.

In Mariposa County, Highway 140 was further damaged by rockslides Monday and Tuesday.

Monday afternoon, both lanes of Highway 140 about three miles west of the south fork of the Merced River were covered by rock and debris measuring 60 feet long and 20 feet

Please see **Weather**, back page



The Fresno Bee

Weather: It will be warm, wet

Continued from Page A1

high. Cliff Adams, spokesman for the Stockton District office of state Department of Transportation, said a second slide occurred Tuesday morning.

However, by late Tuesday afternoon, Caltrans crews had cleared enough of the slide to allow CHP officers to lead one convoy of residents in and one out before regular escorts resumed today.

Caltrans and California Highway Patrol officials said scheduled escorted trips should resume today from about five miles east of Midpines to near El Portal, west of the Yosemite National Park entrance.

The road has been closed to all but residents for the last month because of slides and other damage from storms and flooding.

The road section from El Portal to the Foresta bridge at the park entrance is still impassable since flooding washed out a chunk of it. A detour route leads to the front entrance of the park, Adams said.

He said three inches of rain fell Monday at Midpines, an area already saturated from weeks of precipitation, and that's what triggered the slide.

Rain is expected again today in the Valley and mountain areas below 5,000-feet. Above that, one to three feet of snow is expected.

Robert Nester, a meteorologist

for the National Weather Service in Hanford, said the system is a low pressure one.

"Along with [the system], its energies are bringing moisture from the tropics," Nester said. "It's a warm system."

Today's Valley highs are expected to stay in the mid- to upper 50s, with heavy rain at times.

Temperatures in the upper 50s are expected through Sunday.

Widespread fog is expected to return Friday.

While the weather continues to be balmy and blistery, the Valley will continue to recover from this month's flooding.

Tuesday, Caltrans awarded a \$1.6 million contract to F & H Construction of Stockton to repair the 17.5-mile stretch of Highway 140 to Yosemite.

Adams said work should start Jan. 27, with a completion date

in about six to eight weeks.

Meanwhile, parts of storm-ravaged Yosemite National Park are scheduled to reopen today. The Wawona area and some wilderness sections of the park will reopen at noon, park officials said.

Bee staff writer Jeanie Borba and Associated Press contributed to this report.