At the mouth of Afton Canyon at the lower end of the main stem, the Mojave River has been measured at station 10263000 (fig. 7) periodically since water year 1930. The station was operated during water years 1930-32, and it was reactivated in water year 1953. Records for water years 1979 and 1980 are incomplete, and only discharge measurements were published during these two years. Drainage area of the Mojave River at the station is 2,121 mi^2, which includes a total of about 520 mi^2 of noncontributing area (internal drainage in Apple Valley and to Troy Lake).

Mullen and others (1994) point out the following regarding accuracy of gaging-station records:

> The accuracy of discharge data depends primarily on (1) the stability of the stage-discharge relation or, if the control is unstable, the frequency of discharge measurements, and (2) the accuracy of observations of stage, measurements of discharge, and interpretations of records.

For gaging stations on Deep Creek, West Fork, and the main stem of the Mojave River, the daily mean discharges generally have been rated as "fair" or "poor." "Fair" means that about 95 percent of the computed daily mean discharges are within 15 percent of the true daily mean discharge. "Poor" means that daily mean discharges have less than "fair" accuracy.

According to Robert W. Meyer (U.S. Geological Survey, written commun., 1995), an analysis of gaging-station records indicates that uncertainty of daily mean discharges at the Deep Creek gage (10260500) ranges from about 5 to 35 percent and averages about 20 percent. Similarly, uncertainty of daily mean discharges at West Fork gaging stations (10260950 and 10261000) ranges from about 5 to 35 percent and averages about 15 percent. Daily mean discharges at the Lower Narrows gaging station (10261500) have an uncertainty that ranges from about 5 to 70 percent and averages about 15 percent. Meyer's analysis is based on a split-sample method developed by Dawdy and Burkham (1970), which can

Figure 6. Gaging station 10262500, Mojave River at Barstow, January 18, 1993. (Discharge about 4,200 cubic feet per second.)