

WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS UPDATE 1/30/23

You can now access Updates on our website: <https://www.rrfc.net/weekly-water-supply-conditions-update>

Lake Mendocino Flood Release

On January 16, 2023, the US Army Corps of Engineers News conducted a high-flow release at Coyote Valley Dam.

- CA Department of Resources captured footage of the very full reservoir: [YouTube video of DWR Drone footage over Lake Mendocino, 1/16/23](#)
- Article: [DWR - California's Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations Are Key to Managing Floods and Water Supplies, 1/16/23](#)
- A video clip of the flood release by Karen Rifkin can be found on the RRFC website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/lake-mendocino-coyote-valley-dam-flood-releases-2023>



January 16, 2023, Coyote Valley Dam flood release Photo by Karen Rifkin



January 2023, Coyote Valley Dam from across Lake Mendocino Photo by CJ Watt

Reservoir Storage & Operations[\(More info here\)](#):

Water supply information below and **attached** provided by Sonoma Water. National Weather Service updates **attached**.

Lake Mendocino

1/30

Current Storage (acre-feet)	80,088
Target Water Supply Storage Curve (acre-feet)	67,566
% of Target Water Supply Storage Curve	118.53%
7-day change (acre-feet)	-1,122

Lake Pillsbury

1/28

Current Storage (acre-feet)	57,287
Target Storage Curve (acre-feet)	32,545
7-day change (acre-feet)	-476

Lake Sonoma

1/30

Current Storage (acre-feet)	238,039
Target Storage Curve (acre-feet)	245,000
% of Water Supply Pool	97.16%
7-day change (acre-feet)	+1,704

New Website for Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Check out the new website and learn more about the [Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency](#).

Sonoma County Groundwater Sustainability Plans Approved

On Thursday, January 26, 2023, the California Department of Water Resources [announced](#) approval of all three local groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs): Santa Rosa Plain, Sonoma Valley and Petaluma Valley. The GSPs assess the conditions of the groundwater basins, analyze the basins' sustainability over a 50-year period, and identify projects and actions needed to ensure the basins are sustainable by 2042. Congratulations to the technical team, led by Marcus Trotta, Plan Manager for the GSAs, and principal hydrogeologist at Sonoma Water, and to Board members and Advisory Committee members of the three GSAs. The GSPs can be viewed at:

- [Santa Rosa Plain GSP](#)
- [Sonoma Valley GSP](#)
- [Petaluma Valley GSP](#)

Job Opportunity

The State Water Board is hiring for one position in its Office of Research, Planning, and Performance:

Racial Equity Training Leader (State Classification: Staff Services Manager I (Specialist))

[Job posting link](#). For questions Email: James.Nachbaur@waterboards.ca.gov

Bureau of Reclamation Opens New Funding Opportunity for Water Projects

California water and irrigation districts are eligible to apply for up to \$3 million for projects that will conserve water and improve watershed health through the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Environmental Water Resource Projects funding opportunity. The funding is from approximately \$80 million available through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Applications are due by March 28 at 3 p.m. (PST). The Bureau has scheduled a webinar using this [Microsoft Teams link](#) to be held Feb. 6 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. to discuss eligibility, project types, program requirements and the evaluation criteria. To apply, visit [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and search using opportunity number R23AS00089. For questions about this and other federal WaterSMART funding opportunities, visit www.usbr.gov/watersmart/

Mental Health & Climate Change: Community-Led Solutions

The Public Health Workgroup of the California Climate Action Team (CAT-PHWG) is holding a virtual meeting on **Wednesday, February 8, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM** to focus on the experiences of youth, Tribes, and other inequitably impacted populations as they work to promote and protect their mental health and environment in a changing climate. Presenters will address lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery, as well as what local and State agencies

can to do to collaborate with and support communities as they work to overcome barriers in addressing current and future mental health and climate crises. **DATE:** Wednesday, February 8, 2023 **TIME:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM PT **LOCATION:** Virtual Meeting [Register Here](#)

In the press:

- [CA Water eNews 1/25/23](#)
- [Maven's Notebook Jan 22-27, 2023](#)

- [CA Water Blog - Is the Drought Over? Reflections on California's Recent Flood-Drought Combo, 1/22/23](#)

“The drought is not over, yet. Furthermore, many legacies from the current drought will endure for years. Impacts from recent flooding were intense and expensive, but the state fared mostly okay during the deluge. As usual, native biodiversity continues its stair step pattern of decline from droughts. For groundwater, pumping will need to be further reduced during *wet years*, just to restore aquifers to 2015 levels needed to comply with SGMA. Nonetheless, at halftime for this wet season, the recent storms have provided hope that the current drought may be ending from multiple perspectives. Another dry year remains plausible but looks much less likely than it did a month ago. And major floods are now a bit more likely this year. But as always for California, both floods and droughts are inevitable in the future, and we should prepare.”

- [Sonoma Index-Tribune -The drought remaining beneath the surface in Sonoma Valley soil, 1/22/23](#)
- [Phys.org- NASA measures underground water flowing from Sierra to Central Valley, 1/23/23](#)
- [Grist - A California town's wastewater is helping it battle drought: Healdsburg recycles 350 million gallons of effluent annually and gives it away for free, 1/23/23](#)
- [Science - Can California's floods help recharge depleted groundwater supplies?, 1/23/23](#)
- [Lake County news - County to hold virtual forum on how to respond in case of invasive mussel introduction, 1/26/23](#)
- [Press Democrat - Skelton: Uncaptured water isn't wasted 1/28/23](#)
- [Press Democrat - Recent flood forecasts missed the mark in Sonoma County. Here's why, 1/30/23](#)
- [Press Democrat - Healdsburg council hears proposal for new Alexander Valley Water District, 1/23/23](#)



Viewing north, the Russian River flows south just below flood stage through Alexander Valley, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023 (Kent Porter/The Press Democrat)

- [Ag Alert - Storm deluge stirs hope for water supply, 1/25/23](#)
“Frost Pauli, vineyard manager for Pauli Ranch in Potter Valley in Mendocino County, said he feels optimistic after three intense years of drought. He said the winter storms ‘have been excellent for our water supply.’”



Lake Mendocino on Oct. 14, 2021, when it stood at 11% of total capacity.



The lake on Jan. 16 after recent storms. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began high-flow water releases in mid-January to manage rising lake levels for the first time in nearly four years.

Photos from linked article in Ag Alert. Credit: California Farm Bureau Federation

Other resources & information:

- [Mendocino County Water Agency Drought page](#)
- [SWRCB Russian River drought information page](#)
- [SaveOurWater.com](#)
- [SaveWater.ca.gov](#) to report water waste, such as leaks and overwatering.
- [Water Rights Enforcement Complaints Program](#) and/or [Cal EPA Complaint System](#) to report concerns of unauthorized diversions, violations of water rights, diversions impacting fisheries, etc. Reports can be made anonymously.
- Visit Sonoma Water's website for information on [current water supply levels](#) and [Temporary Urgency Change Petitions](#).

Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager

**Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control
& Water Conservation Improvement District**

NEW ADDRESS: 304 N. State Street, #2, Ukiah, CA 95482

Cell: 707-462-5278 www.RRFC.net





Gusty Winds Today through Monday; Colder Airmass arriving tonight into early next week; Rain and snow showers possible late next week.

KEY POINTS

- Strong and gusty northerly winds this afternoon through Monday afternoon.
Sub-Freezing temperatures Monday & Tuesday mornings.
Chance of rain and snow showers late next week and next weekend.

WEATHER RISK OUTLOOK

Risk levels incorporate potential impacts from weather hazards and likelihood of occurrence for a reasonable worse case scenario.

Table with 8 columns (Sun 1/29 to Sat 2/4) and 5 rows (Lake County, Del Norte County, Mendocino County, Trinity County, Humboldt County) showing risk levels for Wind, Cold Wind, and Cold.

Risk Levels

Color-coded risk level categories: Little to None (green), Minor (yellow), Moderate (orange), Major (red), Extreme (purple)

DETAILS

Lake County, Mendocino County, Humboldt County, Trinity County

Wind hazard details including impacts (loose objects, hazardous crosswinds), timing (this afternoon through Monday afternoon), confidence (moderate), and specific regional effects (offshore winds, gusting to 60 mph).



Impacts:

- Increased risk to people without adequate shelter.
- Increased risk of ice on roadways.
- Hard Freeze conditions can damage pipes and plumbing.
- Bring in sensitive plants & take precautions to protect property from freezing temperatures.

Timing:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning

Confidence:

High

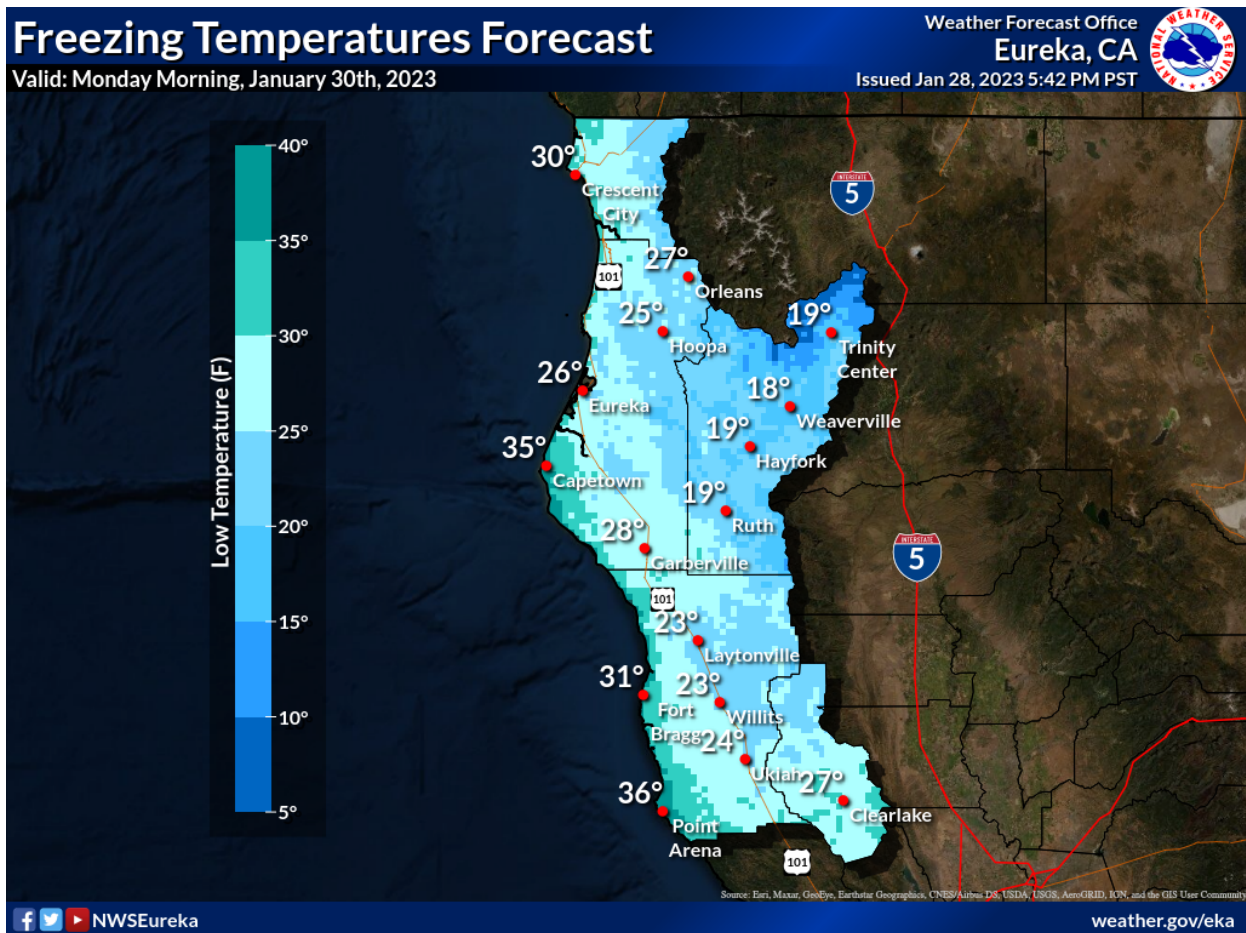
- Cold morning low temperatures as low as the mid teens to mid 20's in the interior.
- Cold morning low temperatures as low as the mid to upper 20's along the coast. There is a 90 percent of chance for temperatures below 28 degrees.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For the latest forecast updates, visit weather.gov/eureka.

If you have questions or would like to submit weather reports, photos, or to unsubscribe from these briefings, email nws.eureka@noaa.gov or call (707) 443-6484.

GRAPHICS



01_28_TEMPS.png

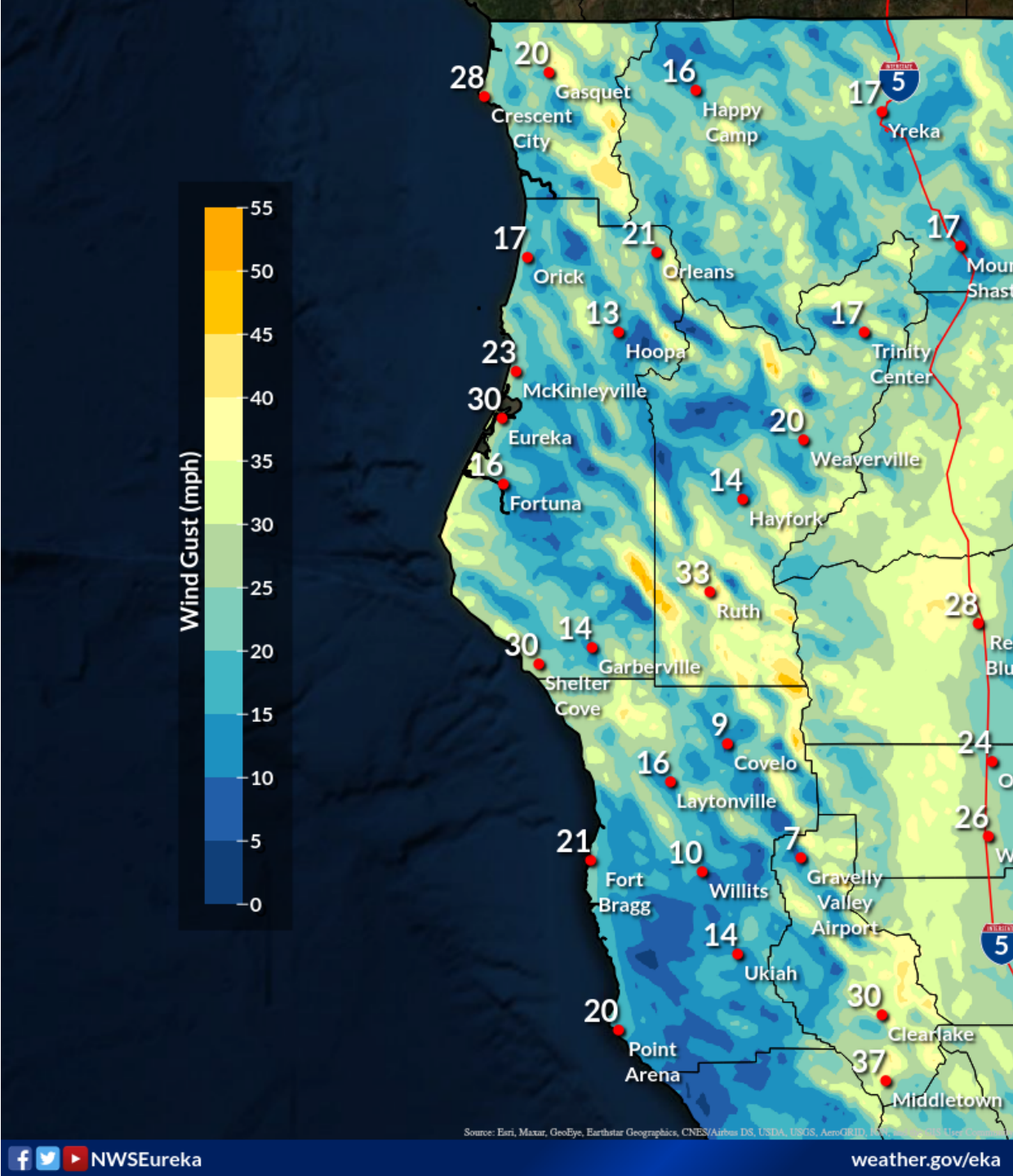
Forecast Wind Gusts

Weather Forecast Office
Eureka, CA



Valid: Sunday Afternoon thru Monday Afternoon

Issued Jan 28, 2023 6:08 AM PST



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, etc.

NWSEureka

weather.gov/eka

GustsSunday.png



Drought Update - Jan 26

This email is designed to provide situation awareness for current drought conditions and an outlook for precipitation, temperatures, and drought trends across northwest California counties including: Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, and Lake.

DETAILS

- Significant improvements in northwest California drought conditions with a wet start to the water year
- Equal chances for normal precipitation and below normal temperatures are predicted through April 2023
- The seasonal drought outlook predicts widespread improvement and even some drought removal for northwest California through April 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION

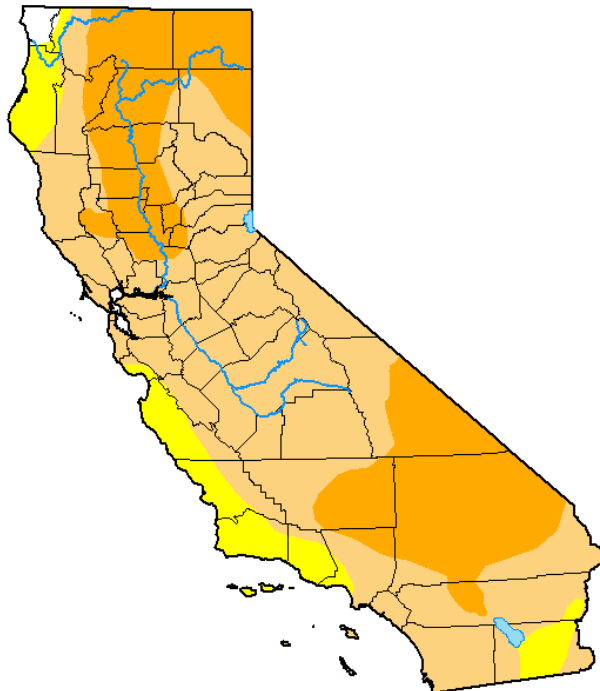
For the latest forecast updates, visit weather.gov/eureka.

If you have questions or would like to submit weather reports, photos, or to unsubscribe from these briefings, email nws.eureka@noaa.gov or call (707) 443-6484.

GRAPHICS

U.S. Drought Monitor California

January 24, 2023
(Released Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Rocky Bilotta
NCEI/NOAA



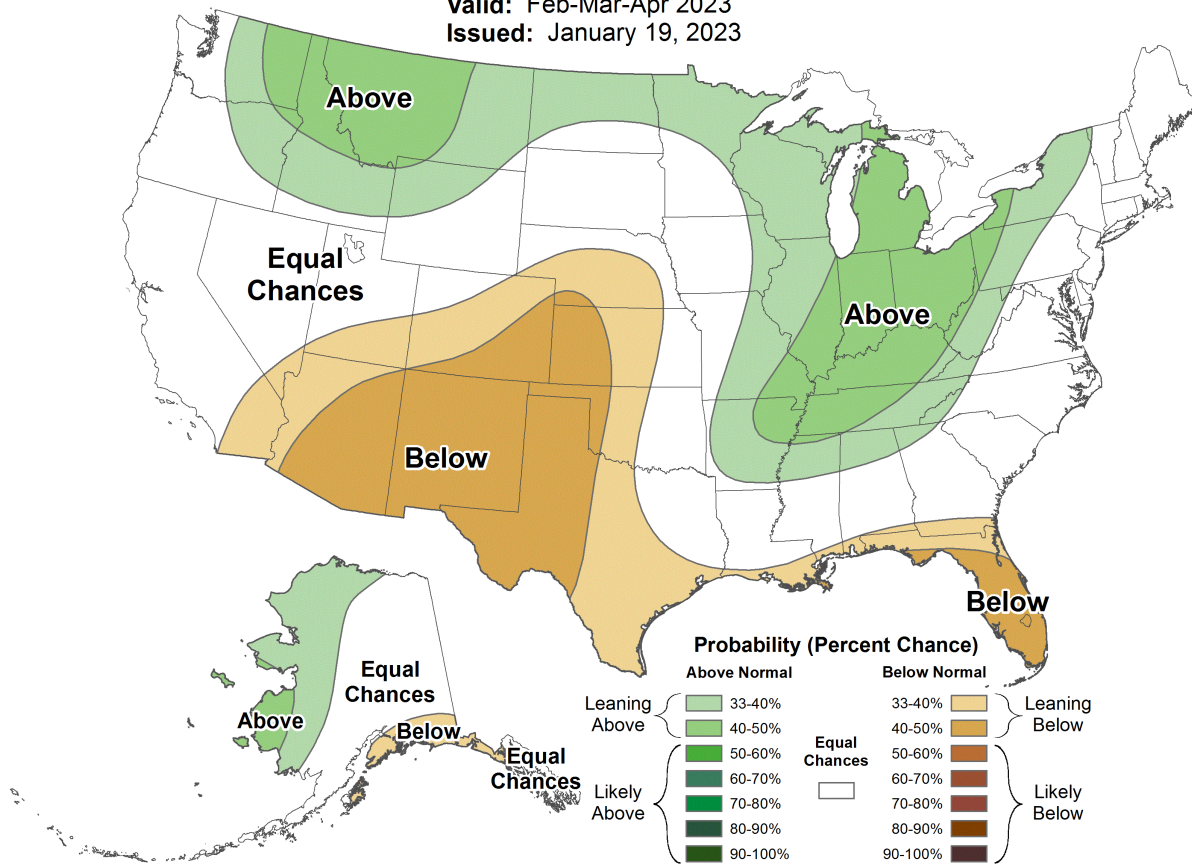
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2023
Issued: January 19, 2023



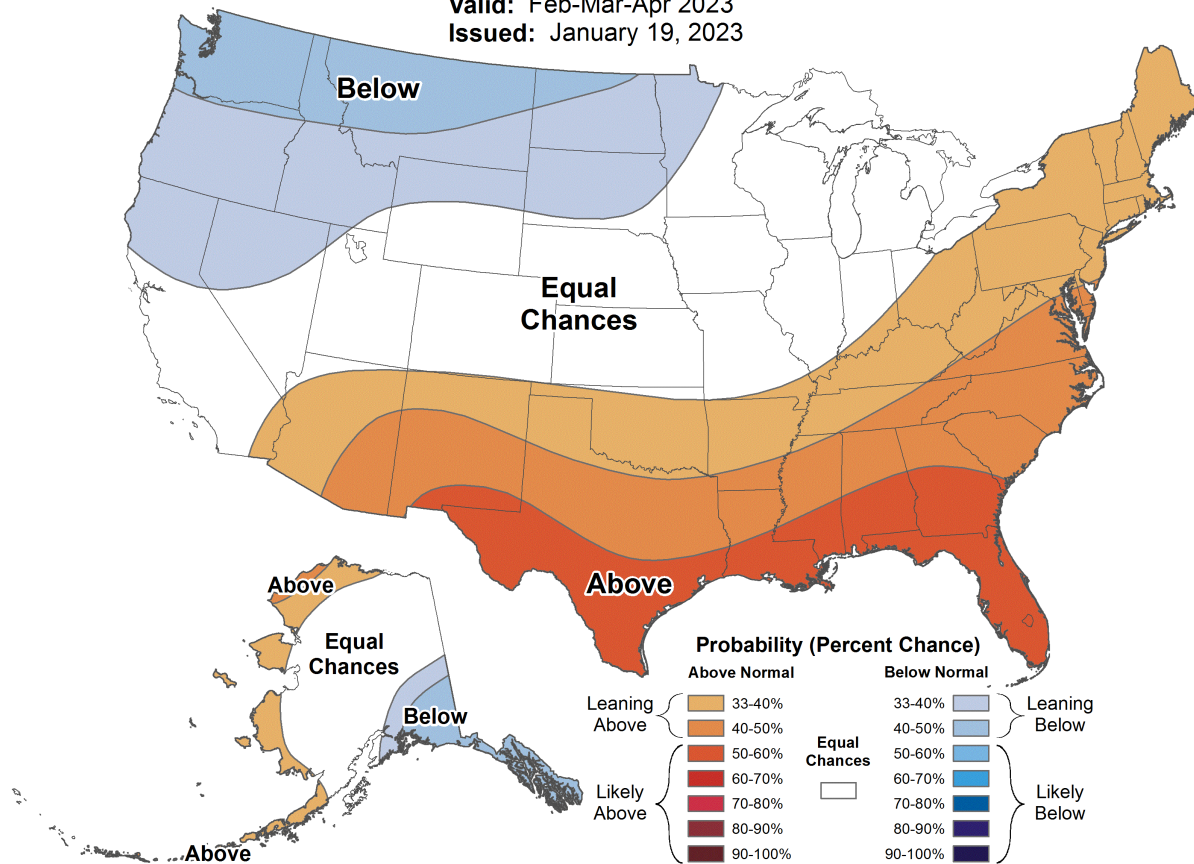
3 Month Precipitation +1 Months



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Feb-Mar-Apr 2023
Issued: January 19, 2023

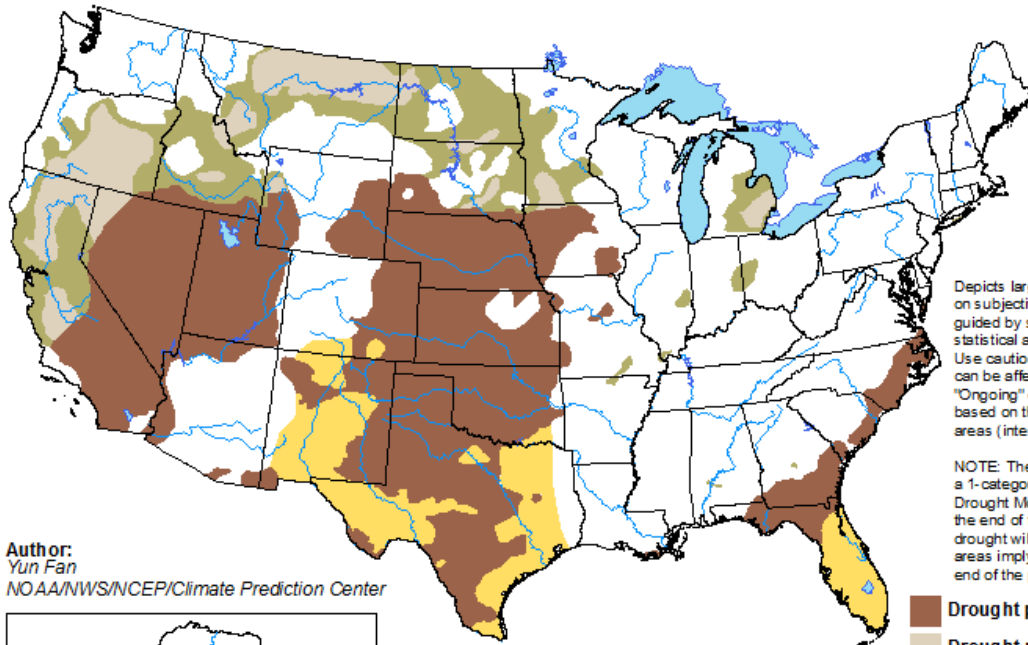


3 Month Temperature +1 Months

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

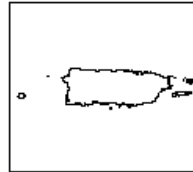
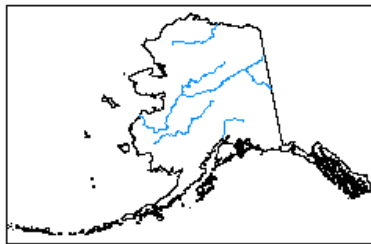
Valid for January 19 - April 30, 2023
Released January 19



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author:
Yun Fan
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely

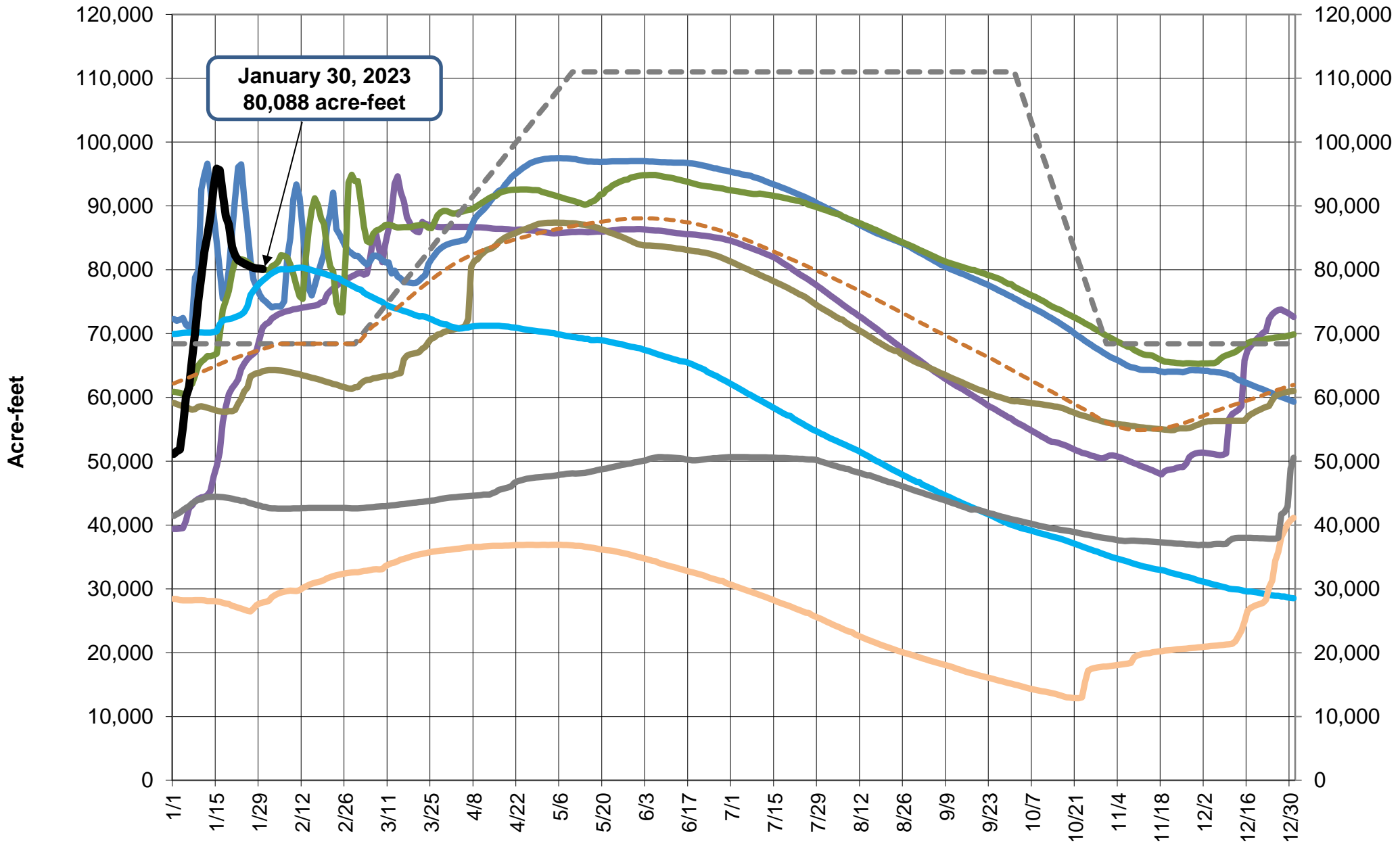


<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

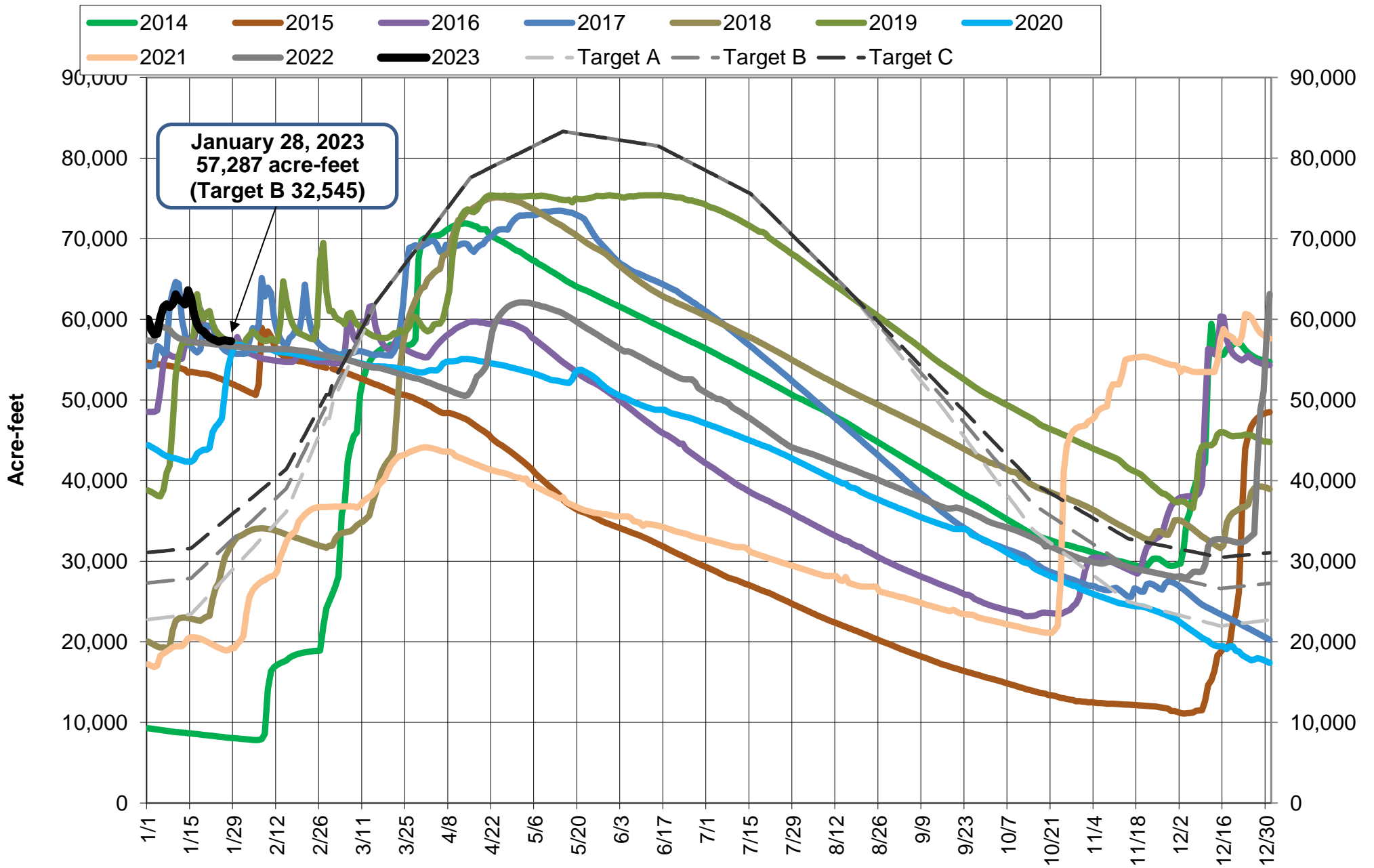
Seasonal Drought Outlook

Lake Mendocino Storage

— 2016 — 2017 — 2018 — 2019 — 2020 — 2021 — 2022 — 2023 — Storage Curve — Target Water Supply Storage Curve

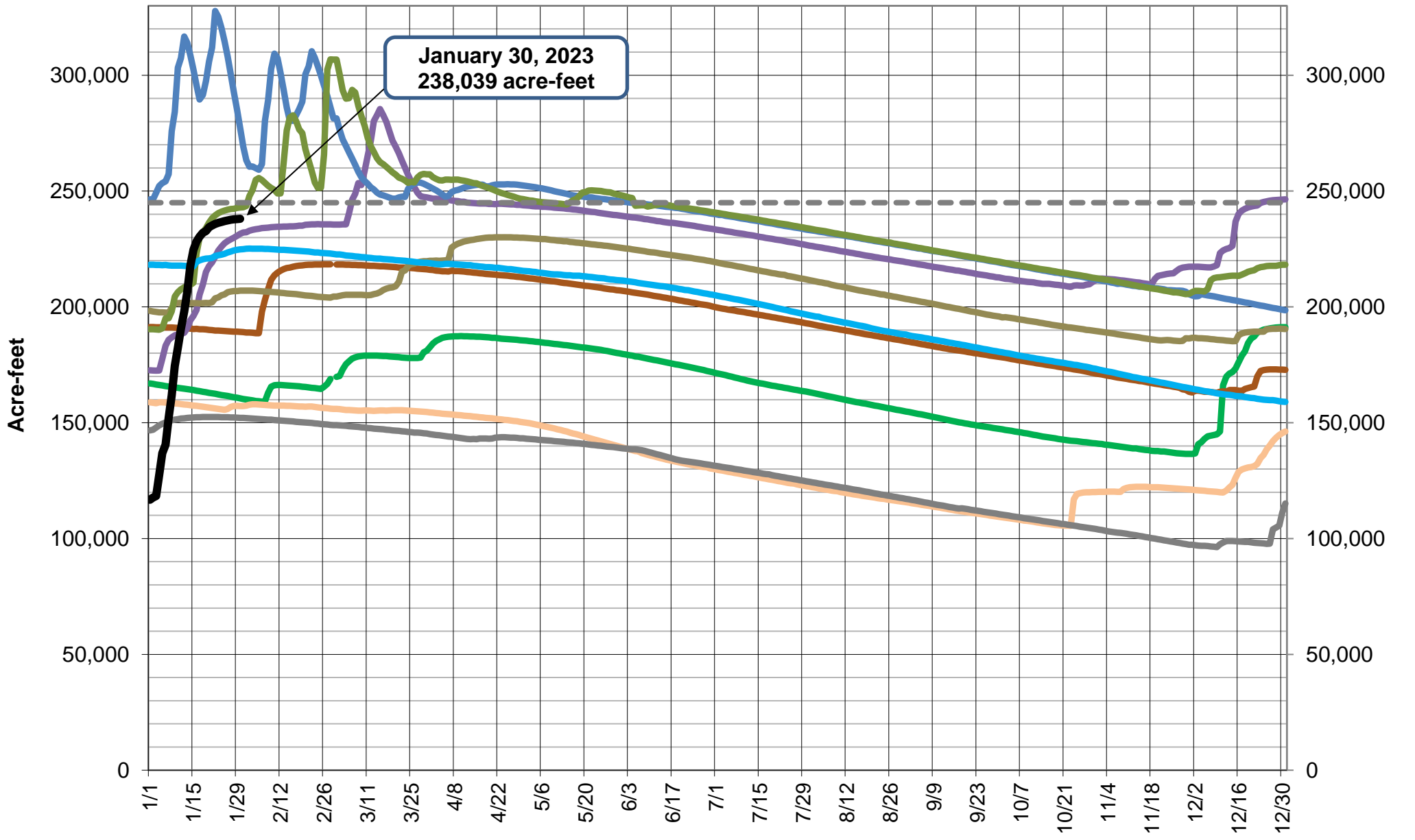


Lake Pillsbury Storage and Target Storage Scenarios



Lake Sonoma Storage

— 2014 — 2015 — 2016 — 2017 — 2018 — 2019 — 2020 — 2021 — 2022 — 2023 — - - - Storage Curve



Lake Mendocino Storage - Drought Years

2013 2014 2015 2020 2021 2022 2023 Storage Curve Target Water Supply Storage Curve

