

## WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS UPDATE 2/21/23

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



*Lake Mendocino, 2/11/23 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

2/20

Current Storage (acre-feet)	80,019
Target Water Supply Storage Curve (acre-feet)	68,400
% of Target Water Supply Storage Curve	116.99%
7-day change (acre-feet)	-103

### Lake Pillsbury

2/19

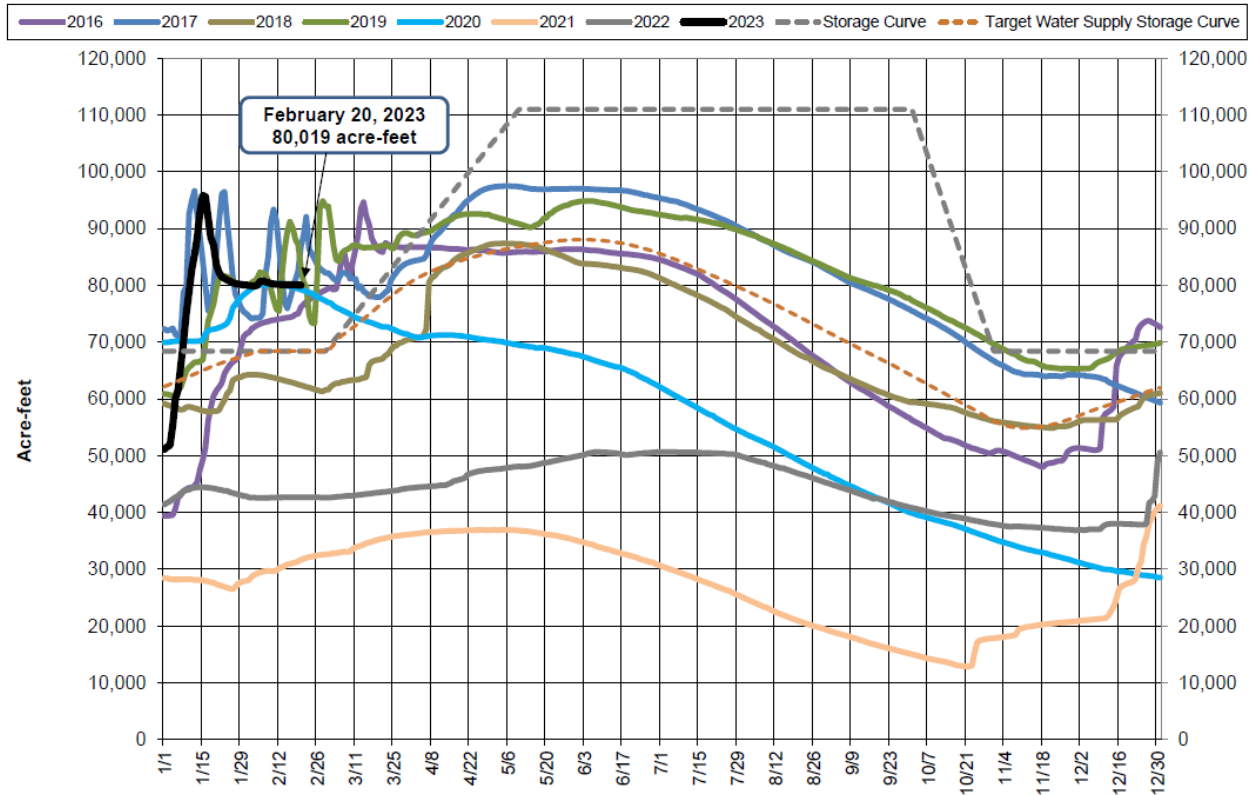
Current Storage (acre-feet)	56,698
Target Storage Curve (acre-feet)	42,181
7-day change (acre-feet)	-323

### Lake Sonoma

2/20

Current Storage (acre-feet)	243,514
Target Storage Curve (acre-feet)	245,000
% of Water Supply Pool	99.39%
7-day change (acre-feet)	+472

## Lake Mendocino Storage



## **East Fork Russian River above Lake Mendocino:**

Left: 1/10/23 by Karen Rijcken. Right: 1/26/21 by Bobby Cochran Photography



### **From the Governor's Office**

“SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom today signed an executive order to protect the state’s water supplies from the impacts of climate-driven extremes in weather. After years of prolonged drought, recent storms resulted in the wettest three-week period on record in California. The storms have been followed by an unseasonably dry February, however, and the state could see a return to warm and dry conditions during the remaining weeks of the wet season – just as heavy rains in fall 2021 gave way to the driest January-February-March period in over 100 years.”

Read more:

[Governor Newsom Signs Order to Build Water Resilience Amid Climate-Driven Extreme Weather, 2/13/23](#)

[The Hill - Newsom signs order to protect California’s water supply from extreme weather, 2/13/23](#)

[CalMatters-Newsom suspends environmental laws to store more Delta water, 2/14/23](#)

### **Check out these views of the Russian River in January 2023 in video format**

[DWR - Russian River video footage from 1/16/23](#)

### **Expert Panel on Extended Drought at the CA Water Commission Meeting**

Water Resilience Portfolio Action 26.3 tasks the State with developing strategies to protect communities and fish and wildlife in the event of drought lasting at least six years. As part of its exploration of Action 26.3, the California Water Commission hosted a panel of experts on February 15, 2023 who presented policy perspectives and hands-on practitioner perspectives on implementation of drought preparedness and response strategies. Starts around 2:21 time stamp in the meeting.

[CA Water Commission Meeting recording for February 15, 2023](#)

## **Putting Data to Work: Why Investing in Water and Ecological Data in CA Matters**

As water availability becomes increasingly unpredictable due to climate change and extreme weather events, the lack of information about California's water systems can worsen existing water inequities in communities across California. High-quality, usable, and accessible data are critical in supporting an equitable and resilient water future for everyone living and working in California. *Putting Data to Work* outlines recommendations to improve water data and data infrastructure in California, ultimately providing water managers with better information to support sustainable water stewardship in a changing climate. [Read the recommendations here.](#)

### **In the press:**

Keep up on all things water – a guide to California water news:

[CA Water Blog - A Guide for New California Water Wonks, 2/19/23](#)

## **Water Resources IMPACT: California's Megadrought**

"As the American West responds to a 20-year megadrought, this first issue of a Water Resources IMPACT two-part series diagnoses water scarcity issues confronting the western U.S. and explains how these impact a variety of ecological, community, and economic sectors. ... " Many articles on drought, climate change, impacts to tribes, drought and freshwater species, sustainability and food supply, and more. Publication produced by the American Water Resources Association. [Download your free copy of Water Resources IMPACT.](#)



- [CA Water Plan eNews, 2/15/23](#)
- [Maven's Notebook, Feb 12-17, 2023](#)
- [ACWA- Weather Extremes Drive Home the Case for Water Infrastructure, 1/23/23](#)
- [CBS News - California's rivers and streams to be more accurately measured under proposed Senate bill 2/13/23](#)
- [Smithsonian - California Lost 36 Million Trees to Drought Last Year, 2/13/23](#)
- [Water Online - A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Wells: Improving Our Groundwater "Vision" With Electrical Resistivity Imaging, 2/14/23](#)
- [Associated Press - California debates what to do with water from recent storms, 2/15/23](#)

- [Western Water - CA Water Agencies hoped a deluge would recharge their aquifers but when it came, some couldn't use it, 2/16/23](#)
- [Press Democrat - Just because North Bay reservoirs are full, it doesn't mean the drought is over, experts say, 2/18/23](#) “While [recent winter storms have filled reservoirs](#), they haven't had time to restore groundwater or allow for the landscape's complete recovery, either.”

**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](http://www.RRFC.net)





## Drought Update - Feb 16

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.

---

### CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS BRIEFING

Updated seasonal outlooks

---

### DETAILS

- **Moderate to severe drought persists for primarily Trinity, Mendocino, and Lake counties**
- **March 2023 is predicted to be wetter and colder than normal**
- **Equal chances for normal precipitation and normal temperatures are predicted through May 2023**
- **The seasonal drought outlook predicts widespread improvement and even some drought removal for northwest California through May 2023**

---

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For the latest forecast updates, visit [weather.gov/eureka](https://weather.gov/eureka).

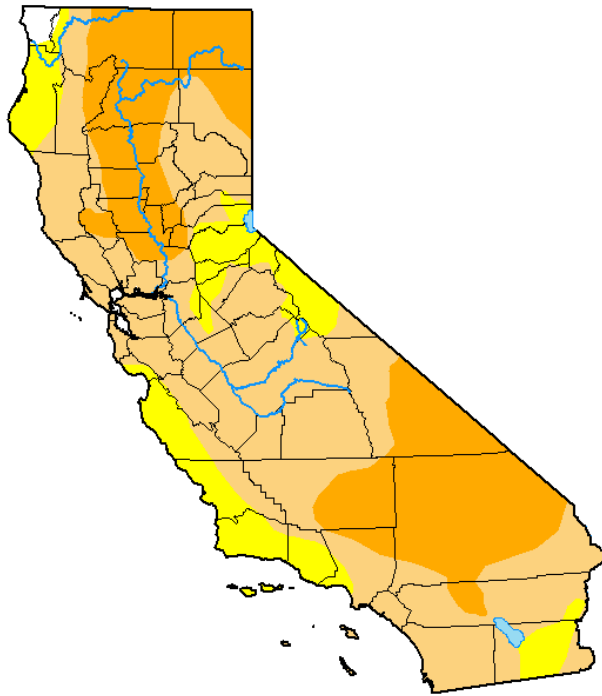
If you have questions or would like to submit weather reports, photos, or to unsubscribe from these briefings, email [nws.eureka@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.eureka@noaa.gov) or call (707) 443-6484.

---







### GRAPHICS

**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
**California**

**February 14, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Feb. 16, 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:***

Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



**droughtmonitor.unl.edu**

**CA Drought Outlook**

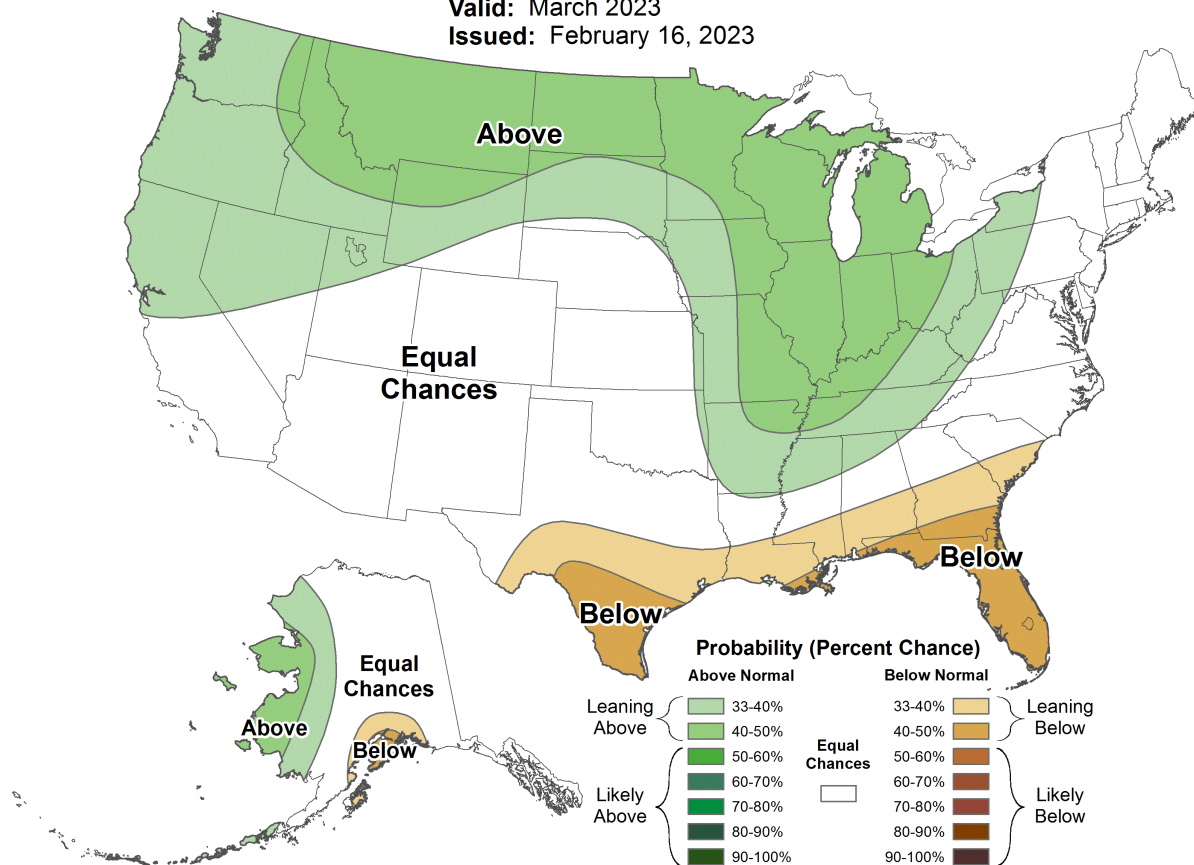


# Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: March 2023

Issued: February 16, 2023



Monthly Precipitation Outlook



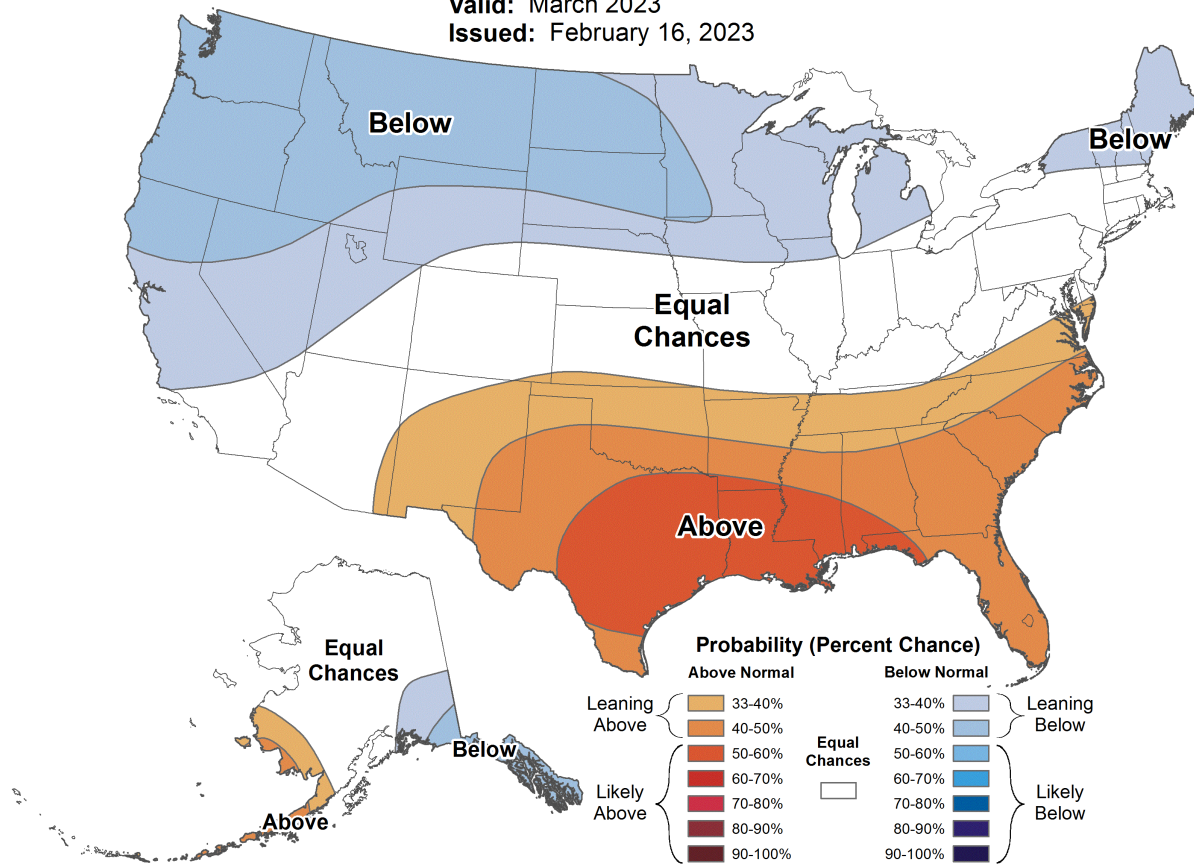


# Monthly Temperature Outlook



Valid: March 2023

Issued: February 16, 2023



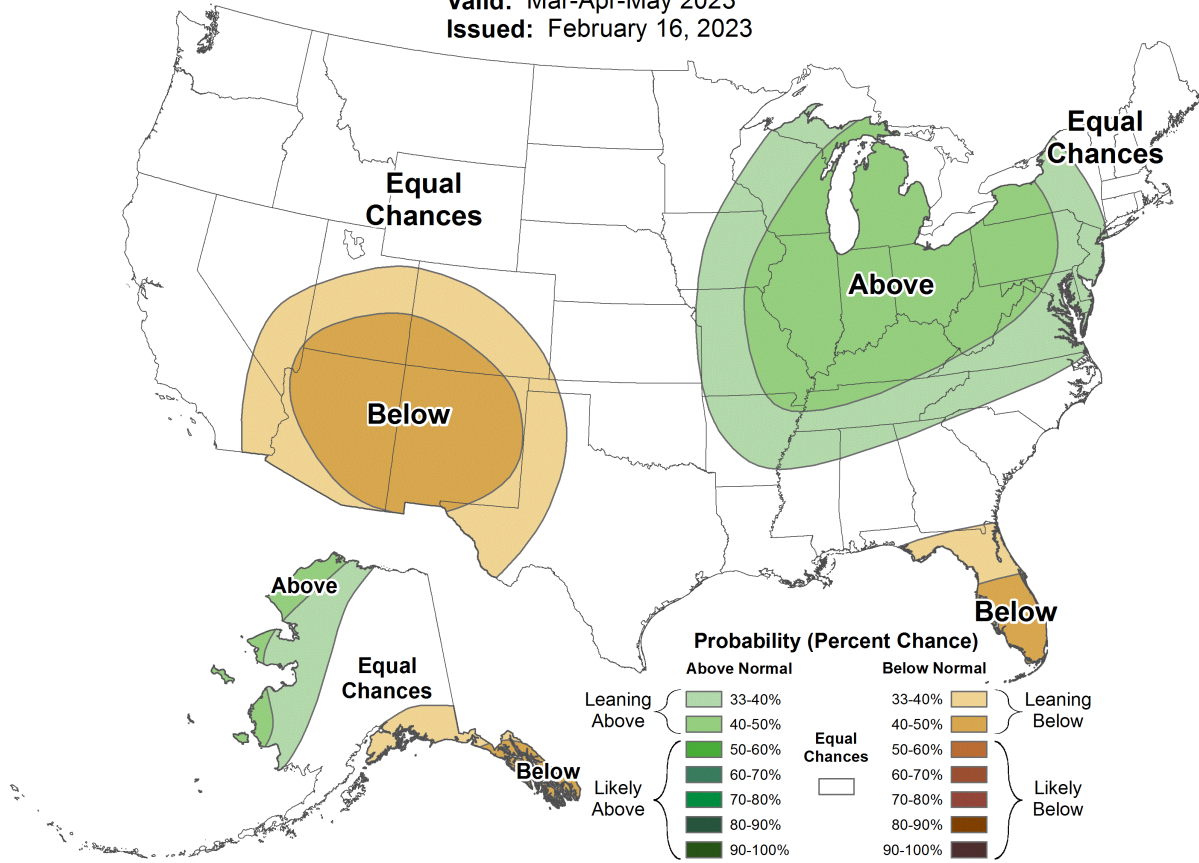
Monthly Temperature Outlook



# Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2023  
Issued: February 16, 2023



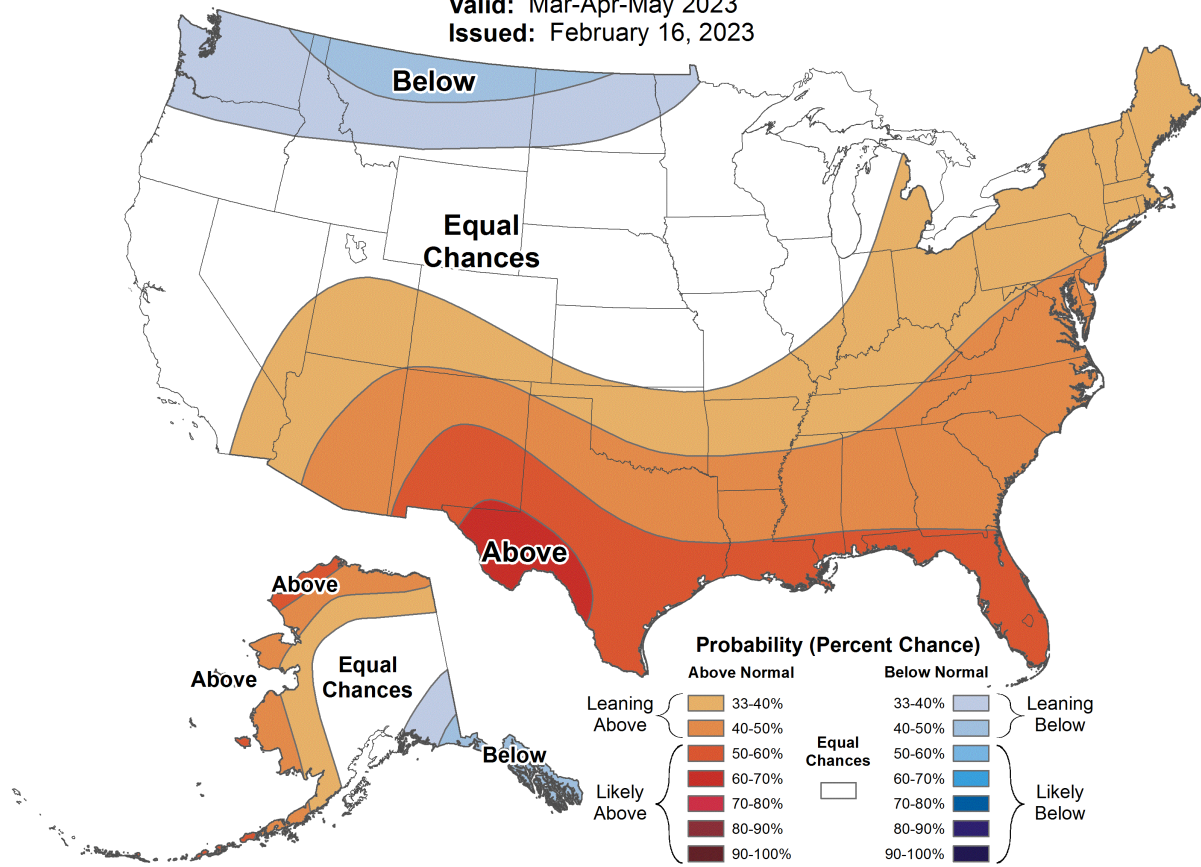
**3 Month Precipitation +1 Months**



# Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2023  
Issued: February 16, 2023

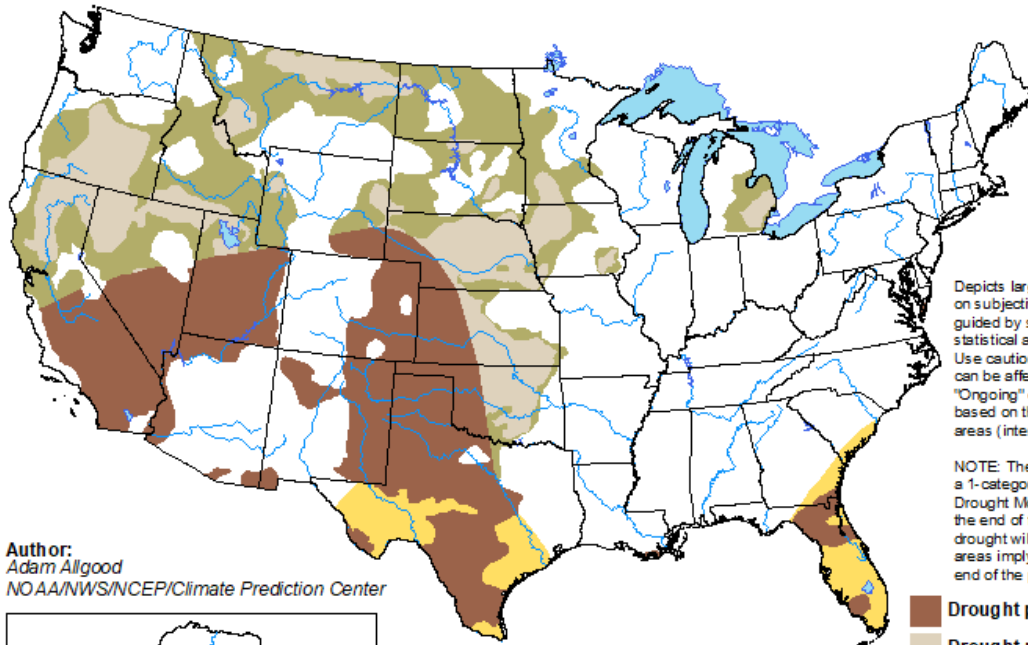


**3 Month Temperature +1 Months**

# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

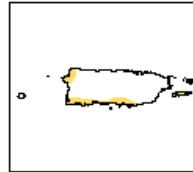
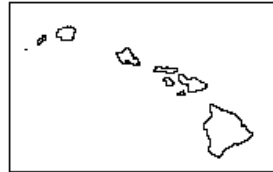
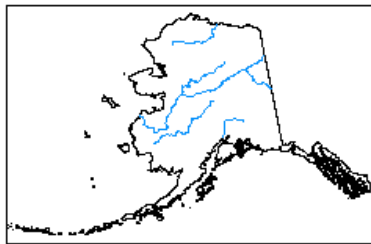
Valid for February 16 - May 31, 2023  
Released February 16







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:  
Adam Allgood  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



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

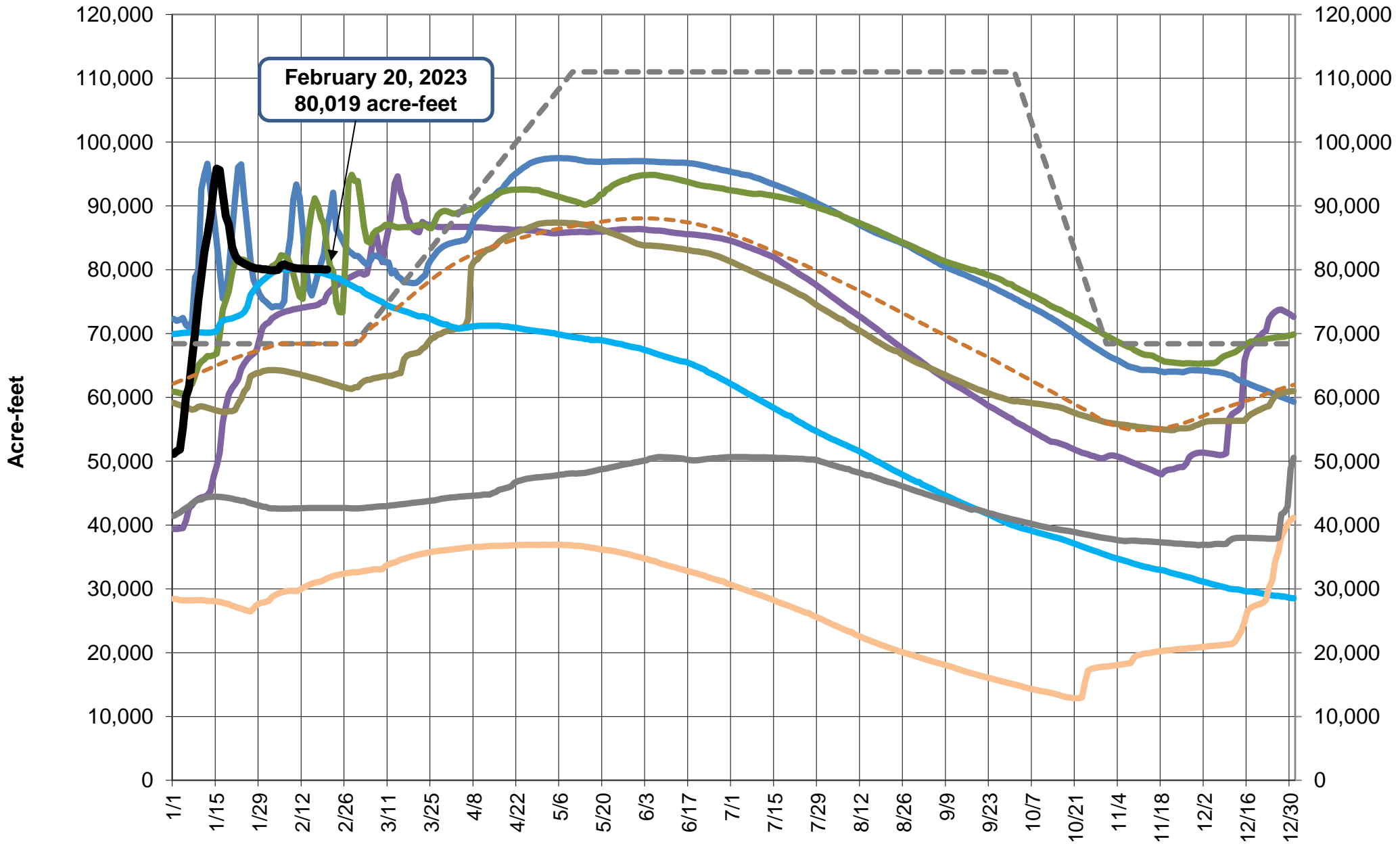


<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

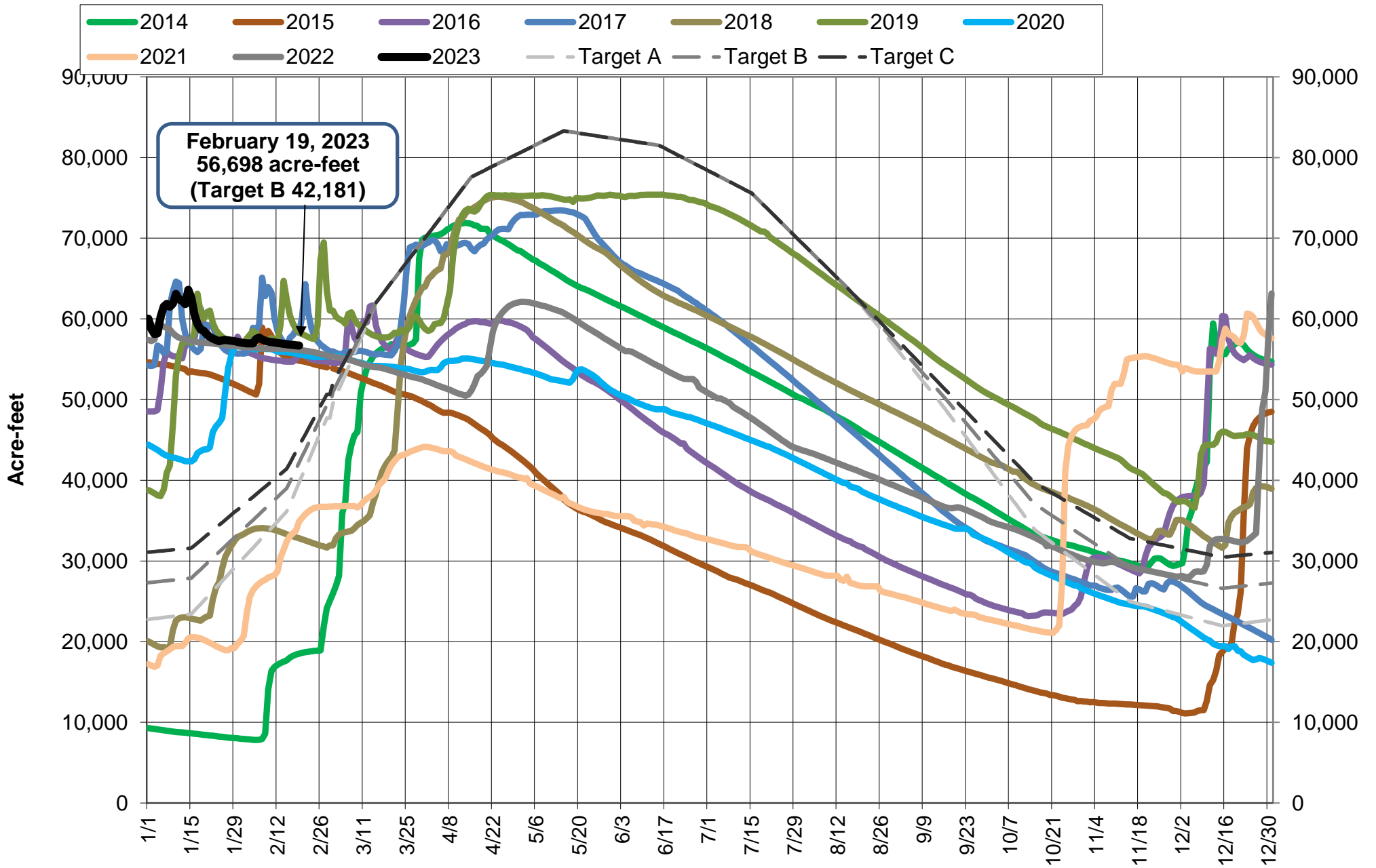
### Seasonal Drought Outlook

# Lake Mendocino Storage

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

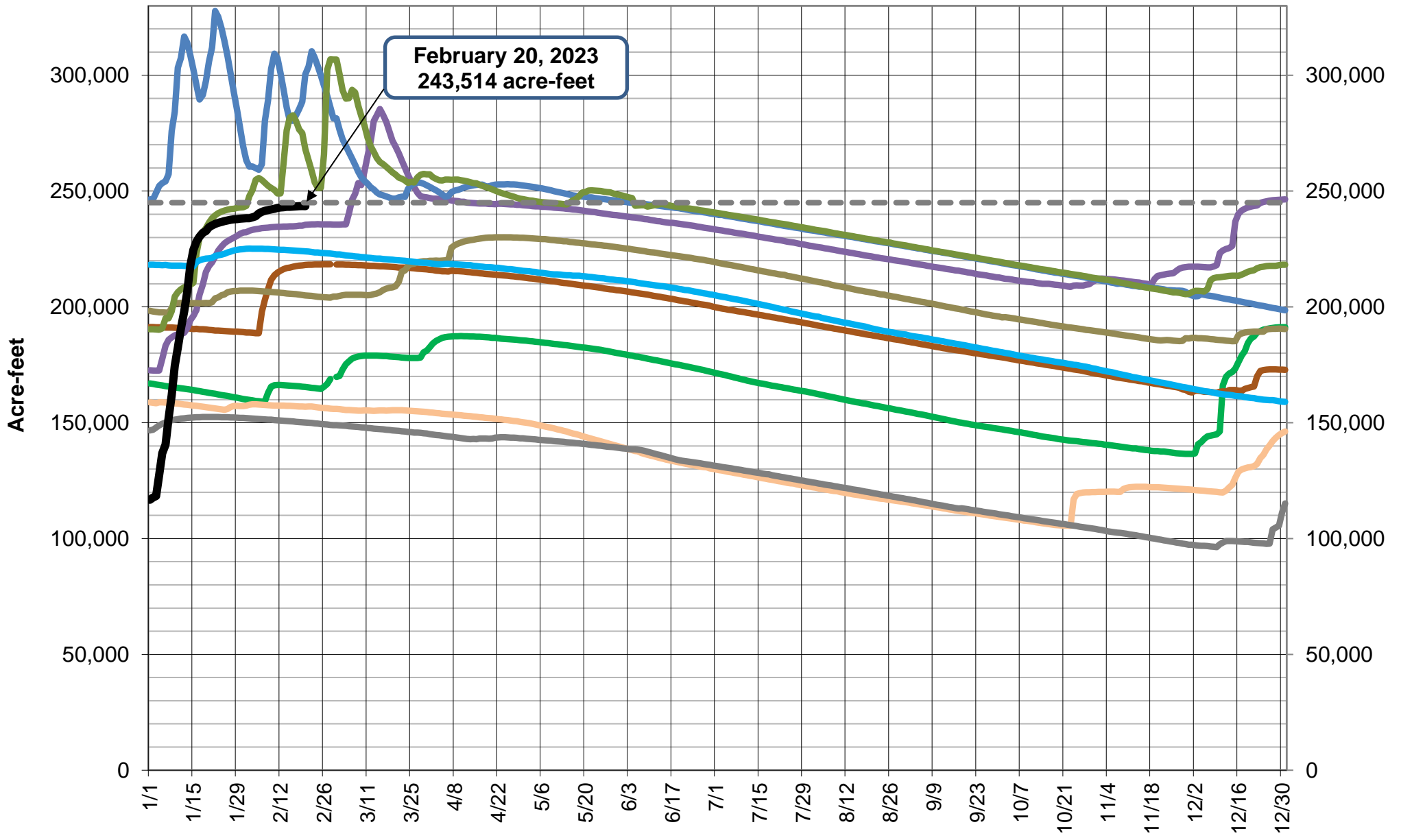


# Lake Pillsbury Storage and Target Storage Scenarios



# Lake Sonoma Storage

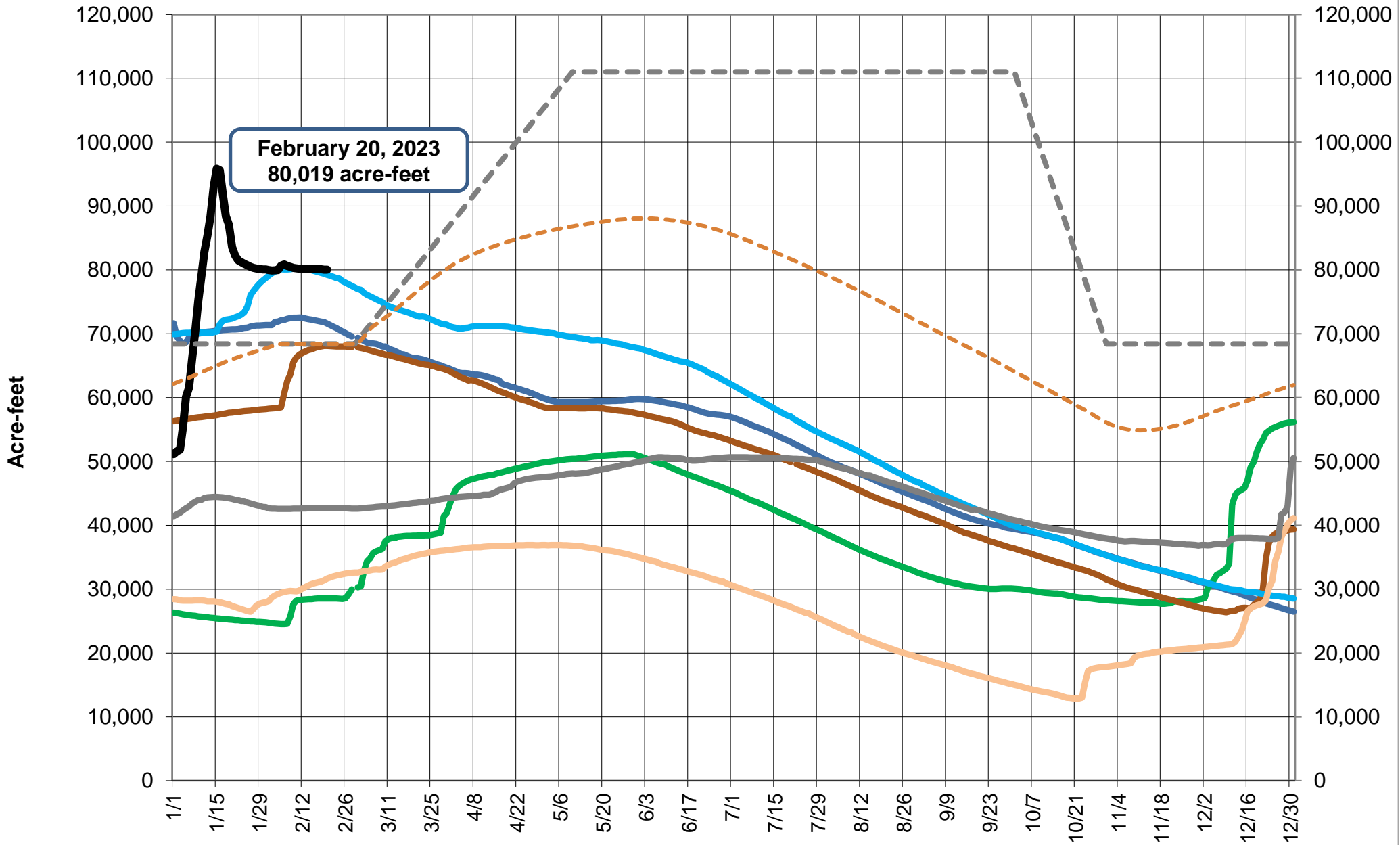
— 2014 — 2015 — 2016 — 2017 — 2018 — 2019 — 2020 — 2021 — 2022 — 2023 — - - - Storage Curve



February 20, 2023  
243,514 acre-feet

# Lake Mendocino Storage - Drought Years

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



February 20, 2023  
80,019 acre-feet





Winter Storm Today Through Friday

KEY POINTS

- Strong north-northwest winds on today.
Significant low elevation snowfall possible today through Friday.
Impactful hail and sleet accumulations near sea level today through Friday.
Isolated coastal thunderstorms today through early Friday.
Low temperatures in the teens and 20s Friday and Saturday morning.

WEATHER RISK OUTLOOK

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

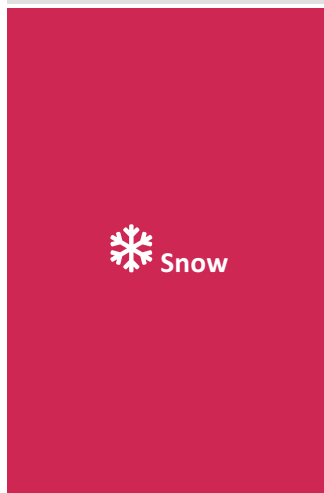
Table with 8 columns (Days: Tue 2/21 to Mon 2/27) and 5 rows (Counties: Lake County, Del Norte County, Mendocino County, Trinity County, Humboldt County). Each cell contains weather conditions like 'Strong Wind', 'Snow', 'Hail', 'Lightning', 'Cold', 'Rain', 'Mountain Snow'.

Risk Levels

Legend for risk levels: Little to None (green), Minor (yellow), Moderate (orange), Major (red), Extreme (purple).

DETAILS

Lake County, Del Norte County, Mendocino County, Trinity County, Humboldt County



Impacts:

- High risk of travel impacts for HWY 199 in Del Norte County, 299 and 36 in Humboldt and Trinity Counties, and 101 in Northern Mendocino County.
Lower risk of travel impacts for Lake and Southern Mendocino County.

Timing:

- Snow will begin across the coastal foothills of Del Norte and Humboldt Counties this afternoon.
Snow showers will spread south and inland tonight into tomorrow.
Snow showers will continue through Thursday, and then dissipate Thursday night into Friday morning.

- Heaviest snowfall from 5 to 12 inches expected above 1000 feet in Humboldt, Del Norte, and Western Trinity Counties.
Lower amounts from 1 to 5 inches expected elsewhere across Mendocino, Lake, and Eastern Trinity Counties.
Snow levels near 2000 feet this afternoon falling to 1000 feet tomorrow afternoon, and then below 500 feet Thursday morning.

## Del Norte County, Humboldt County



Hail

**Impacts:**

- Dangerous driving conditions will be possible along coastal roadways and highways due to hail and sleet accumulations.

**Timing:**

- The threat for impactful hail/sleet accumulations will begin this afternoon.
- Threat will increase and peak going into tomorrow, then gradually subside by Thursday afternoon and evening.

**Confidence:**

High

- Numerous hail showers expected near the coast over a multi-day period.

## Del Norte County, Lake County, Mendocino County, Trinity County, Humboldt County



Strong Wind

**Impacts:**

- Increased risk for falling limbs and trees.
- Power outages locally possible.
- Loose objects will blow around.
- High profile vehicles may be difficult to control.

**Timing:**

- North-northwest winds rapidly increasing by midday today.
- Winds peaking this afternoon.
- Winds gradually weakening this evening/night.

**Confidence:**

High

- Strongest north-northwest winds expected in Mendocino and Lake Counties, with peak gusts from 50 to 60 mph.
- Strong gusts from 40 to 50 mph also possible across exposed ridges and coastal headlands in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Trinity Counties.

## Del Norte County, Lake County, Mendocino County, Trinity County, Humboldt County



Cold

**Impacts:**

- People without adequate shelter/heating will be vulnerable to cold weather health impacts.
- Outdoor pets, pipes, and plants will be threatened by cold temperatures.

**Timing:**

- Low temperatures in the teens and 20s Friday morning and Saturday morning.

- Greater than 90% chance of temperatures below freezing Thursday through Saturday.
- 70% to 90% chance of temperatures below 28 degrees for most of the coast Friday.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For the latest forecast updates, visit [weather.gov/eureka](https://www.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](mailto:nws.eureka@noaa.gov) or call (707) 443-6484.

## GRAPHICS

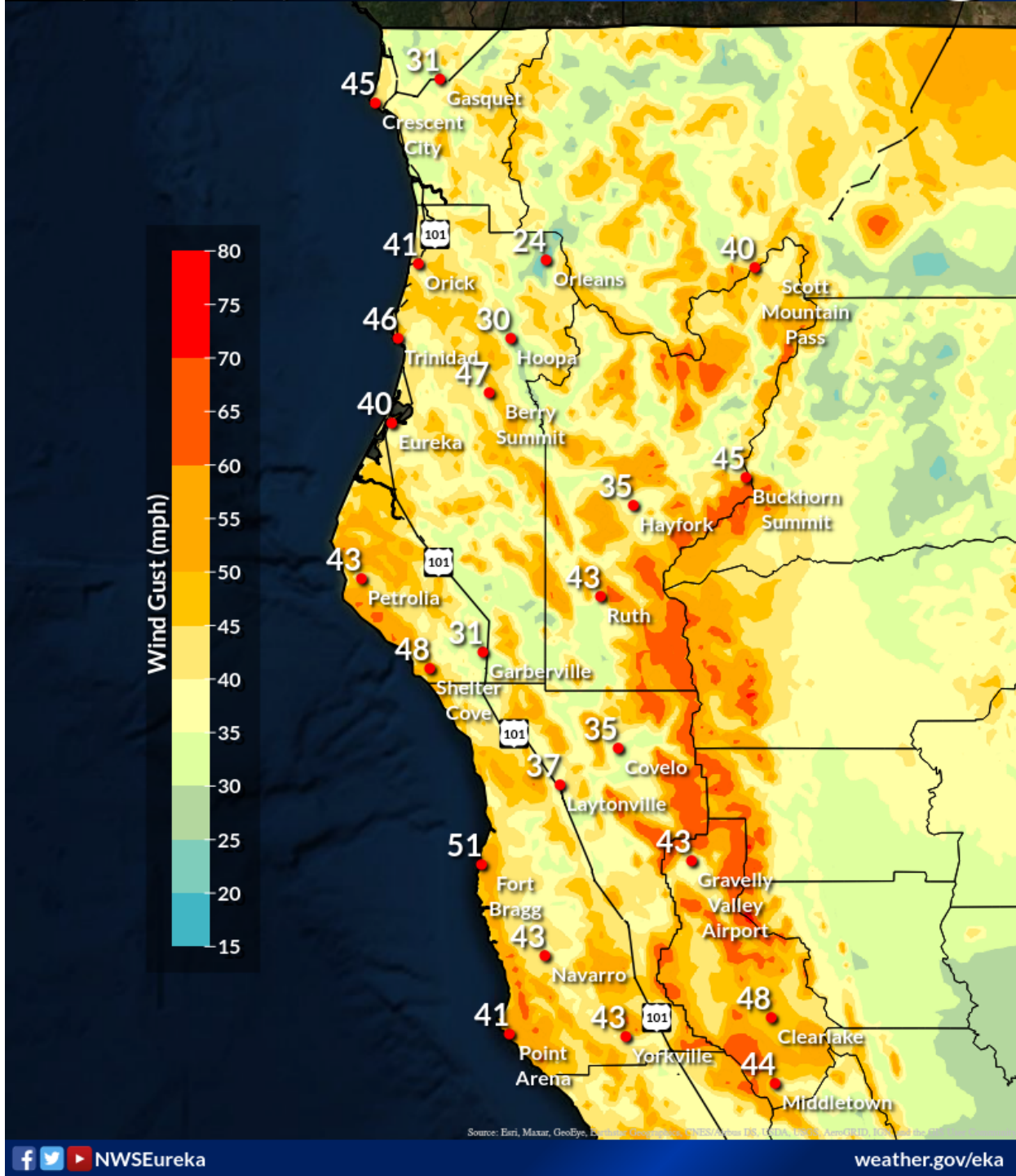
# Highest Wind Gusts

Weather Forecast Office  
Eureka, CA



10AM (2/21) to 4AM (2/22)

Issued Feb 21, 2023 6:24 AM PST



HighWindGusts20212023[1].png

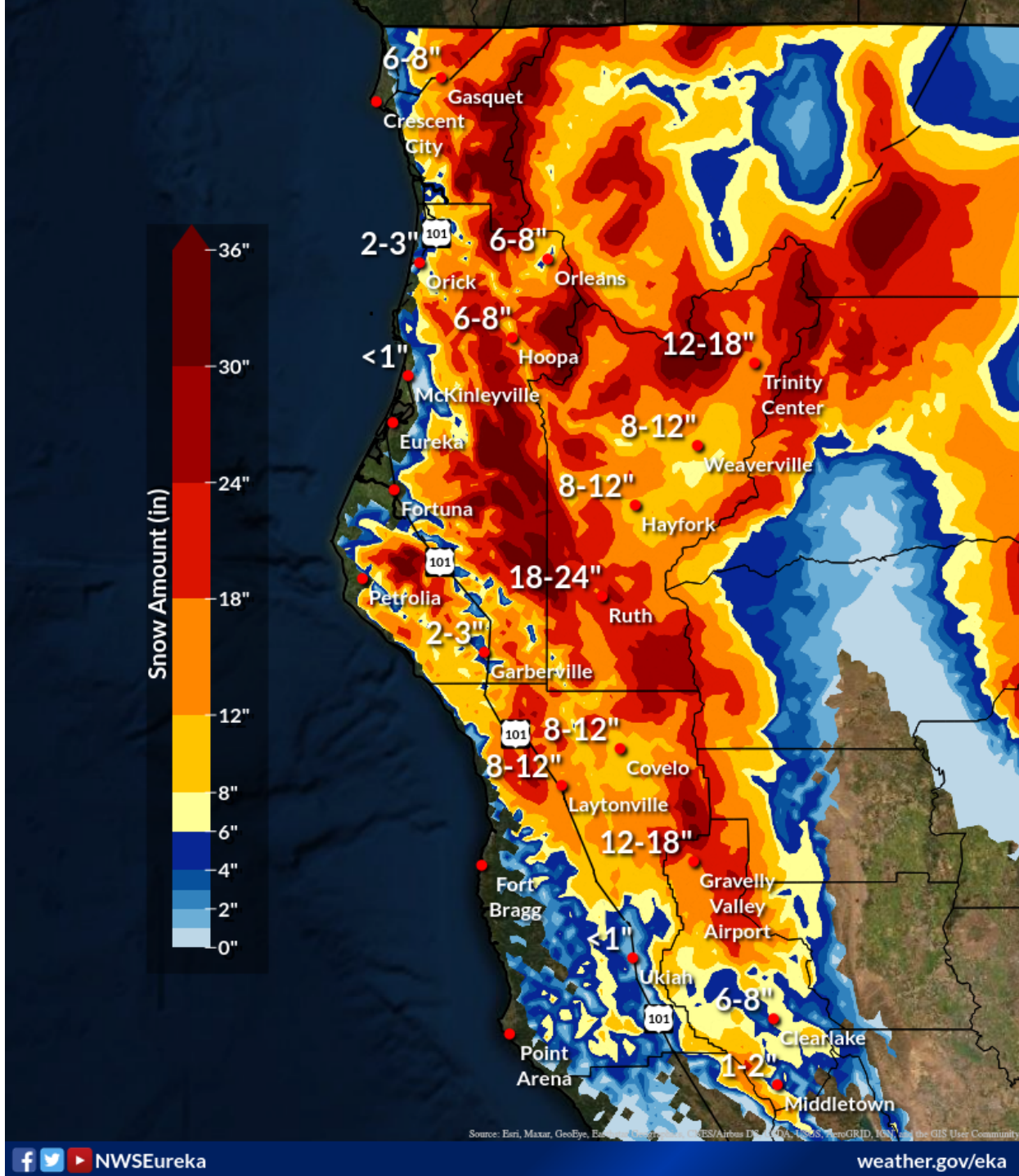
# Storm Total Snow

Weather Forecast Office  
Eureka, CA



Snow Totals through 10AM Friday

Issued Feb 21, 2023 6:10 AM PST



SnowTotals20212023[1].png

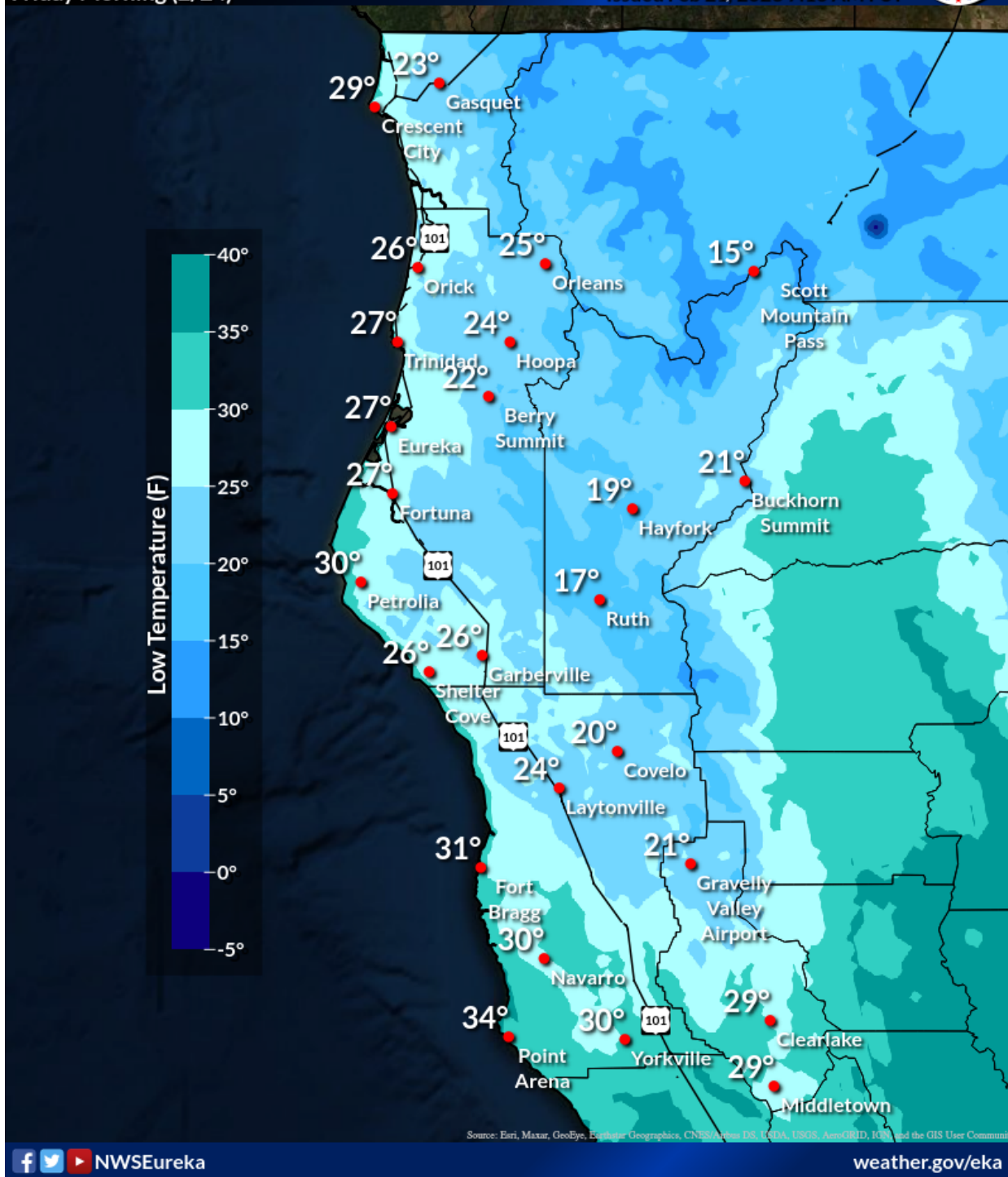
# Minimum Temperatures

Weather Forecast Office  
Eureka, CA



Friday Morning (2/24)

Issued Feb 21, 2023 7:16 AM PST



cold02212023.png

**Watch  
for Hail**



Courtesy of Del Norte Triplicate

**DRIVING ON A HAIL  
COVERED ROAD:**

- ▶ Ease off the gas pedal
- ▶ Do not slam on the brakes
- ▶ Avoid overcorrecting



**VISIT US ON THE WEB: [WEATHER.GOV](http://WEATHER.GOV) • [DOT.CA.GOV](http://DOT.CA.GOV) • [CHP.CA.GOV](http://CHP.CA.GOV)**  
For the most current road information on all California State highways, please call 1-800-427-7623 (1-800-GAS-ROAD)  
Small\_Hail\_2202023.jpg