

WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS UPDATE 1/23/23

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



Ukiah Valley, Russian River watershed. Photo by CJ Watt, 1/22/23

Lake Mendocino Flood Release

The January 14, 2023 US Army Corps of Engineers News Release announcing the high-flow release at Coyote Valley Dam is attached again. Check out the following for more information:

- [KTVU - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers release water from Lake Mendocino reservoir, many dams spilling over, 1/16/23](#)
- [Press Democrat - Flood releases made from Lake Mendocino for 1st time in 4 years, 1/19/23](#)



January 14, 2023, Coyote Valley Dam. Photo by Kenneth James, DWR



January 14, 2023, Lake Mendocino, South Boat ramp and Coyote Valley Dam. Photo by Kenneth James, DWR



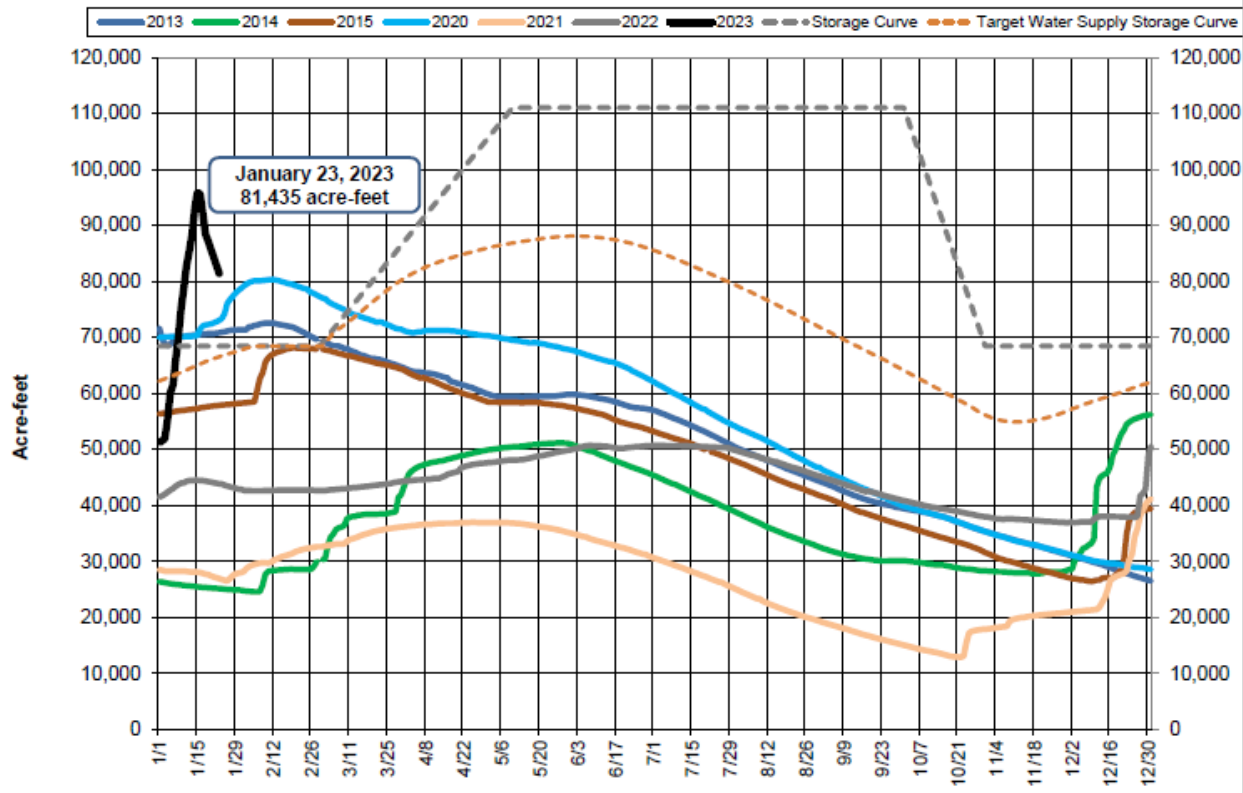
At Coyote Valley Dam, Lake Mendocino. Photo by CJ Watt, 1/22/23

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

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

Lake Mendocino	1/23
Current Storage (acre-feet)	81,435
Target Water Supply Storage Curve (acre-feet)	66,495
% of Target Water Supply Storage Curve	122.47%
7-day change (acre-feet)	-14,156
Lake Pillsbury	1/22
Current Storage (acre-feet)	58,083
Target Storage Curve (acre-feet)	30,390
7-day change (acre-feet)	-4,515
Lake Sonoma	1/23
Current Storage (acre-feet)	236,001
Target Storage Curve (acre-feet)	245,000
% of Water Supply Pool	96.33%
7-day change (acre-feet)	+7,759

Lake Mendocino Storage - Drought Years



The 2023 black line drop in the above chart is due to flood releases made on Monday last week.



Thanks to Jon Foreman for sharing!

Coffee & Conversation with Felicia Marcus.

If you were not able to join the live event, [a YouTube recording is available.](#)

Beavers in the Region

While not in the Russian River, the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District did catch video of a North American Beaver in the Willits Bypass area. Check out the [YouTube video here](#)



In the press:

- [CA Water eNews, Jan 11, 2023](#)
- [Maven's Notebook, January 15-20, 2023](#)

- [CA Governor's Office - 5 Ways California is Storing Water from Winter Storms, 1/19/23](#)
- [Space.com - NASA satellite view shows California's soaked start to 2023, 1/17/23](#)
- [LA Times - 'Dry' California got big rains. Was it really an epic weather forecasting fail?, 1/23/23](#)
- [NY Times - Despite Rain Storms, California Is Still in Drought, 1/18/23](#)
- [SF Chronicle - California's recent storms were historic. Here's why they could get much worse, 1/21/23](#)
- [Orange County Register - As the state's budget work gets underway, recent weather puts spotlight on water infrastructure, 1/21/23](#)
- [CDFA- Drought and Groundwater Recharge — a conversation between Secretary Ross and California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot, 1/19/23](#)
- [Stormwater Solutions - California pushing efforts to capture flood water for groundwater recharge, 1/18/23](#)
- [The Hill - Five takeaways on the record-setting California storms, 1/15/23](#)
- [SF Chronicle - Rain finally came to California. We blew our chance to use it, 1/17/23](#)
- [CBC - As California faces droughts and floods together, farmers look to new water technologies, 1/18/23](#)
- [Newsweek - What Will It Take To Get California Completely Out of Drought?, 1/10/23](#)
- [The Week - What climate change means for California, 1/12/23](#)
- [Science & Health - California's deadly floods won't break the megadrought, 1/6/23](#)

- [SJWater - State laws hamper flood flow storage but one San Joaquin Valley water district cut through the red tape. Can others follow? 1/14/23](#)
- [Guardian - Saved by a rainy day? Californians 'harvest' water during historic storms, 1/19/23](#)



CLIMATE CHANGE

- [New York Times \(via Head Topics\) - Climate change is forcing California to deal with two calamities at once — too much water and not enough, 1/21/23](#)
- [La Jolla Light - Local wetlands to get a look in Scripps Oceanography study of carbon storage in coastal ecosystems, 1/10/23](#)

➤ From Press Democrat Opinion Climate action 1/17/23:

EDITOR: Experts agree that our extreme weather is a direct result of changing climate. The good news is we don't have to just sit around and watch while the weather gets more extreme every year. We can tackle climate change now. Here's where you come in. Luckily, we live in a democracy, and we can work with our leaders to cut carbon in our atmosphere. In our communities we can promote high-efficiency, all-electric buildings. We can tell officials to streamline the permit process for renewable energy projects so they don't take years to complete. At the national level we can put a price on carbon pollution and give the proceeds back to families. And finally, we must protect our forests and agricultural lands so they can keep absorbing carbon.

Let's get to work. Call or write your local, state and national representative and tell them how you feel.

DAVID WARRENDER, SANTA ROSA

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

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 and Beach Hazards Conditions due to Sneaker Waves

KEY POINTS

- Gusty north to northeasterly winds today, strongest over the exposed coastal locations and ridgetops bordering Lake and northeast Mendocino counties.
- Breezy offshore winds Wednesday and Thursday over the exposed ridges in Lake County.
- Moderate sneaker waves risk today and Tuesday.
- **This will be the last partner email unless conditions change**

WEATHER RISK OUTLOOK

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

	Mon 1/23	Tue 1/24	Wed 1/25	Thu 1/26	Fri 1/27	Sat 1/28	Sun 1/29
Lake County Clearlake, Lakeport	Wind		Offshore Wind	Offshore Wind			
Del Norte County Crescent City, Gasquet	Wind Sneaker Waves	Sneaker Waves					
Mendocino County Ukiah, Fort Bragg	Wind Sneaker Waves	Sneaker Waves					
Trinity County Weaverville, Hayfork							
Humboldt County Eureka, Fortuna, Willow Creek	Wind Sneaker Waves	Sneaker Waves					

Risk Levels

Little to None

Minor

Moderate

Major

Extreme

DETAILS

Lake County



Wind

Impacts:

Gusty winds may cause impacts to unsecured items, including temporary structures.

Timing:

Today

- Strongest over the more exposed coastal locations as well as some ridgetops bordering Lake and northeast Mendocino counties.

Sneaker Waves

Impacts:

Large, unexpected waves can sweep people into the ocean.

Timing:

This evening and Tuesday

Confidence:

Moderate

- A long period westerly swell will begin filling in this evening, generating conditions favorable for sneaker waves. Mendocino County will see the greater risk.

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

High Risk of Sneaker Waves

Follow Us:
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NWS Eureka

This afternoon through Tuesday evening

Sneaker Waves are waves that can surprise beachgoers, running up on a beach significantly farther than other waves or over outcroppings

Beachgoers: encountering sneaker waves can be knocked down and dragged into the ocean.

Mariners: Damage may occur to gear set in shallow water; large unexpected breaking waves on shoals. Set behavior with waves, lulls up to 30 minutes.

- ✓ Keep a respectful distance from the ocean.
- ✓ Avoid rocks, jetties, outcroppings, etc.
- ✓ Avoid steeply sloped beaches.
- ✓ NEVER turn your back on the ocean.

WARNING
Deadly Sneaker Waves and Hazardous Surf

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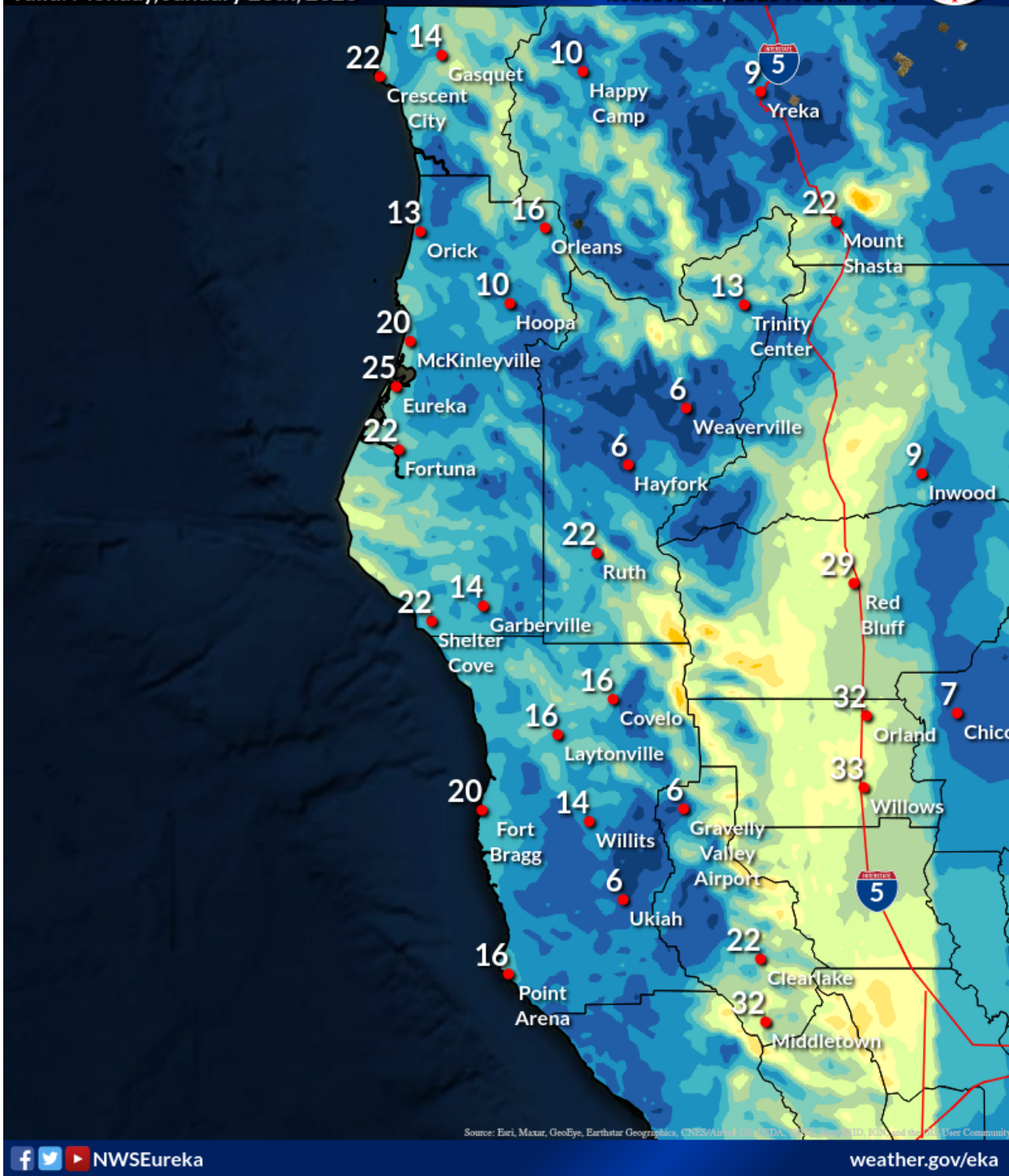
Gusty Northerly Winds

Weather Forecast Office
Eureka, CA



Valid: Monday, January 23rd, 2023

Issued Jan 23, 2023 7:31 AM PST



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, AeroGRID, IGN, Esri, User Community

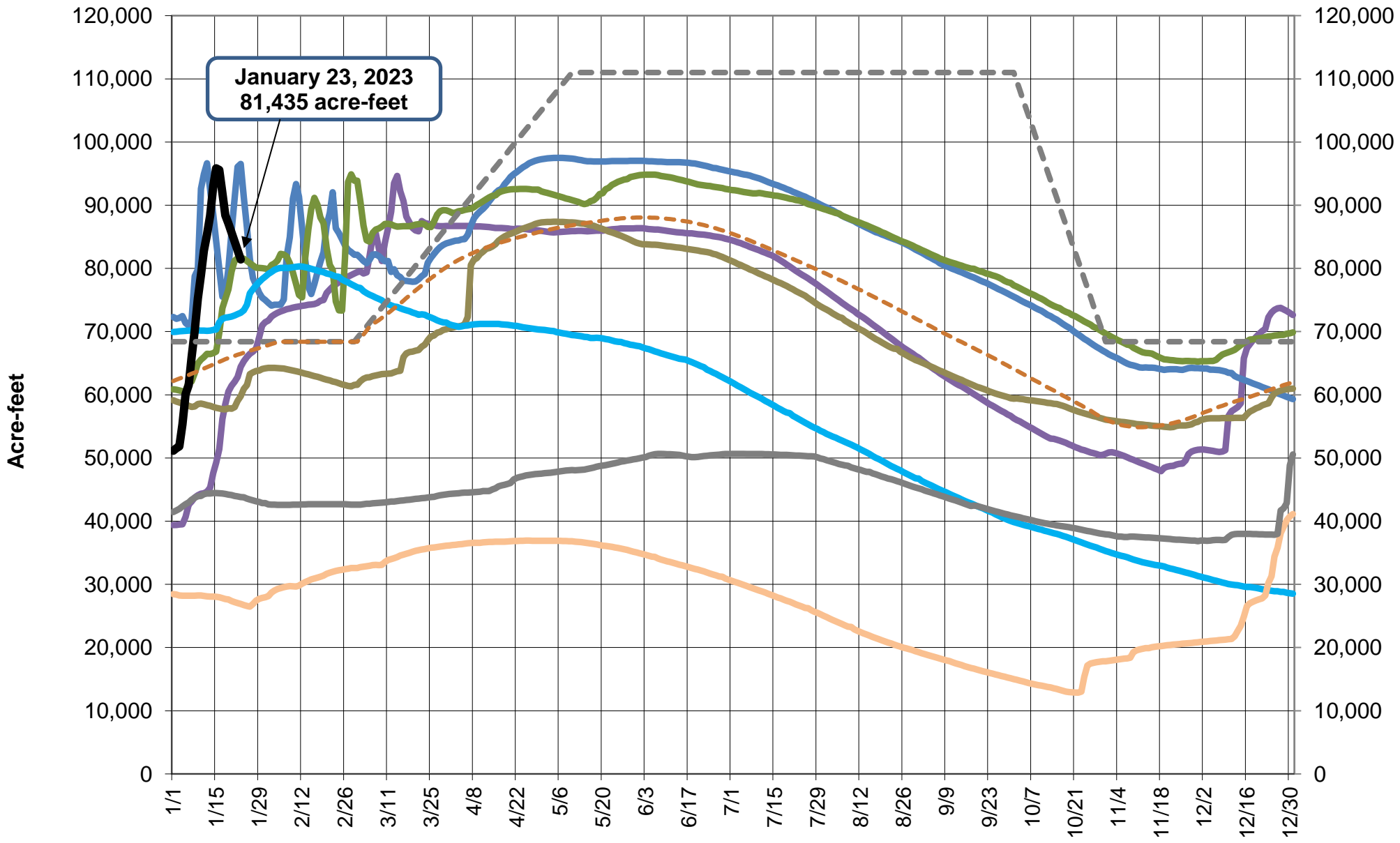
f t y NWSEureka

weather.gov/eka

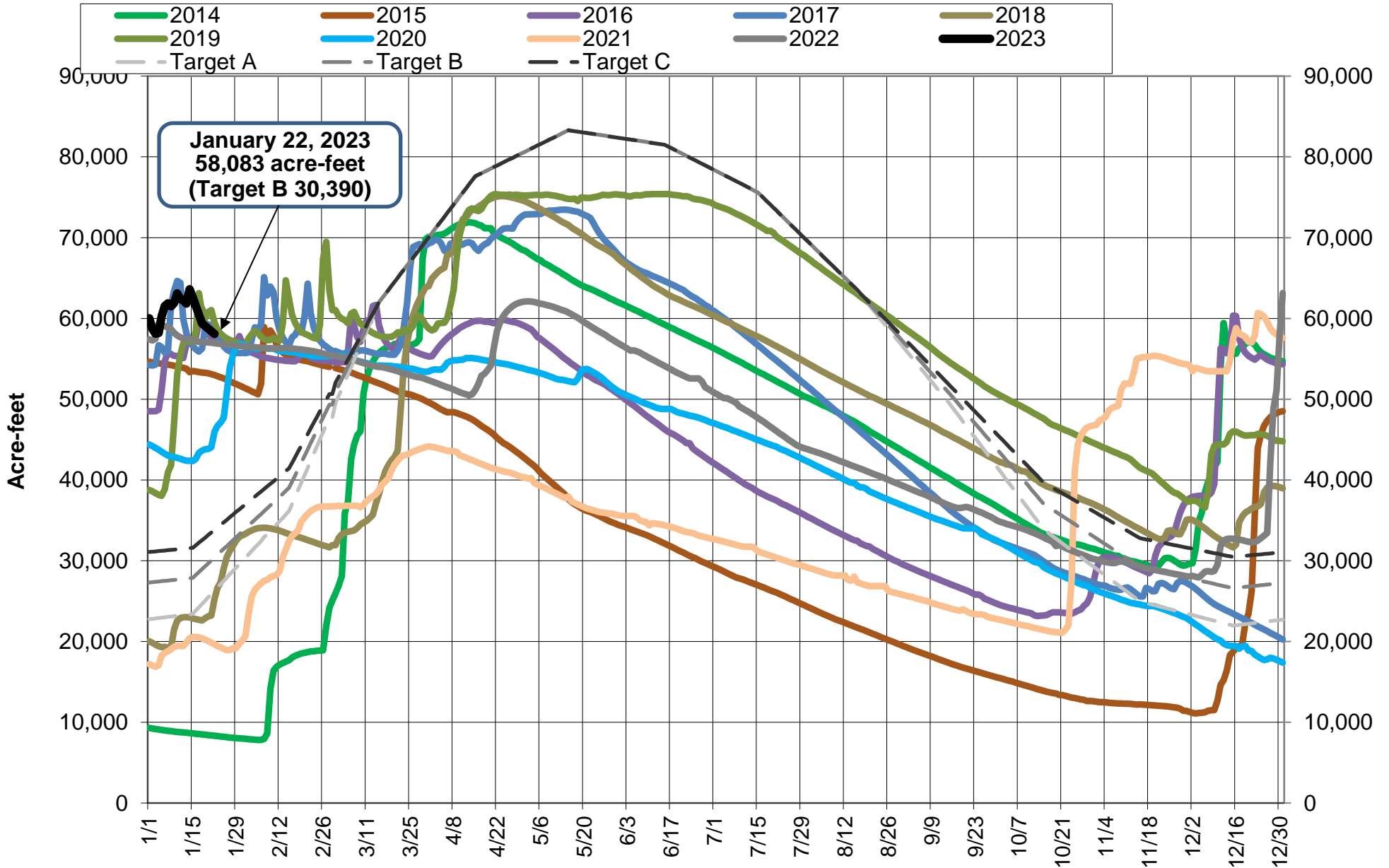
GustyWindMonday.png

Lake Mendocino Storage

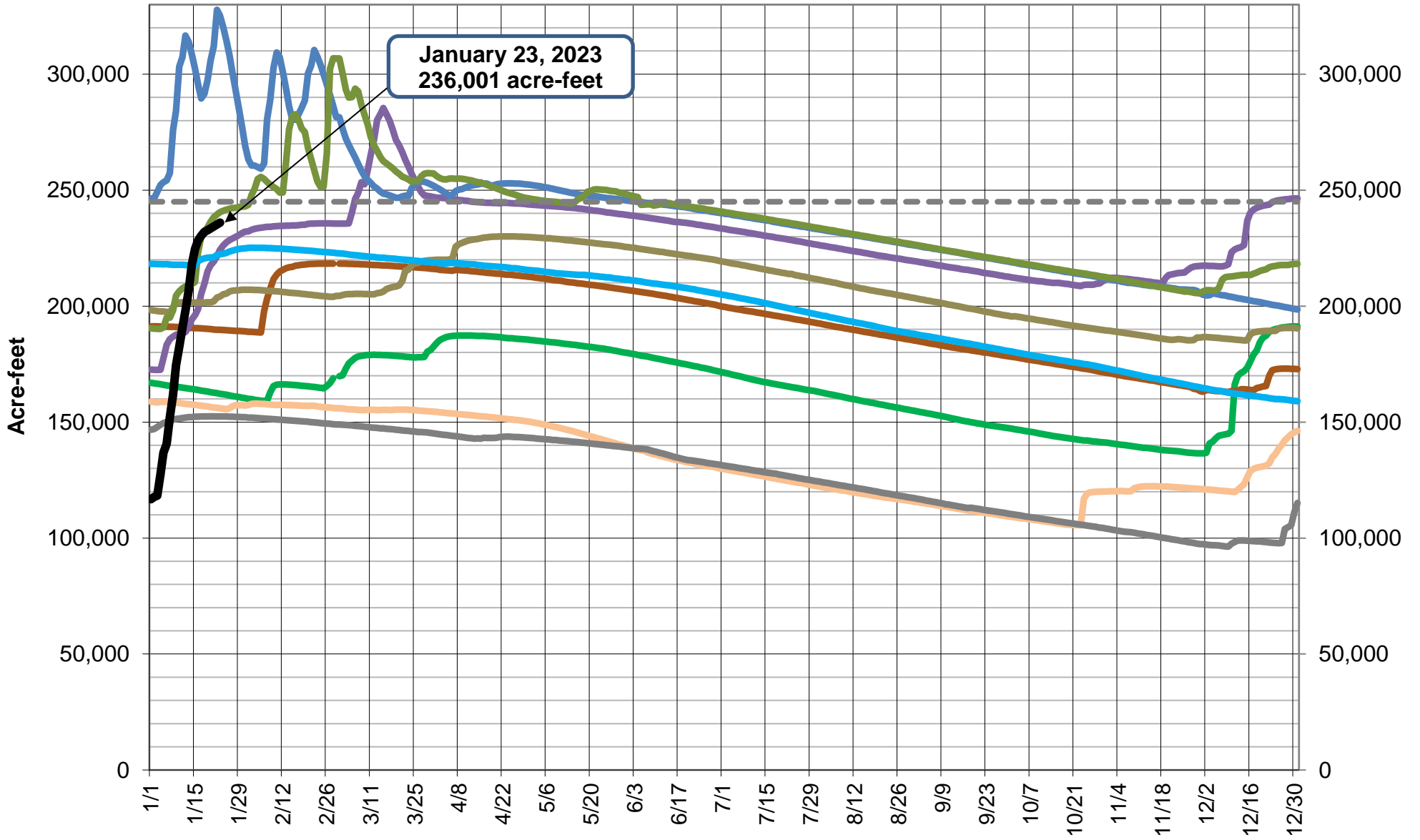
— 2016 — 2017 — 2018 — 2019 — 2020 — 2021 — 2022 — 2023 — - - - Storage Curve - - - Target Water Supply Storage Curve



Lake Pillsbury Storage and Target Storage Scenarios



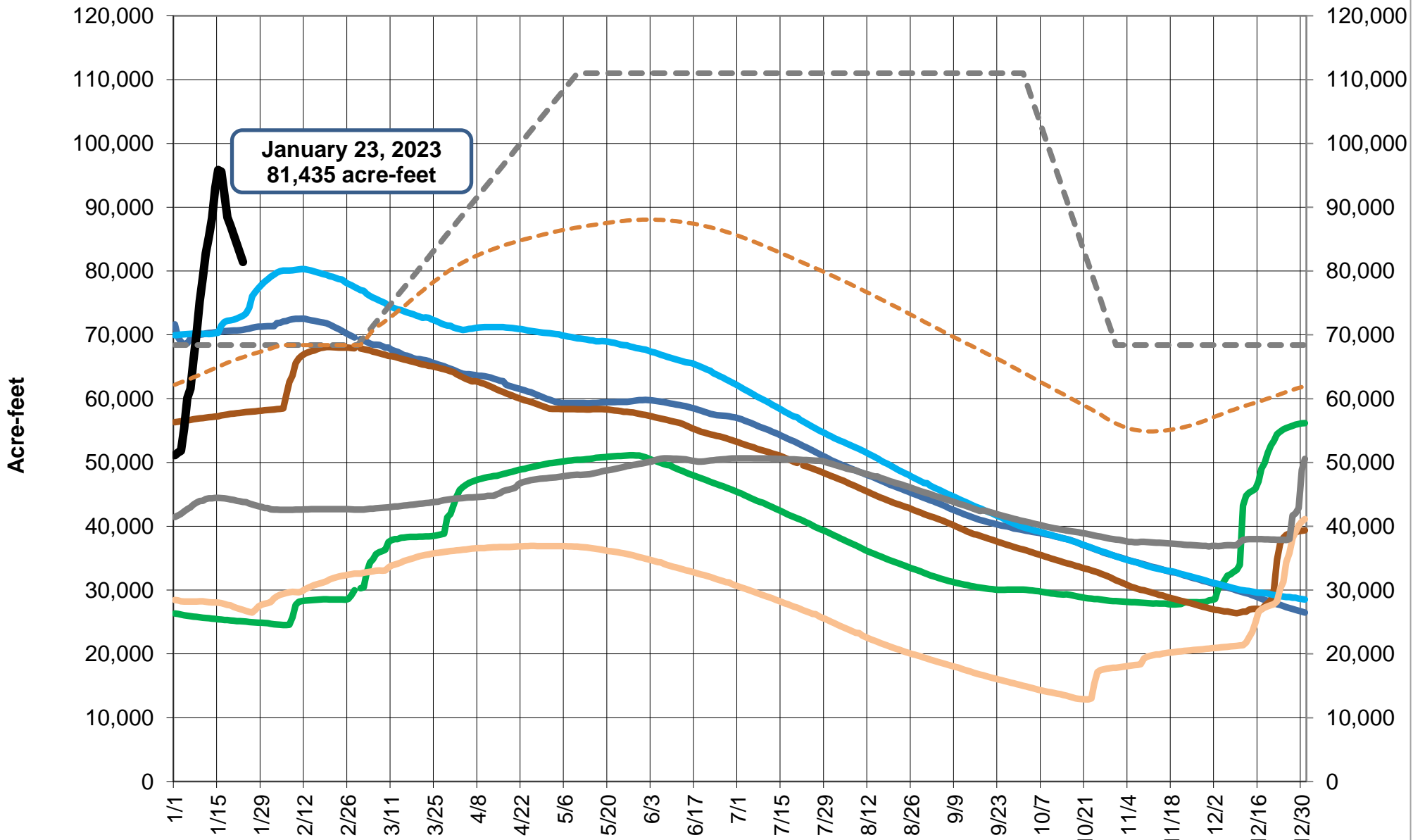
Lake Sonoma Storage



January 23, 2023
236,001 acre-feet

Lake Mendocino Storage - Drought Years

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





NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

For Immediate Release:
Jan. 14, 2023

Contact:
Brandon Beach, 415-314-5522
Brandon.A.Beach@usace.army.mil

USACE announces high-flow release at Coyote Valley Dam

SAN FRANCISCO – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District (USACE) will begin a series of **high-flow releases** from Coyote Valley Dam at Lake Mendocino **starting mid-day on Monday, Jan. 16**, in response to reservoir levels and improving downstream conditions on the Russian River. No increased releases will occur at Warm Springs Dam at Lake Sonoma during this time.

Recent storms have significantly increased reservoir levels well into the **flood control pool** at Lake Mendocino for the first time since 2020. These storms have also sustained levels at, or close to, flood stage in communities along the Russian River. The river is now forecast to appreciably recede below flood stage. The high-flow release on Monday is intended to restore conditions capable of accommodating additional rainfall this season. This is the first time in nearly four years that a high-flow release is required to manage rising lake levels. Decisions to withhold high-flow releases during recent rains, and the current plan to manage reservoir level through Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) have been regularly coordinated with partners in Sonoma and Mendocino County to ensure the safety of downstream communities.

	<u>Lake Mendocino</u>	<u>Lake Sonoma</u>
	Coyote Valley Dam	Warm Springs Dam
* Current level (in feet):	749.8	437.0
* Water stored (acre-foot):	89,189	209,922
* Storage capacity (acre-foot):	116,500	381,000

Significant high-flow releases of at least **3,000 cfs** will be made at Coyote Valley Dam. The release is being timed to allow downstream river levels to recede while still allowing for as much time as possible to evacuate water from the dam prior to the next storm. Releases are expected to increase by approximately **1,000 cfs per hour** and will be timed to coincide with decreasing river stage at downstream locations. Lake levels, river levels, as well as weather forecasts are constantly monitored by USACE. These conditions are subject to change based on updated forecasts.

For more information on timing, magnitude and duration of potential flood releases, please visit the California Data Exchange Center website at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/queryRes.html>.

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