

WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS UPDATE 1/17/23

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

Lake Mendocino Flood Release

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) performed a high-flow release at Coyote Valley Dam on Monday, January 16, 2023. See **attached** news release.



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

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

Lake Mendocino	1/16
Current Storage (acre-feet)	96,372
Target Water Supply Storage Curve (acre-feet)	65,220
% of Target Water Supply Storage Curve	147.77%
7-day change (acre-feet)	+21,135
Lake Pillsbury	1/15
Current Storage (acre-feet)	62,598
Target Storage Curve (acre-feet)	27,876
7-day change (acre-feet)	+1,086
Lake Sonoma	1/16
Current Storage (acre-feet)	226,136
Target Storage Curve (acre-feet)	245,000
% of Water Supply Pool	92.30%
7-day change (acre-feet)	+51,588

State Water Board Update on Russian River Curtailments:

Due to continued precipitation throughout the region, the Division of Water Rights has posted an updated Curtailment Status List available on the [Russian River Drought Response webpage](#) that takes effect on January 14, 2023.

Until further notice, there are no water right curtailments and no riparian reductions in place. Curtailments are lifted for all appropriative water rights in the watershed. Riparian claimants diverting under a Statement of Diversion and Use are not subject to correlative reductions.

Division staff continues to actively monitor forecasted precipitation within the watershed. The Division will post a revised Curtailment Status List should supply conditions change however staff do not anticipate further updates until late February at the earliest.

If you received this notice in a forwarded message or are not otherwise subscribed to the Russian River Drought email list and would like to receive future emails related to this and similar efforts, please subscribe to the State Water Board's "Russian River Drought" email subscription list under "Water Rights" at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.html

If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Water Rights at RussianRiverDrought@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 341-5318



Side by side comparison of Lake Mendocino North Boat Ramp.

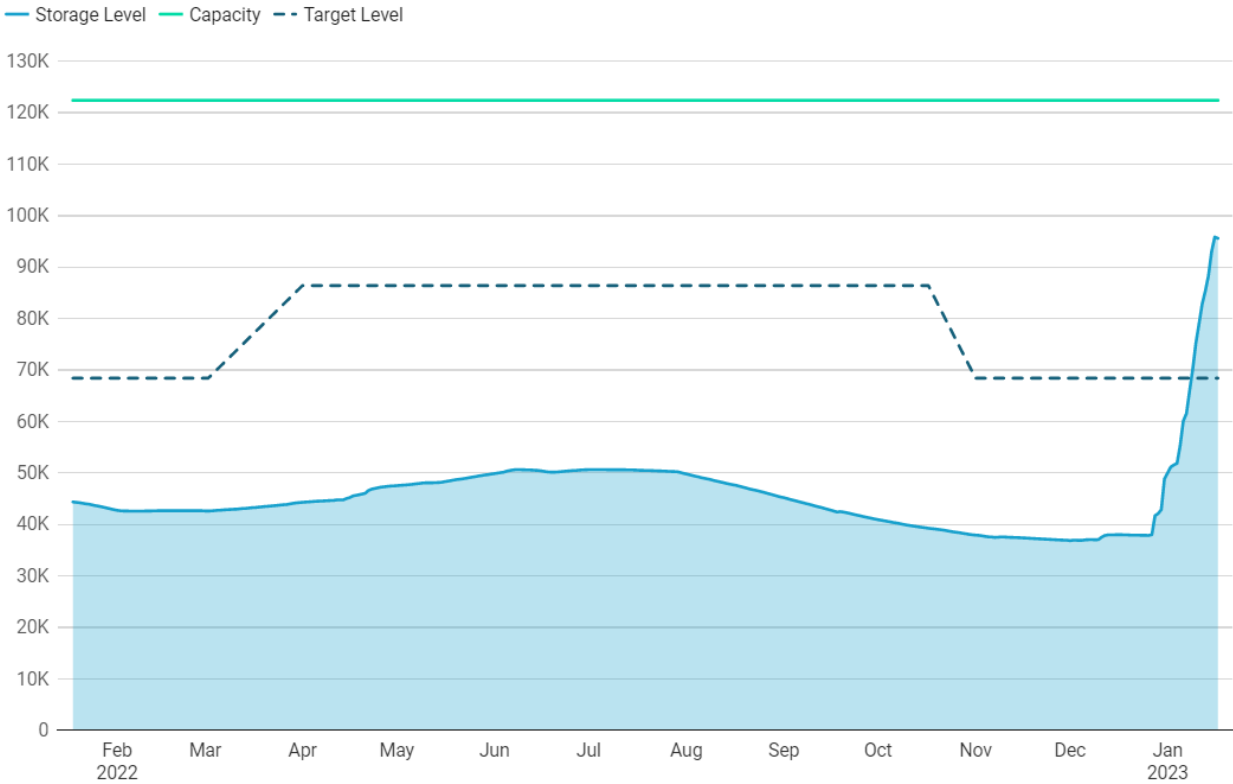
Left pic 1/10/23 by Karen Rifkin

Right pic 1/26/21 by Bobby Cochran Photography

➤ [Press Democrat - Lake Mendocino: Check what the storm has done to water levels](#)

Graph shows water levels for the past year, updated daily. Source: <https://cdec.water.ca.gov>

Daily Lake Mendocino Reservoir Levels



Volume is shown in acre-feet.

Grant Funding Received

The City of Ukiah was awarded \$53.7 million to expand its water recycling project, allowing the project to increase capacity from 1,00 af to 1,500 af a year. See **attached** press release.

In the press:

- [CA Water eNews, Jan 11, 2023](#)
- [Maven's Notebook, January 13, 2023](#)

- [New York Times - California Could Capture Its Destructive Floodwaters to Fight Drought, 1/7/23](#)

This is an article by Erica Gies, author of “Water Always Wins: Thriving in an Age of Drought and Deluge” WHICH IS A HIGHLY RECOMMENDED READ!!!!

- [CA Water Education Foundation - Impacts of storms on CA water storage, 1/11/23 \(various articles\)](#)
- [CA Water Education Foundation, 1/17/23 - Catching Stormwater in CA \(various articles\)](#)
- [Newsweek - What Will It Take To Get California Completely Out of Drought?, 1/10/22](#)
- [CapRadio - What this series of atmospheric rivers says about California’s drought and water future, 1/6/23](#)
- [SF Chronicle - Recent rains have improved California’s drought. Where do we stand now?, 1/6/23](#)
- [New York Times - How Did a La Niña Winter Become So Rainy?, 1/9/23](#)
- [PPIC - Adapting to a Water-Scarce California, 1/9/23](#)
- [Press Democrat - Rain, rain and more rain. How do Sonoma County vineyards cope? 1/12/23](#)

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





Rain and Snow Showers Wednesday, Cold End of the Week

KEY POINTS

- **Snow showers above 3000 feet Wednesday**
- **High elevation gusts near 40 mph Wednesday**
- **Isolated thunderstorms possible on the coast Wednesday**
- **Freezing temperatures late in the week**
- **King tide into the weekend**

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS BRIEFING

- Minor changes to outlook matrix
- Updated attached graphics and details
- Added wind information

WEATHER RISK OUTLOOK

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

	Tue 1/17	Wed 1/18	Thu 1/19	Fri 1/20	Sat 1/21	Sun 1/22	Mon 1/23
Lake County Clearlake, Lakeport		Gusty Wind Light Rain	Cold	Cold			
Del Norte County Crescent City, Gasquet		Gusty Wind Rain	Cold King Tide	Cold King Tide	King Tide	King Tide	King Tide
Mendocino County Ukiah, Fort Bragg		Gusty Wind Light Rain	Cold King Tide	Cold King Tide	King Tide	King Tide	King Tide
Trinity County Weaverville, Hayfork		Gusty Wind Rain Mountain Snow	Cold	Cold			
Humboldt County Eureka, Fortuna, Willow Creek		Gusty Wind Rain Mountain Snow	Cold King Tide	Cold King Tide	King Tide	King Tide	King Tide

Risk Levels

Little to None

Minor

Moderate

Major

Extreme

DETAILS

Trinity County, Humboldt County



Mountain Snow

Impacts:

- High mountain passes may be difficult to travel.
- Hazardous driving conditions.

Timing:

Wednesday

Confidence:

Moderate

- Highly variable snow levels generally between 3000 and 4000 feet.
- Lower snow levels possible within strong showers
- Light snowfall of 2 to 6 inches along highways 36 and 3.

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



Wind

Impacts:

- Increased risk of debris on roadways.
- Tree damage possible.

Timing:

Wednesday

Confidence:

Moderate

- Cold front is expected to cross the area from northwest to southeast during the day.
- Southeast winds along the front gusting to 40 mph.
- Strongest winds restricted to coastal headlands and high ridges.

Mendocino County, Humboldt County, Del Norte County



Lightning

Impacts:

- Reduced visibility and hazardous driving conditions.
- Gusty and erratic winds.

Timing:

Late Wednesday

Confidence:

Low

- Brief periods of moderate rainfall.
- Strongest storms could produce small hail and gusty winds.
- Best chances along the Humboldt and Del Norte coasts.

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



Cold

Impacts:

- Freezing pipes and hoses.
- Increased risk of ice on roadways and vehicles.
- Increased to risk to people, pets, and plants without adequate shelter.

Timing:

Early Thursday and Friday

Confidence:

Moderate

- Cold morning low temperatures as low as the upper teens in the interior.
- Cold morning low temperatures as low as 32 along the coast.

Humboldt County



Coastal Flooding

Impacts:

- Minor flooding in low lying areas along the coast

Timing:

Late morning high tide each day into the weekend

Confidence:

Moderate

- Astronomical tide gradually increasing this week.
- Tide peaks Saturday around 8.7 feet at the North Spit.
- Areas most likely to be impacted are the Arcata Bottoms and King Salmon.

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

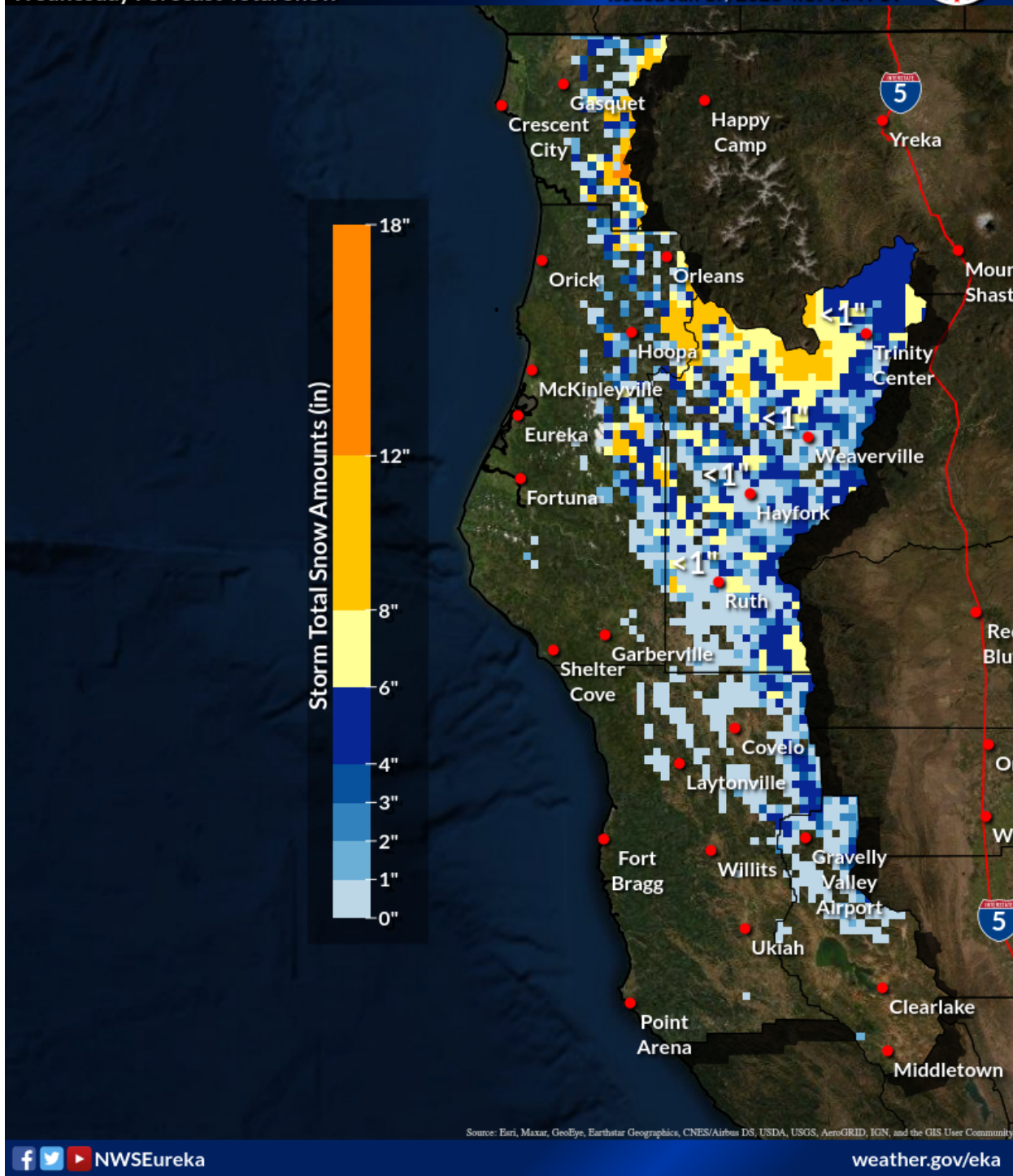
Wednesday Snow Showers

Weather Forecast Office
Eureka, CA



Wednesday Forecast Total Snow

Issued Jan 17, 2023 4:19 AM PST



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

NWSEureka

weather.gov/eka

01_17_CWA_SNW.png

Wednesday Snow Showers

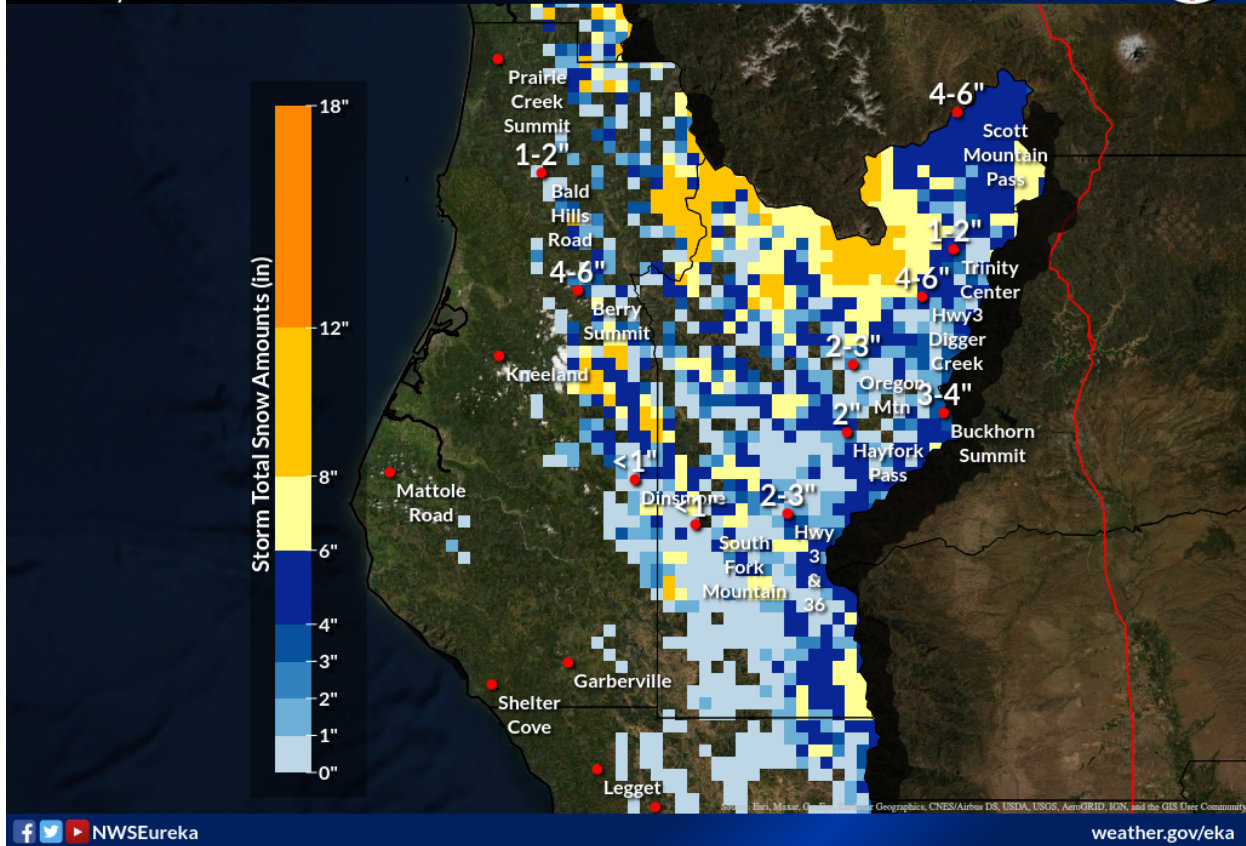
Weather Forecast Office

Eureka, CA



Wednesday Forecast Total Snow

Issued Jan 17, 2023 4:29 AM PST



NWSEureka

weather.gov/eka

01_17_TC_SNW.png

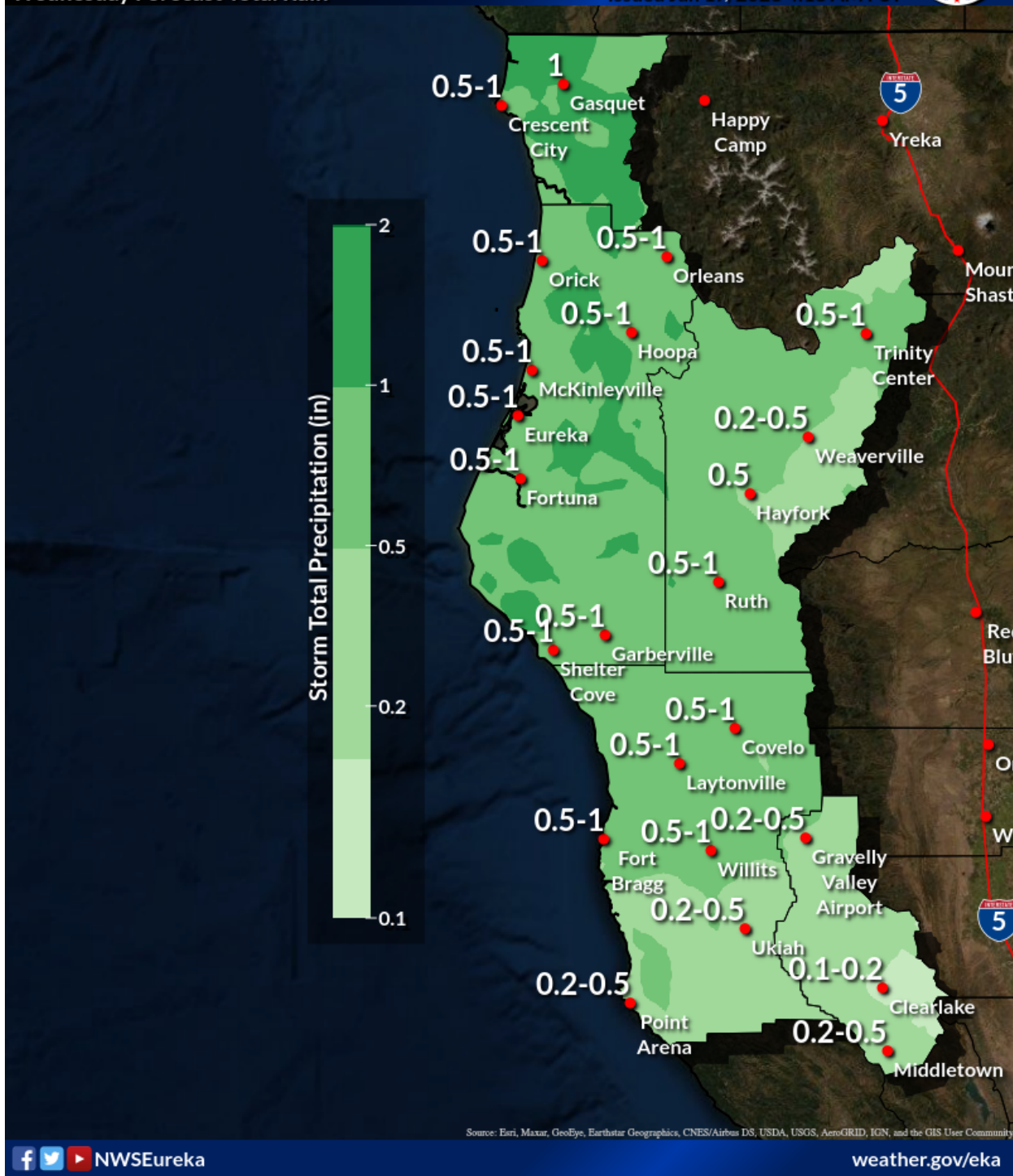
Wednesday Rain Showers

Weather Forecast Office
Eureka, CA



Wednesday Forecast Total Rain

Issued Jan 17, 2023 4:18 AM PST



01_17_CWA_QPF.png

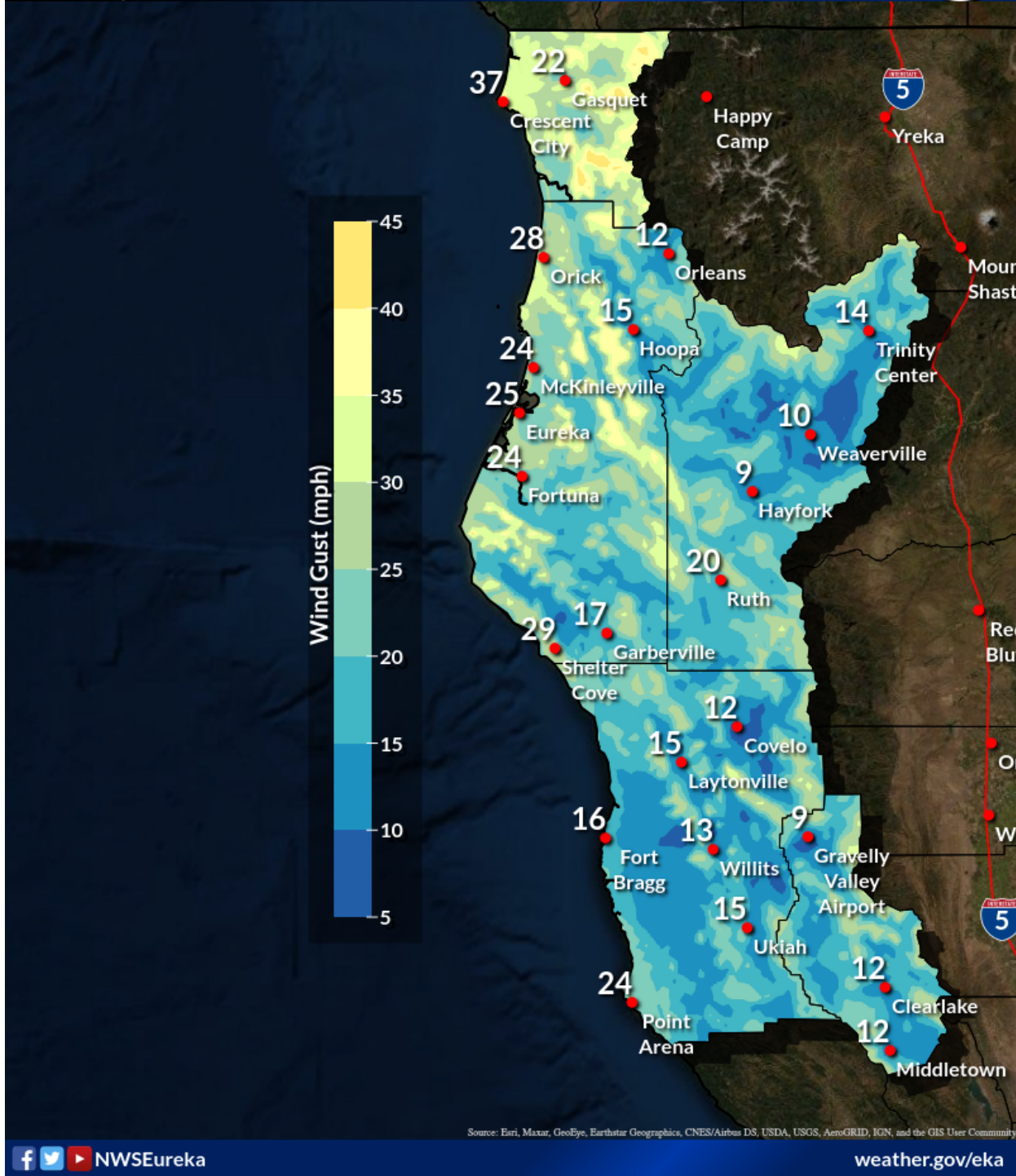
Wednesday Gusty Ridges

Weather Forecast Office
Eureka, CA



Wednesday Peak Gusts

Issued Jan 17, 2023 4:31 AM PST



01_17_CWA_PWG.png

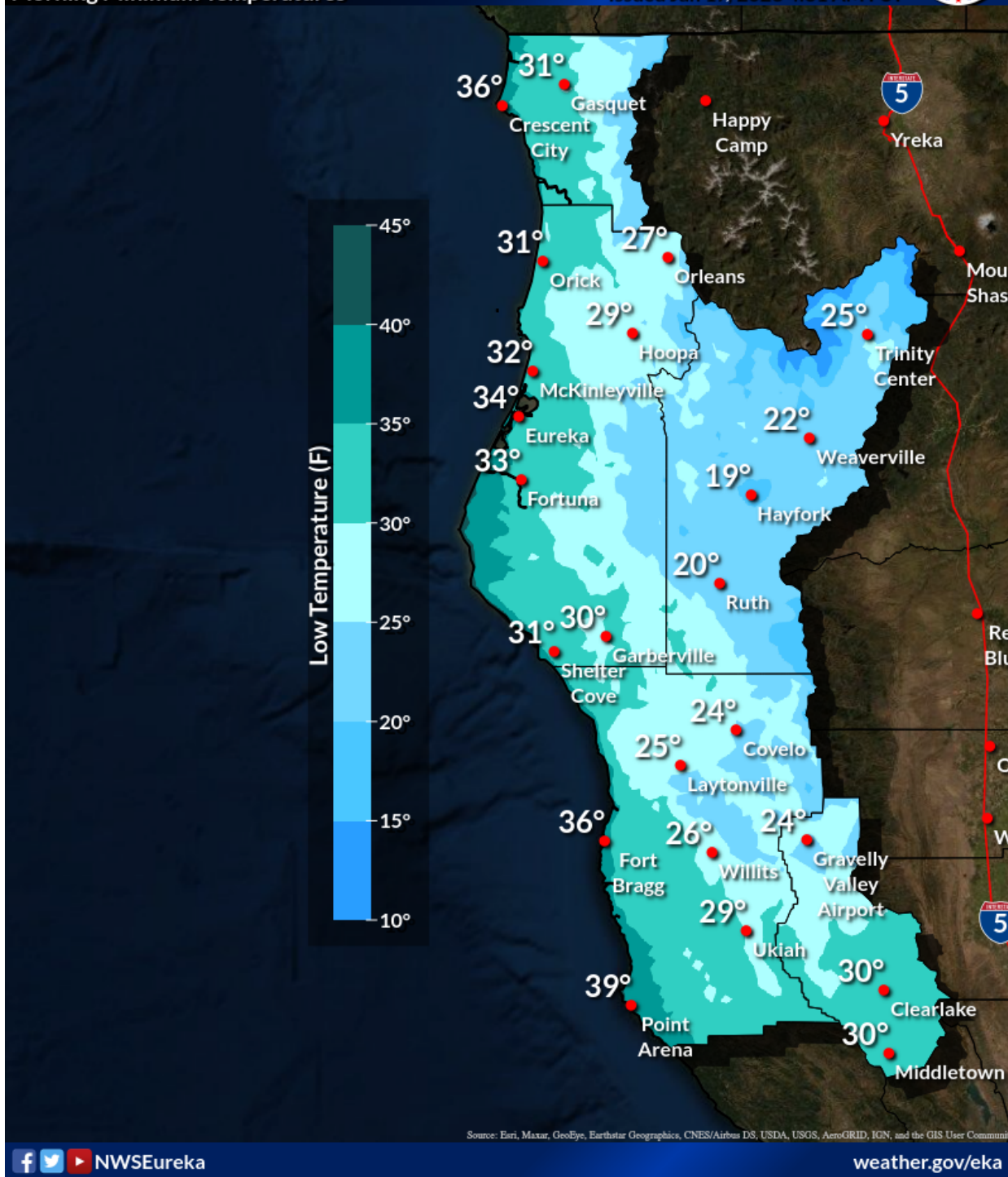
Wednesday and Thursday Cold

Weather Forecast Office
Eureka, CA



Morning Minimum Temperatures

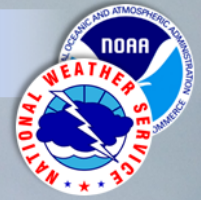
Issued Jan 17, 2023 4:31 AM PST



01_17_CWA_MLT.png

High Tides Late This Week

Humboldt Bay



Higher than normal tides Jan. 19th - Jan. 23rd

This will be a result of the *perigean spring tide*. This is when the moon is either new or full and closest to the earth.

IMPACTS

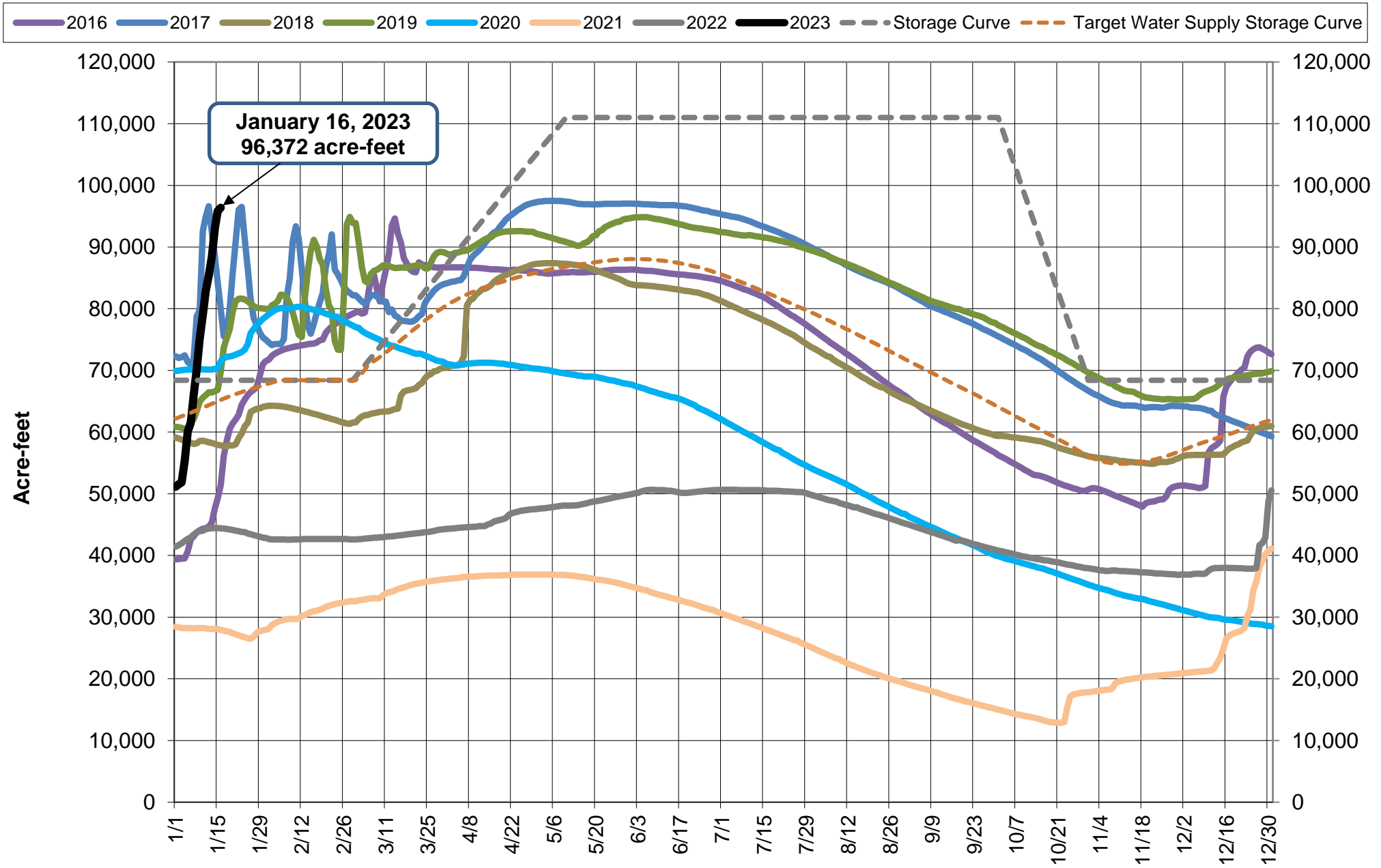
- ✓ Southerly winds will increase water levels.
- ✓ Coastal flooding possible.
- ✓ High surf will increase impacts on the open coast.

North Spit Tide Gauge Prediction	High Tide (feet)	Time
Wednesday 1/18/2023	7.85	7:49 AM
Thursday 1/19/2023	8.23	8:44 AM
Friday 1/20/2023	8.54	9:39 AM
Saturday 1/21/2023	8.71	10:33 AM
Sunday 1/22/2023	8.66	11:26 AM
Monday 1/23/2023	8.35	12:18 PM

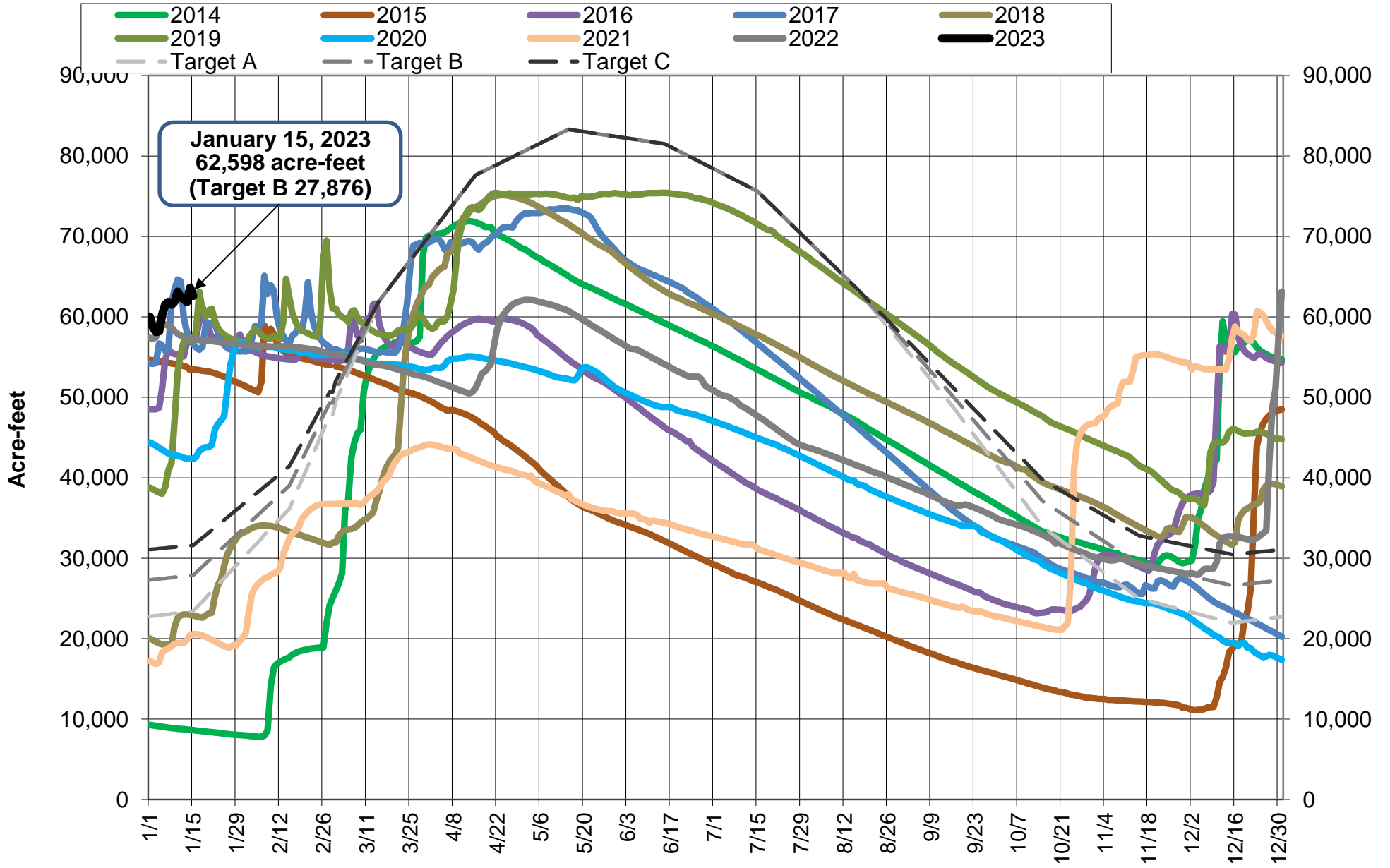
Highest Astronomical tide is 8.80 Feet
Flooding may start at this level.

High Tides

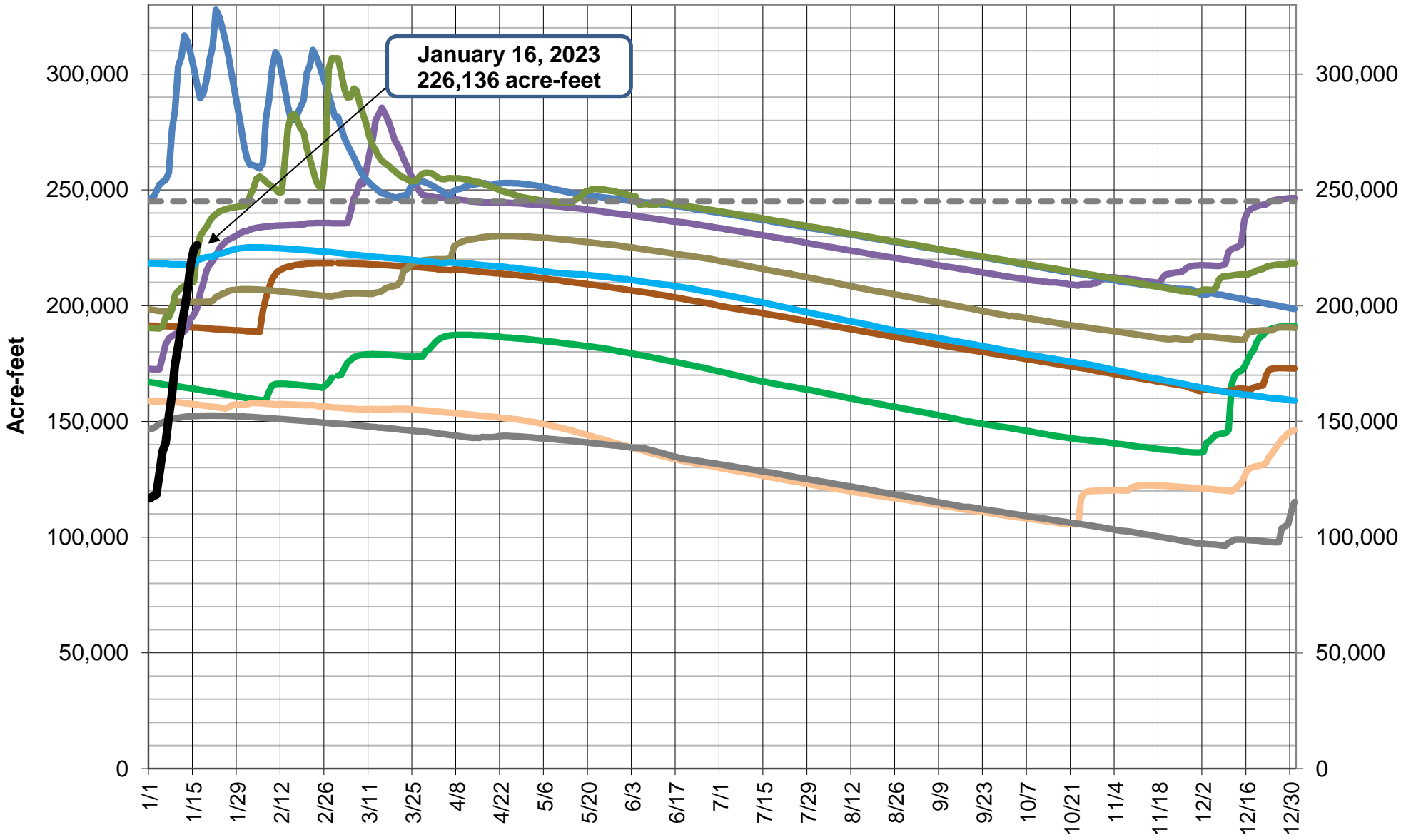
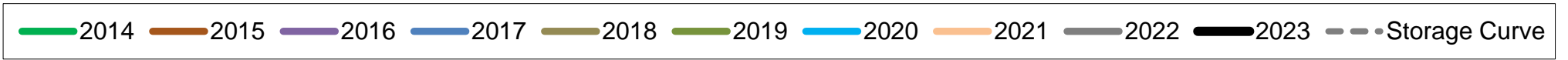
Lake Mendocino Storage



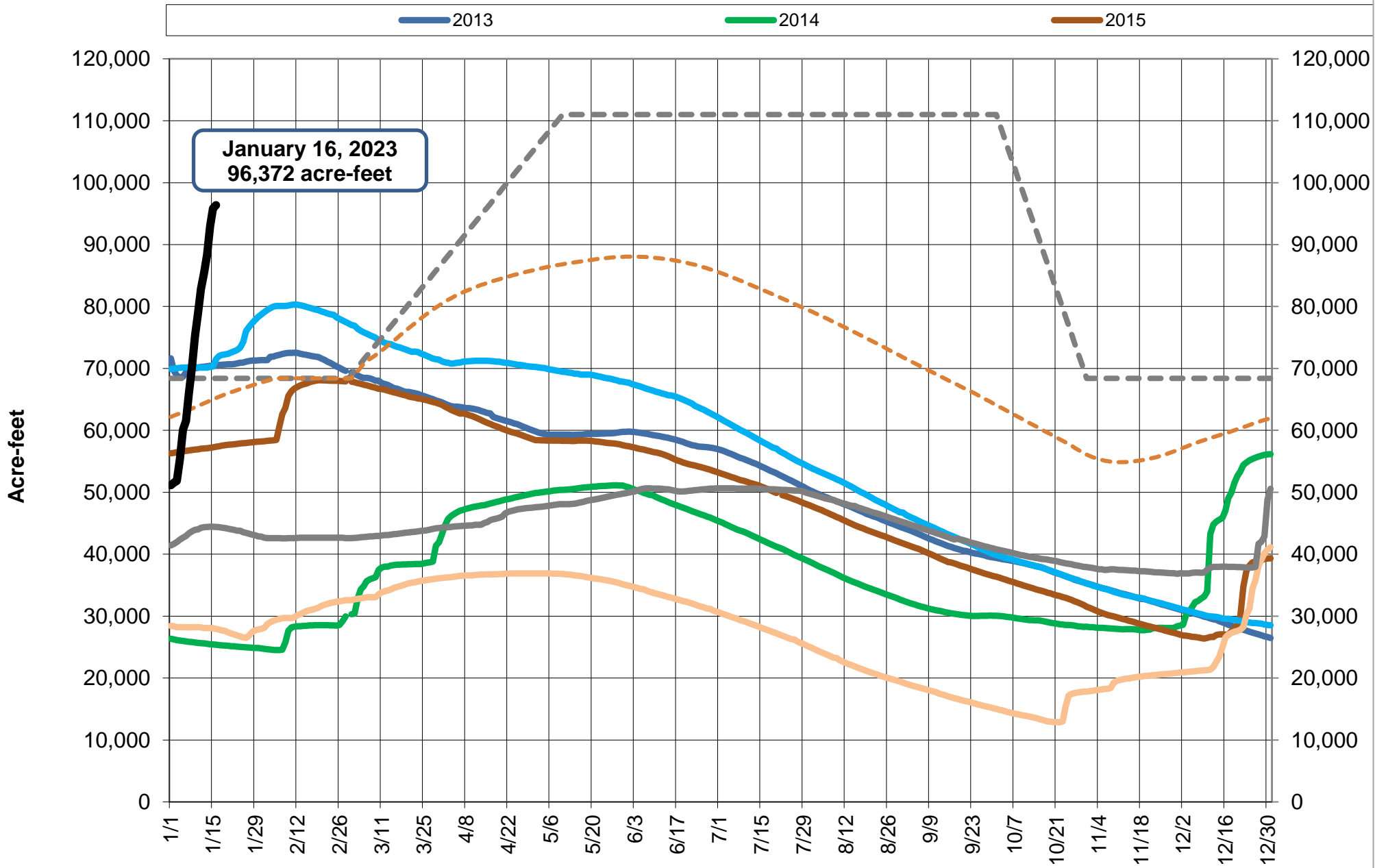
Lake Pillsbury Storage and Target Storage Scenarios



Lake Sonoma Storage



Lake Mendocino Storage - Drought Years



January 16, 2023
96,372 acre-feet



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Shannon Riley, Deputy City Manager
City of Ukiah
300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482
Email: sriley@cityofukiah.com

CITY OF UKIAH RECEIVES MAJOR STATE GRANT FOR EXPANSION OF ITS WATER RECYCLING PROJECT

Ukiah, CA. January 13, 2023. – The California State Water Resources Control Board has awarded the City of Ukiah \$53.7 million for expansion of its Water Recycling Project. The grant will allow the City to increase capacity of the recycled water project from 1,000 acre-feet per year to 1,500 acre-feet per year. The City utilizes recycled water to support parks, sports fields, and schools, as well as for agricultural and industrial uses. The increasing reliance on recycled water means reduced demand on the Russian River and Lake Mendocino and groundwater resources.

In 2019 the City built Phases 1-3 of the recycled water system. This included approximately 8 miles of recycled water pipeline, a 66-million-gallon reservoir, a contact basin, and pumping facility. This was possible due to \$34 million in funding from the State Water Resources Control Board, including \$9 million in grants and a low interest loan.

Since then, the City moved forward with design and planning for Phase 4 expansion so that the project would be ready for construction when additional grant funding became available. Phase 4 is more costly as it includes street work to extend the water infrastructure through the city and improvements to the wastewater treatment plant to ensure there is enough wastewater ready to be recycled for use.

Last year the City applied for additional grant funds made available through the state budget, and on January 10, 2023 Ukiah executed a grant agreement with the State for \$53,770,000. This grant funding makes Phase 4 possible, without requiring the City to incur additional debt.

In total, the City uses about 3,000 acre-feet per year of water. When Phase 4 is complete, the recycled water project will be providing about 1,500 acre-feet per year. That represents about a 50 percent conservation offset, and dramatically reduces the need for potable water.

“We are committed to using our water resources responsibly and strategically,” said Sean White, Director of Water and Sewer for the City of Ukiah. “Our recycled water project creates a more diversified and drought-resilient water supply. That’s not only good for the parks, and schools, and

businesses that directly utilize the recycled water, but it's also good for the rest of the region as Ukiah reduces its demand for potable water."

In recent drought years, the region has experienced water curtailments and reduced supplies available from Lake Mendocino. For many of the farmers connected to the City of Ukiah's Recycled Water Project, recycled water was their only source of reliable water in 2021. Additionally, during the drought Ukiah began delivering water supplies by truck to help several cities on the coast meet their minimum human health and safety needs. That was possible because Ukiah was able to carefully meet its own needs through recycled water, groundwater, and conservation measures, and was therefore able to help neighboring areas that were in crisis.

Construction is expected to begin in Fall 2023, and the Phase 4 expansion project is expected to be operational by Fall 2024. It will expand recycled water delivery to Vinewood Park, Frank Zeek School, Pomolita School, soccer fields, Ukiah High School, the Ukiah Cemetery, Anton Stadium, Giorno Park, Todd Grove Park, and the Ukiah Valley Golf Course, in addition to the currently served areas of Ukiah Softball Complex, Oak Manor Elementary School, Riverside Park, the Ukiah Transfer Station & Recycling Center, and 700 acres of agriculture.



Shannon Riley, Deputy City Manager

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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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