

WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS UPDATE 3/27/23

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



Mendocino County, March 2023 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

3/26

Current Storage (acre-feet)	92,514
FIRO Storage Curve (acre-feet)	94,280
% of FIRO Storage Curve	98.13%
7-day change (acre-feet)	+1,339

Lake Pillsbury

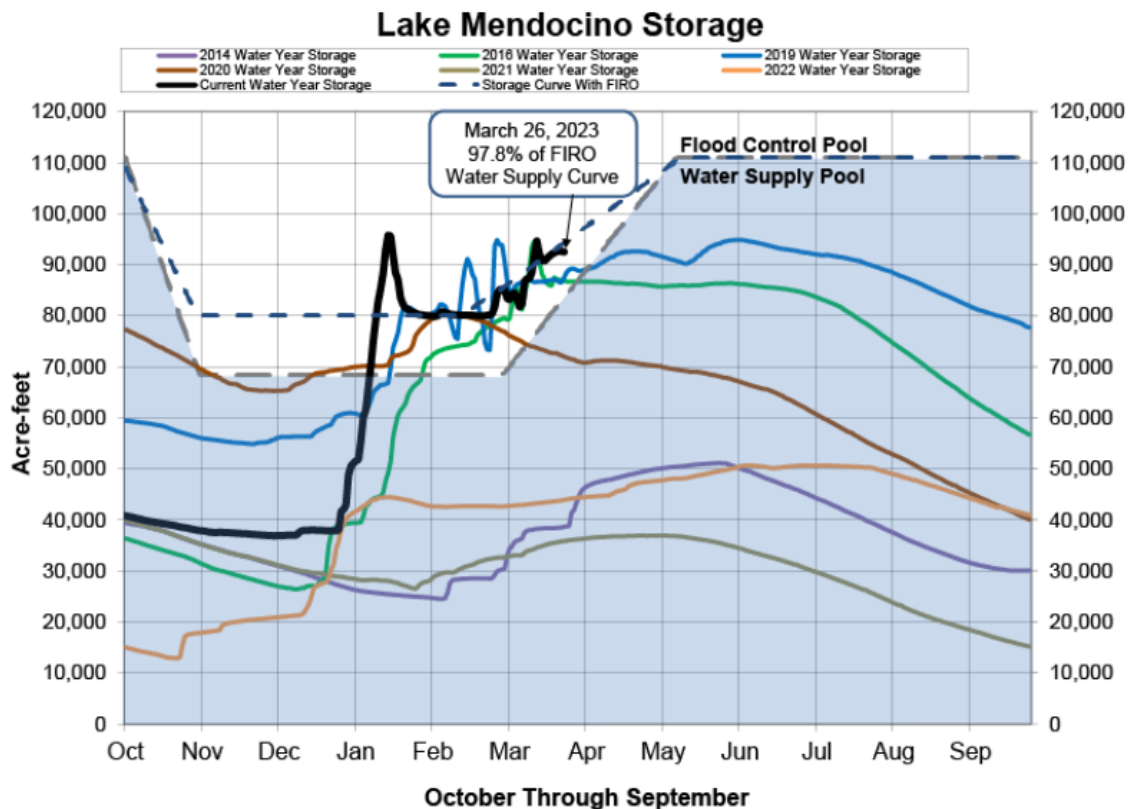
3/25

Current Storage (acre-feet)	58,575
Target Storage Curve (acre-feet)	67,032
7-day change (acre-feet)	-1,053

Lake Sonoma

3/26

Current Storage (acre-feet)	270,449
Minor Deviation Curve (acre-feet)	264,000
% of Minor Deviation Storage Curve	102.44%
7-day change (acre-feet)	-12,838



FROM: [Sonoma Water's Current Water Supply Levels webpage](#). More on [FIRO](#).

NEW Executive Order N-5-23: Governor Newsom Eases Drought Restrictions

The new EO rolls back some drought emergency provisions that are no longer needed due to current water conditions, while maintaining other measures that support regions and communities still facing water supply challenges, and that continue building up long-term water resilience. While recent storms have helped ease drought impacts, regions and communities across the state continue to experience water supply shortages. The order is intended to be responsive to current conditions while preserving smart water measure amid climate-driven weather whiplash. The EO terminates portions of prior drought orders issued by the Governor, including paragraph 7 of the [April 21, 2021 State of Emergency Proclamation](#) that directed the State Water Board to consider adopting emergency regulation for the Russian River watershed. A Lyris notice is expected this week providing more detail Key Point: SWRCB will not be re-adopting Russian River emergency regulations in 2023.

“... next winter's hydrology is uncertain and the most efficient way to preserve the State's improved surface water supplies is for Californians to continue their ongoing efforts to make conservation a way of life.”

[Easing Drought Restrictions - Fact Sheet](#)

NCRP Request for Proposals - Technical Assistance for Project Development

The [North Coast Resource Partnership](#) (NCRP) is pleased to offer a [Request for Proposals for Technical Assistance](#) to Tribes and economically disadvantaged communities to support project development and grant applications for the following programs:

- NCRP Regional Forest & Fire Capacity (RFFC) program
- Other funding programs for projects that improve forest health, increase wildfire resilience, and help communities and ecosystems address and adapt to climate change.

Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis via the NCRP Project Tracker. Next round of proposal review begins May 1, 2023. For more information: All proposals, including supporting documents, must be submitted via the [NCRP Project Tracker](#). Please see the [NCRP Project Tracker Technical Assistance RFP webpage](#) for instructions and more information. General questions or assistance with NCRP Project Tracker: Rose Roberts at rroberts@northcoastresourcepartnership.org Tribal questions: Sherri Norris, NCRP Director of Tribal Engagement sherri@cieaweb.org or 510.334.4408

Russian River Water Forum Updates

[Mendocino Voice - Potter Valley Project: Russian River Water Forum forms to advise on decommissioning, Scott Damn spillway to remain open, 3/27/23](#)



New website: <https://russianriverwaterforum.org/>

California Stream Gaging Prioritization Plan is Now Available

[SB 19 Stream Gaging Plan | California State Water Resources Control Board](#)

An interactive geospatial tool and digital files are also available to help explore the Plan's recommendations.

[Senate Bill No. 19](#) (SB 19) (Statutes of 2019, Chapter 361, Dodd) enacts Water Code section 144, which directs the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to develop a plan to address gaging information gaps through the deployment of a network of prioritized stream gages in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Department of Conservation (DOC), the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Flood Board), and interested stakeholders. The stream gaging plan identifies significant gaps in the stream gaging network to meet the wide variety of water management needs, which are increasingly important in the face of a changing climate. Please contact Dan Schultz, Daniel.Schultz@waterboards.ca.gov, with questions.

Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates

The GSA is excited to announce it has released its [spring 2023 newsletter](#). The GSA is also co-hosting with the County a second workshop on well permitting related to the executive order N-7-22 (now N-3-23) on April 17, 2023 at the Barra of Mendocino Winery. See the **attached** flyer for the workshop next week.

SGMA Implementation Presentation

The State Water Board will be discussing implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) at its April 4, 2023, public Board Meeting. The Board will not take any formal actions related to SGMA at this Board Meeting. During the Board Meeting, staff from the State Water Board and the Department of Water Resources will present:

- The Department's recent inadequacy determinations for six groundwater basins' Groundwater Sustainability Plans, and
- A general overview of the State Water Board's process for state intervention under SGMA.

[For more information about what will be presented, please click here.](#)

UC Ag & Natural Resources – Hopland Research & Extension Center

Join the UC Hopland Research and Extension Center to celebrate science and nature at this spectacular site. Enjoy hands-on field experiences, a delicious farm to table lunch, live music and auction at this unique event. For more information, visit [UC Hopland Research & Extension Center webpage here.](#)

Yield Giving's Open Call for Grant Applicants

Yield Giving has an open call for non-profits and tribal governments “working with people and in places experiencing the greatest need in the United States.” They plan to award unrestricted grants of \$1 million each to 250 community-led, community-focused organizations working with people and in places experiencing the greatest need in the United States: communities, individuals, and families with access to the fewest foundational resources and opportunities.

<https://www.leverforchange.org/challenges/explore-challenges/yieldgivingopencall/>

University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources Job Opportunity in Mendocino County

For more information on the recruitment for a **UC Cooperative Extension Area Water Quality, Quantity and Climate Change Advisor**, visit [the recruitment info page on the website.](#)

In the press:

- [CA Water Plan eNews, March 22, 2023](#)
- [Maven's Notebook, March 19-24, 2023](#)

Groundwater Recharge:

- [La Times - Newsom rolls back California drought restrictions after remarkably wet winter, 3/24/23](#)
- [LA Times \(via Yahoo! news\) - Amid soaking storms, California turns to farmland to funnel water into depleted aquifer, 3/21/23](#)
- [CA Ag Today - Study offers insights on reducing nitrate contamination from groundwater recharge, March 2023](#)

(continued...)

Is the Drought Over?

- [CA Water Blog- This Drought is Dead – Long Live the Drought, 3/26/23](#)
- [CA Water Education Foundation - Governor relaxed water restrictions...why not end the drought emergency? Various articles on 3/27/23](#)
- [NPR, KZYX - 3 reasons why California's drought isn't really over, despite all the rain, 3/23/23](#) "We just have to get better at managing the more limited resources that we have there, and that means figuring out how to share a smaller pool of water than what we've been using up till now," says Ellen Hanak, director of the Water Policy Center at the Public Policy Institute of California. "We always have to be ready," Hanak says. "Drier times could come again as soon as next year."
- [Reuters - Explainer: What California's atmospheric rivers mean for drought, floods, fires, 3/21/23](#) As Arizona State University hydrologist Jay Famiglietti put it: "Say you are broke. If someone gives you a check for \$100, and you have money for a day, you're still broke."
- [Mendocino Voice - 'Let's not forget the last few years': A look at water supply in Mendocino County following the storm, 3/20/23](#)
- [CBS News - Winter deluge easing Sonoma County's drought water woes, 3/16/23](#) "The drought may be winding down but its shadow will linger, having pushed California to be more water-conscious, even in the midst of an epic winter."

Other:

- [Ag Alert - Commentary: Here's why farm water use reports are exaggerated, 3/22/23](#)
- [NCWA -This Week in Federal Policy, 3/20/23](#)
- [University of British Columbia - New UBC water treatment zaps 'forever chemicals' for good, 3/22/23](#)
- [Governing.com - Rain Won't End California's Water Troubles, but Better Infrastructure Might, 3/24/23](#) "One of the consequences of warming is that even states with higher average rainfall rates are experiencing prolonged periods of drought followed by heavy storms. Although the yearly total is not decreasing, it is arriving in ways that are overwhelming existing water infrastructure."
- [National Geographic - 'Rivers in the sky' are why California keeps flooding, 3/10/23](#)
- [SF Chronicle - Floods have devastated parts of California. Here's why they're so hard to forecast, 3/21/23](#)

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

**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

Save the Date!

Monday April 17, 2023

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Barra of Mendocino Winery & Event Center
7051 N State St, Redwood Valley, CA 95470



Well Permitting Workshop

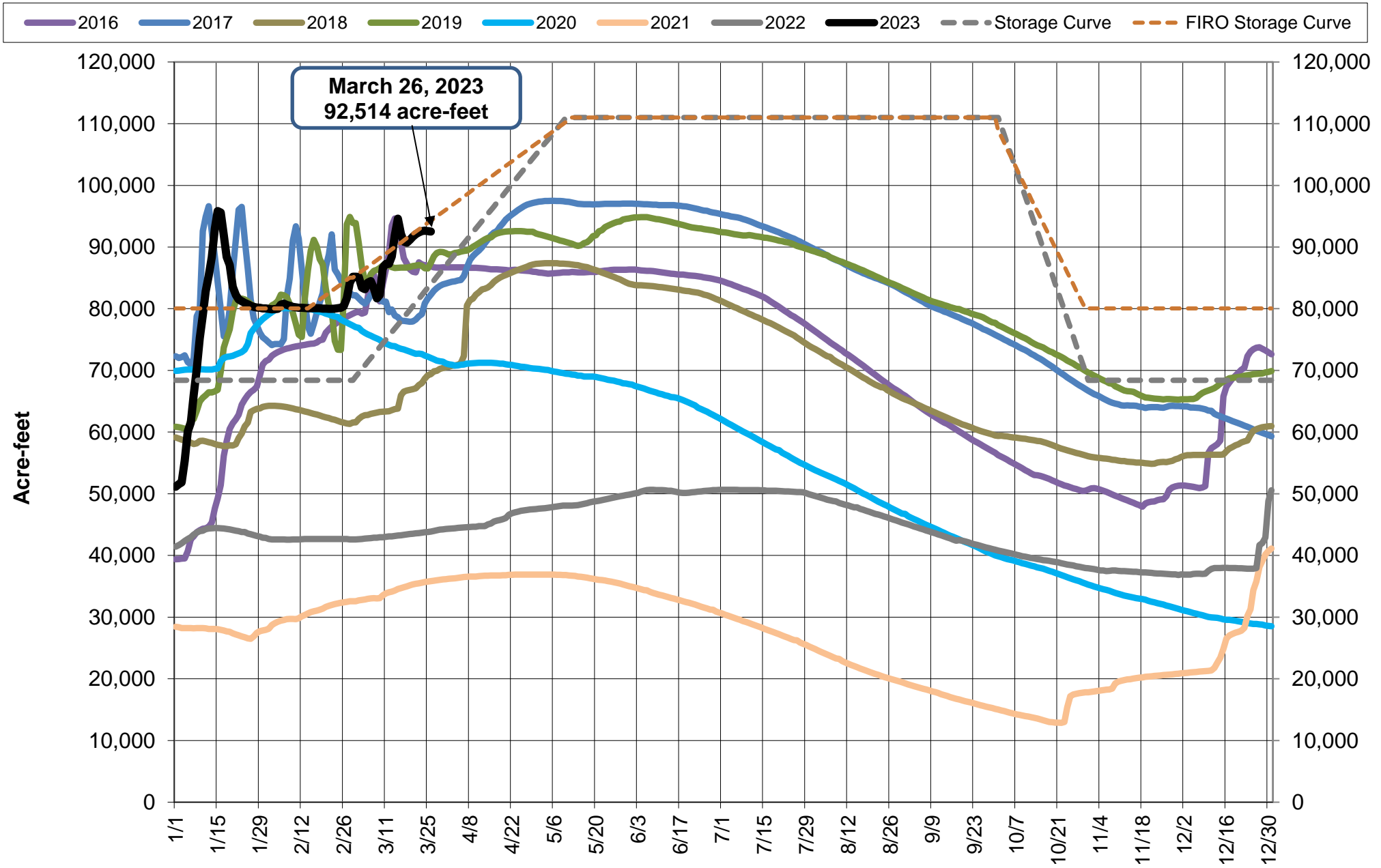
Part 2: Incorporating Your Input in the Revised Well Application Process

Are you a well driller, or do you use groundwater for agricultural or industrial purposes?
Did you attend Part 1 of this workshop in November?

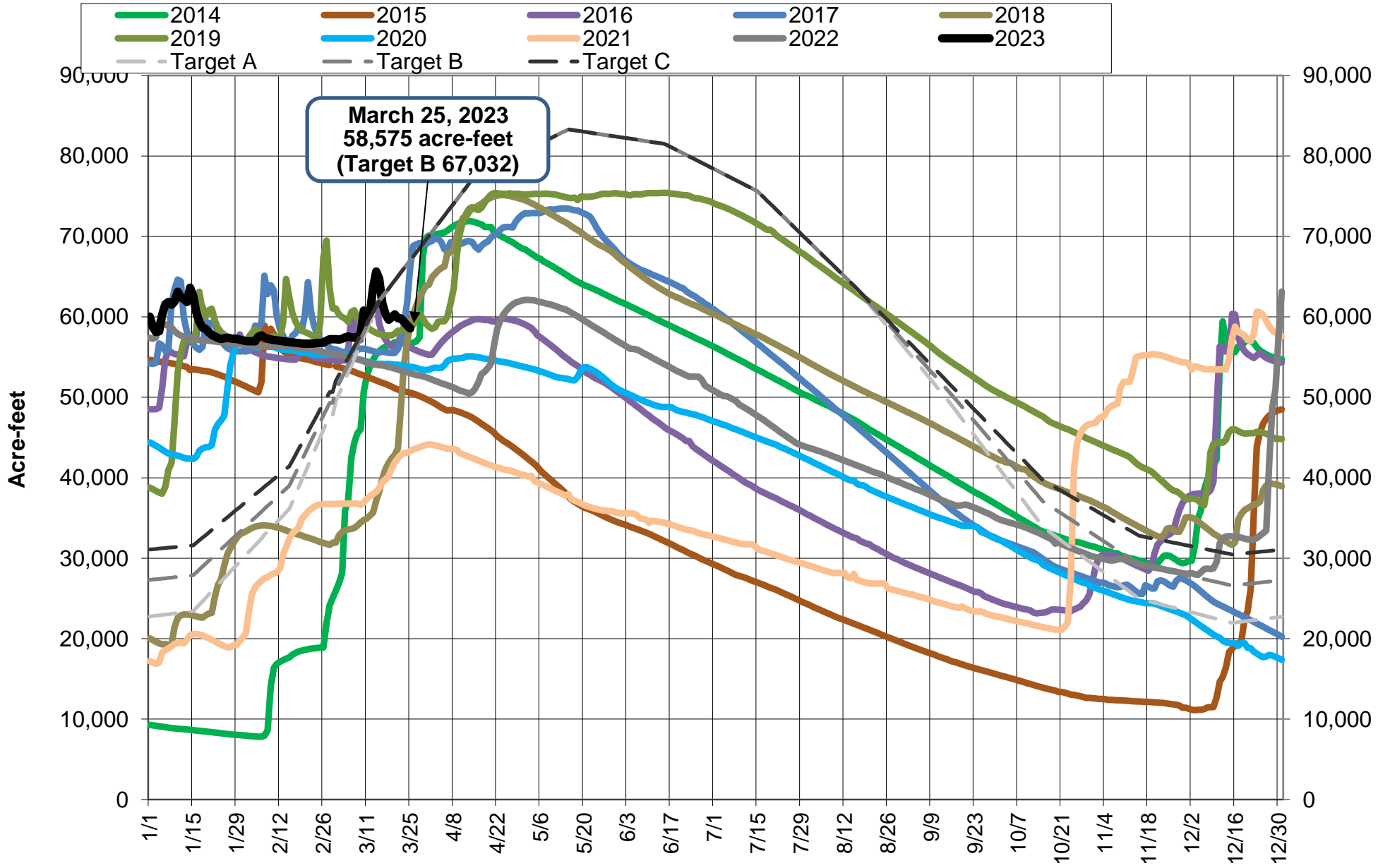
Join [Mendocino County Environmental Health](#) and the [Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency \(GSA\)](#) for a joint workshop on April 17 to learn how the input you shared in November is reflected in proposed changes to the groundwater well permitting process driven by [Executive Order N-3-23](#) (the updated version of [Executive Order N-7-22](#))



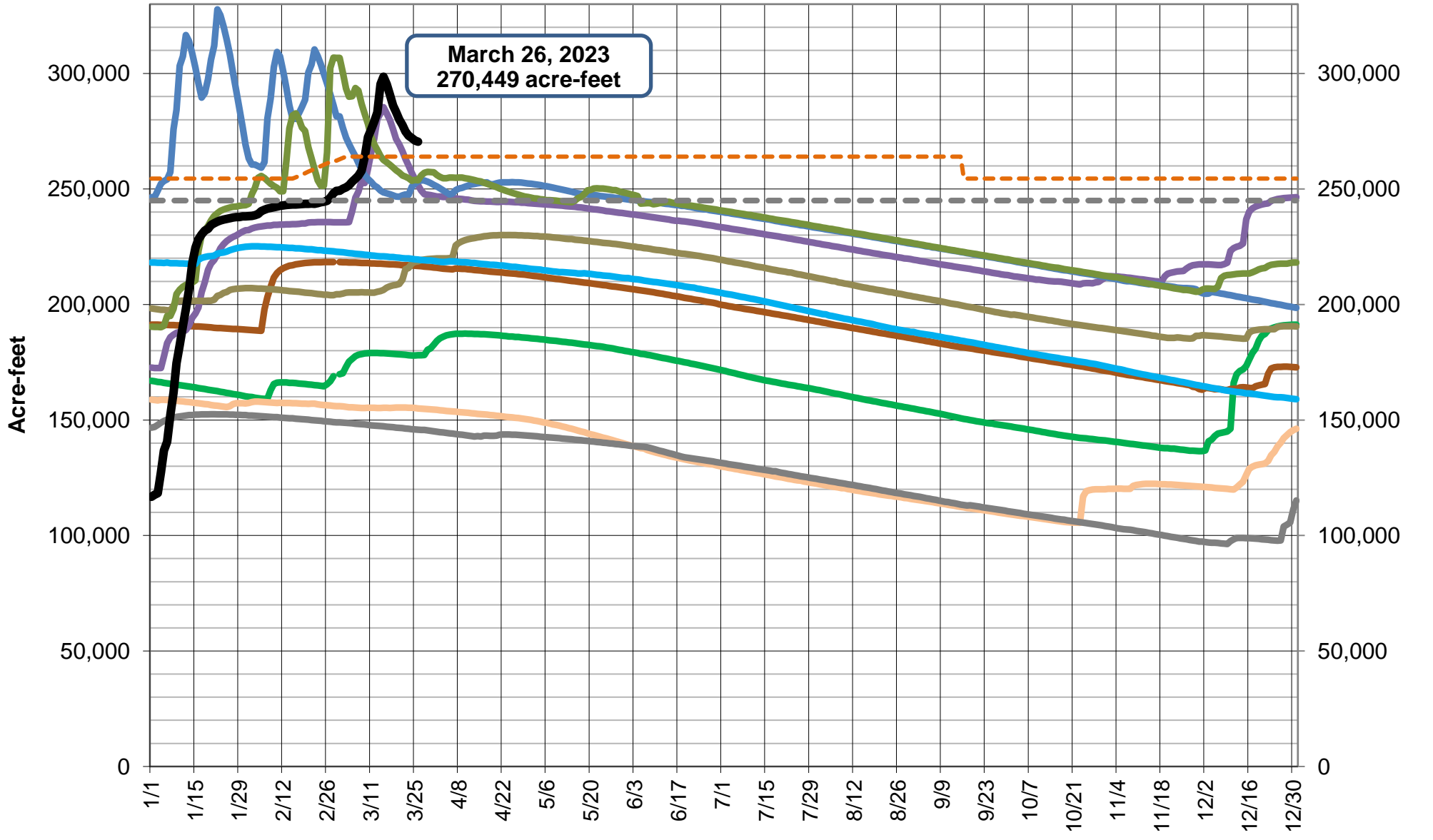
Lake Mendocino Storage



Lake Pillsbury Storage and Target Storage Scenarios

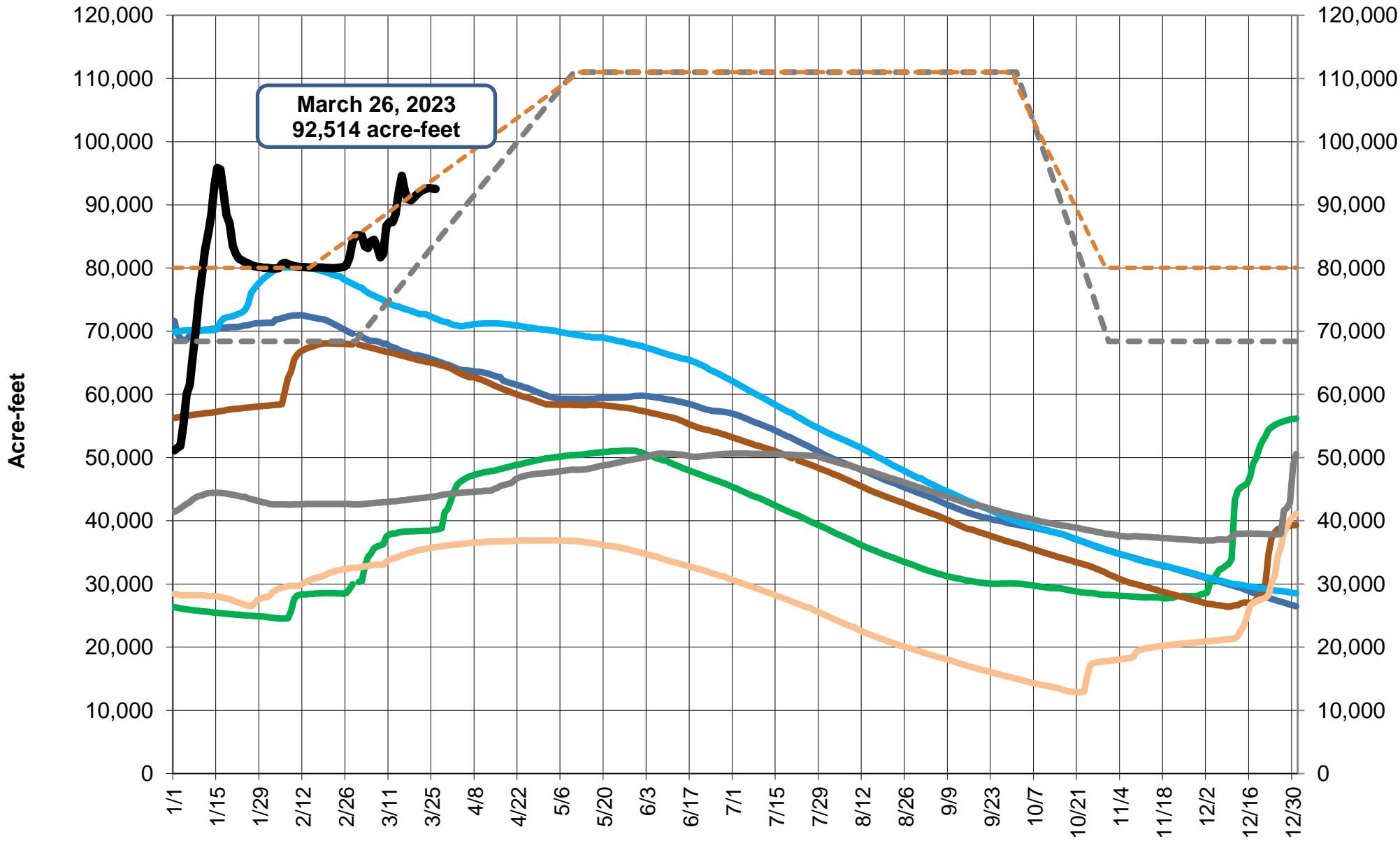


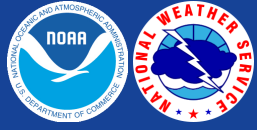
Lake Sonoma Storage



Lake Mendocino Storage - Drought Years

— 2013
 — 2014
 — 2015
 — 2020
 — 2021
 — 2022
 — 2023
 - - Storage Curve
 - - FIRO Storage Curve





Strong Wind, Rain and Heavy Mountain Snow Expected Monday and Tuesday

KEY POINTS

- **Strong Wind Monday evening and again Tuesday.**
- **Heavy Snow Monday and Tuesday above 2000 to 2500 feet.**

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS BRIEFING

The onset of the rain and snow has slowed slightly, see attached animation of timing on the rain and snow.

WEATHER RISK OUTLOOK

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

	Mon 3/27	Tue 3/28	Wed 3/29	Thu 3/30	Fri 3/31	Sat 4/1	Sun 4/2
Lake County Clearlake, Lakeport	Rain Mountain Snow Strong Wind	Rain Mountain Snow Strong Wind	Mountain Snow Rain	Freeze	Freeze	Mountain Snow Rain	Mountain Snow Rain
Del Norte County Crescent City, Gasquet	Rain Mountain Snow Strong Wind	Rain Mountain Snow Strong Wind	Mountain Snow Rain	Freeze	Light rain & Snow	Mountain Snow Rain	Mountain Snow Rain
Mendocino County Ukiah, Fort Bragg	Rain Mountain Snow Strong Wind	Rain Mountain Snow Strong Wind	Mountain Snow Rain	Freeze	Freeze	Mountain Snow Rain	Mountain Snow Rain
Trinity County Weaverville, Hayfork	Rain Mountain Snow Strong Wind	Rain Mountain Snow Strong Wind	Mountain Snow Rain	Freeze	Freeze	Mountain Snow Rain	Mountain Snow Rain
Humboldt County Eureka, Fortuna, Willow Creek	Rain Mountain Snow Strong Wind	Rain Mountain Snow Strong Wind	Mountain Snow Rain	Freeze	Light rain & Snow	Mountain Snow Rain	Mountain Snow Rain

Risk Levels

Little to None

Minor

Moderate

Major

Extreme

DETAILS

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



Snow

Impacts:

- Hazardous travel conditions due to slick, snow covered roads.
- Very difficult travel conditions with likely chain controls and possible road closures.
- This is most likely to impact Hwy 299, 3, and 36 on the summits above 2500 feet.
- Minor impacts are likely on Hwy 101 in northern Mendocino county.

Timing:

- Heavy snow expected Monday night and Tuesday above 1,500 to 2,000 feet.
- Snow levels are expected to rise later tonight, except in Trinity county.

Confidence:

- High confidence on a significant snow event Monday afternoon through Tuesday morning.
- Moderate confidence tonight and Tuesday on the details of snow levels and timing.
- Lower confidence on additional rain and mountain snow showers Tuesday afternoon and overnight.

There is the possibility of snow levels remaining lower than expected in Mendocino, Humboldt, and Lake counties this evening and tonight.

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



Wind

Impacts:

- Strong winds may produce difficult driving conditions for high profile vehicles.
- Loose or unsecured objects may be blown away.
- Tree damage and power outages are possible.

Timing:

- Late this afternoon and evening.
- Another round of strong winds on Tuesday.

Confidence:

- Moderate to high confidence for the winds this evening.
- Lower confidence on the strength and location of the winds on Tuesday.

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

Rain

Impacts:

- Minor roadway ponding, with flowing water in sensitive drainages.
- Flooding of small streams and low lying areas.
- Rapid rises on mainstem rivers, flooding not expected.

Timing:

- Moderate to locally heavy rain is possible Monday and Tuesday.

Confidence:

- The location of the heavier rain remains uncertain next week.

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

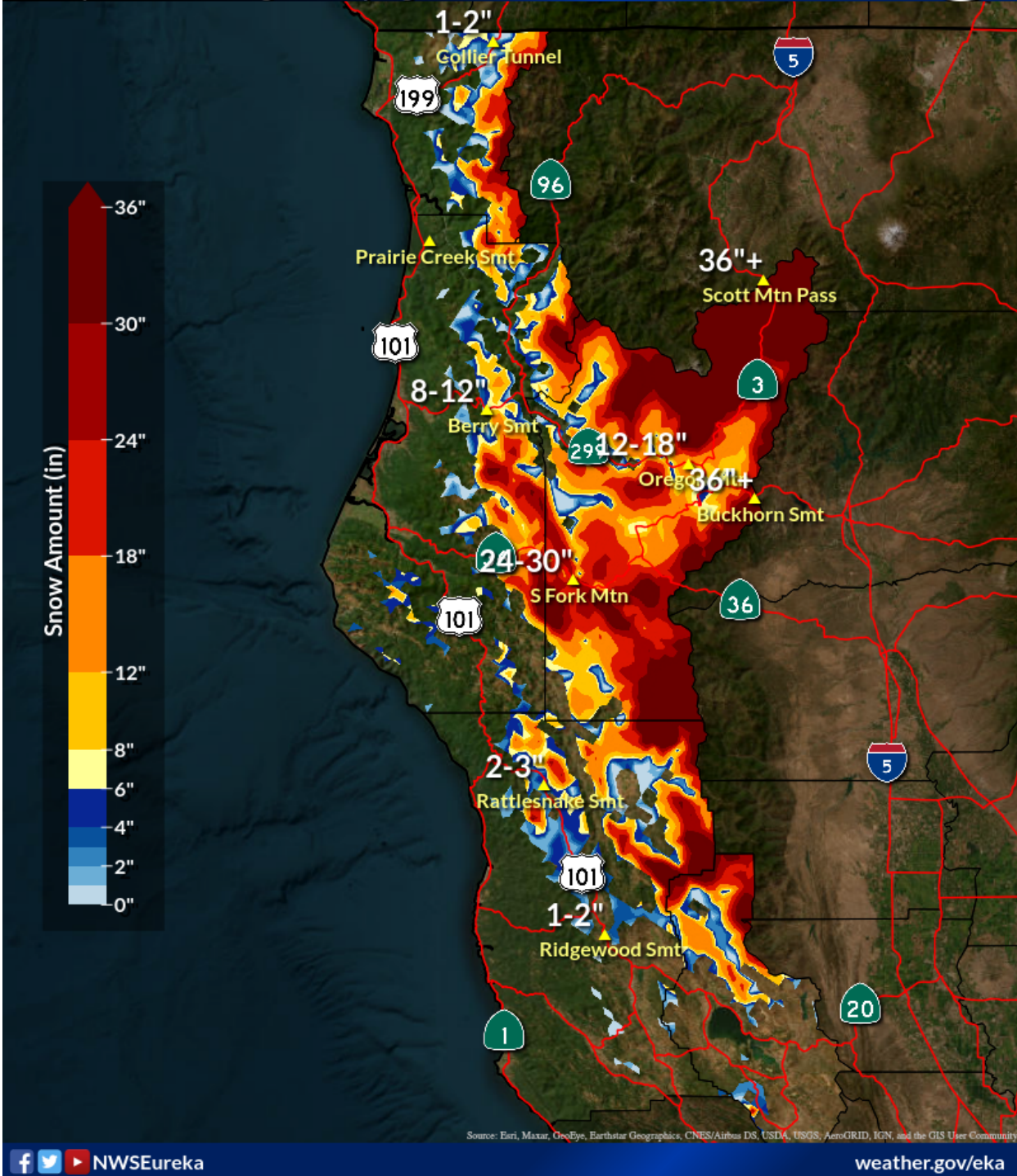
Snowfall Totals

Weather Forecast Office
Eureka, CA



Monday afternoon through Tuesday Night.

Issued Mar 27, 2023 6:00 AM PDT



Snowfall Totals

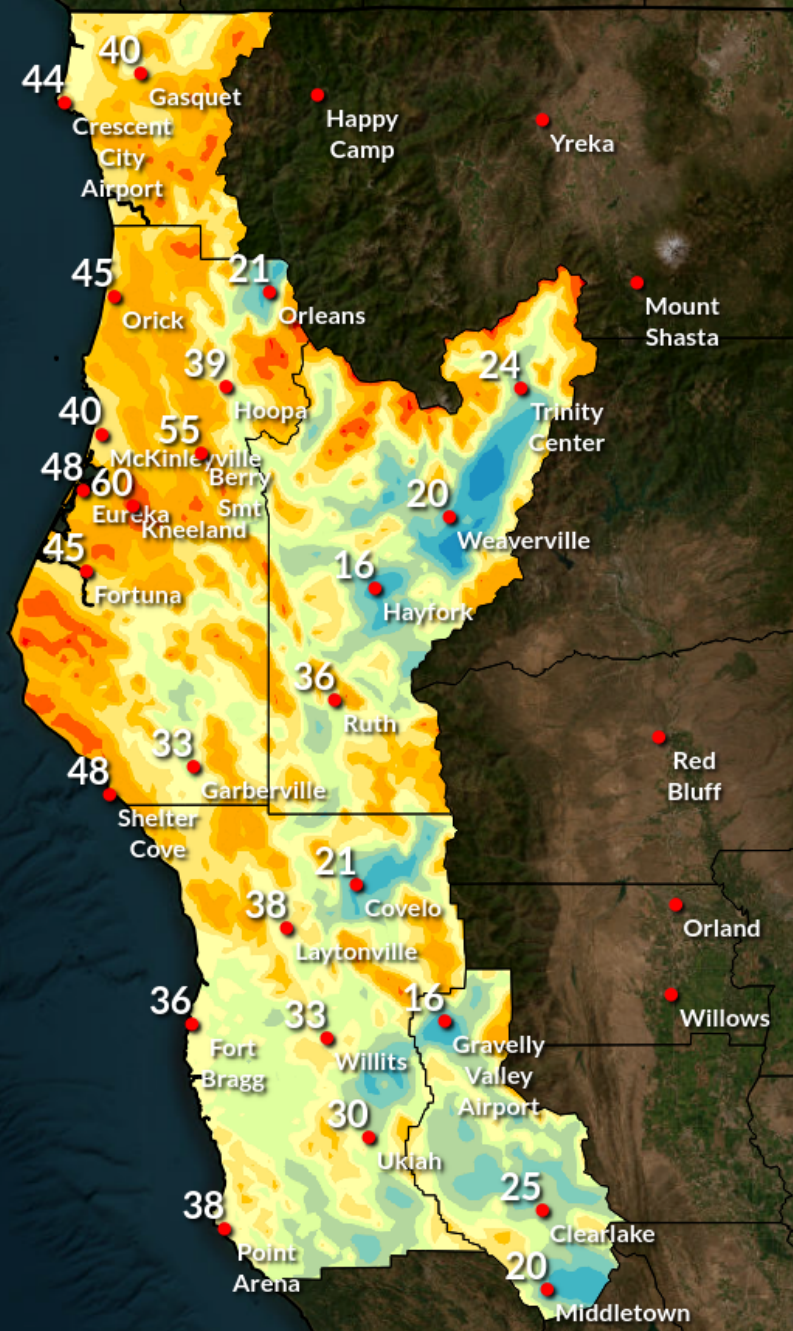
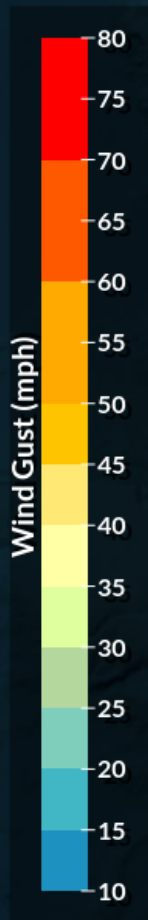
Strong Winds Today

Weather Forecast Office
Eureka, CA



Peak winds for Monday afternoon and evening.

Issued Mar 27, 2023 5:55 AM PDT



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

Peak Winds

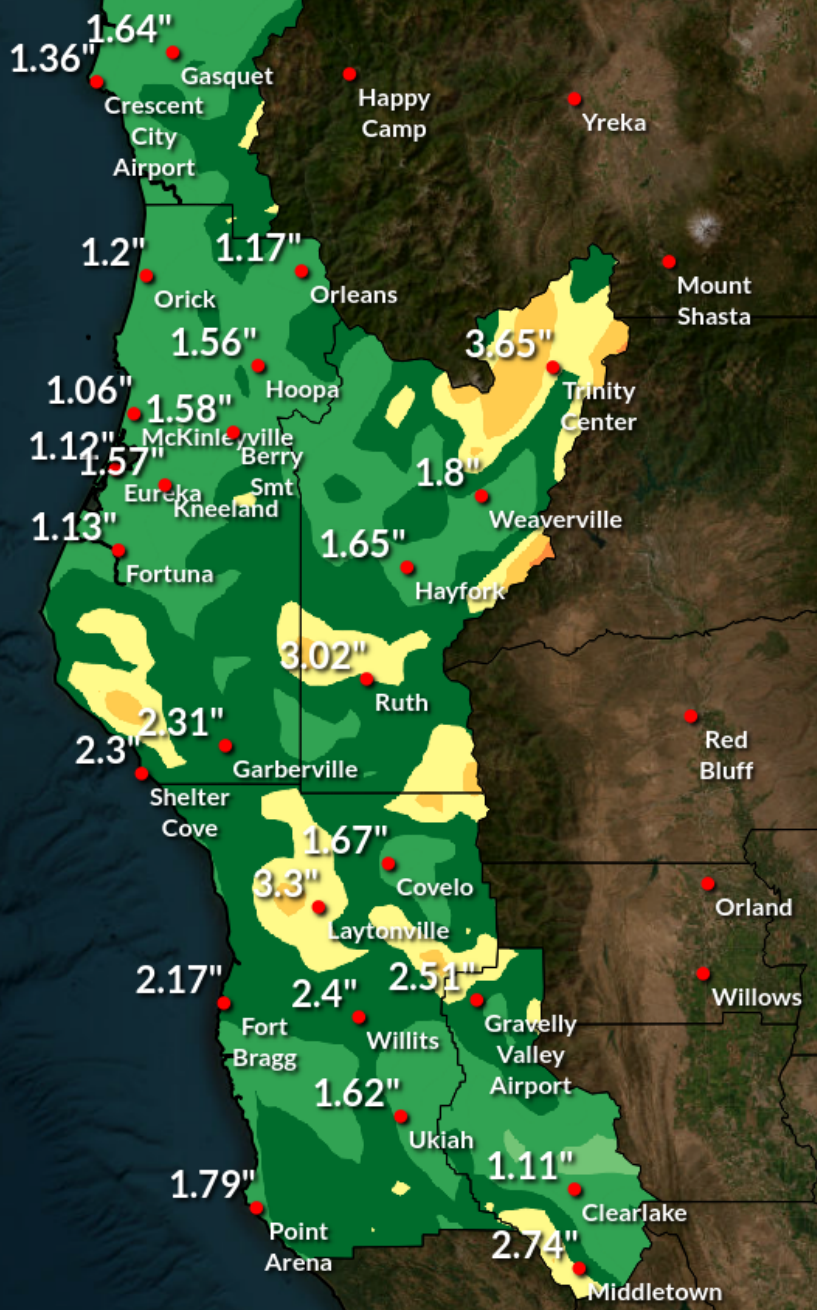
Rainfall Totals

Weather Forecast Office
Eureka, CA



For Monday afternoon through Tuesday night.

Issued Mar 27, 2023 5:57 AM PDT



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

Rainfall Totals