

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

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item 10: Water Supply Conditions

Monday, November 2, 2026

The Strategic Plan relevant priorities are: **Water Supply Security** by ensuring reliable, resilient, and available sources of water through improved river and reservoir operations; and **Advocacy and Engagement** in support of improved public awareness and understanding of water issues.

Lake Mendocino and the Mainstem Upper Russian River

In May, the State Water Resources Control Board issued an Order approving Sonoma Water's Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) that remains in effect through November 17, 2026.

There is a small amount of precipitation in the near term forecast, however, Lake Mendocino storage is expected to continue to decline, and the water supply condition is projected to switch to Dry on November 1st based on Lake Mendocino storage thresholds. This will result in minimum instream flows requirements reducing to 75 cubic feet per second (cfs) on the Upper Russian River, 85 cfs on the Lower Russian River, and 75 cfs on Dry Creek. The dry threshold on November 1st is 51,000 ac-ft.

The State Water Resources Control Board is currently considering a temporary urgency change petition (TUCP) filed in August 2026 by Sonoma Water. If the petition is not approved before the current one expires in mid November, the water supply condition will revert to Normal and releases from Lake Mendocino will increase.

For more information see: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/current-russian-river-and-lake-mendocino-operations> or Sonoma Water's TUCP webpage: www.sonomawater.org/tucp.)

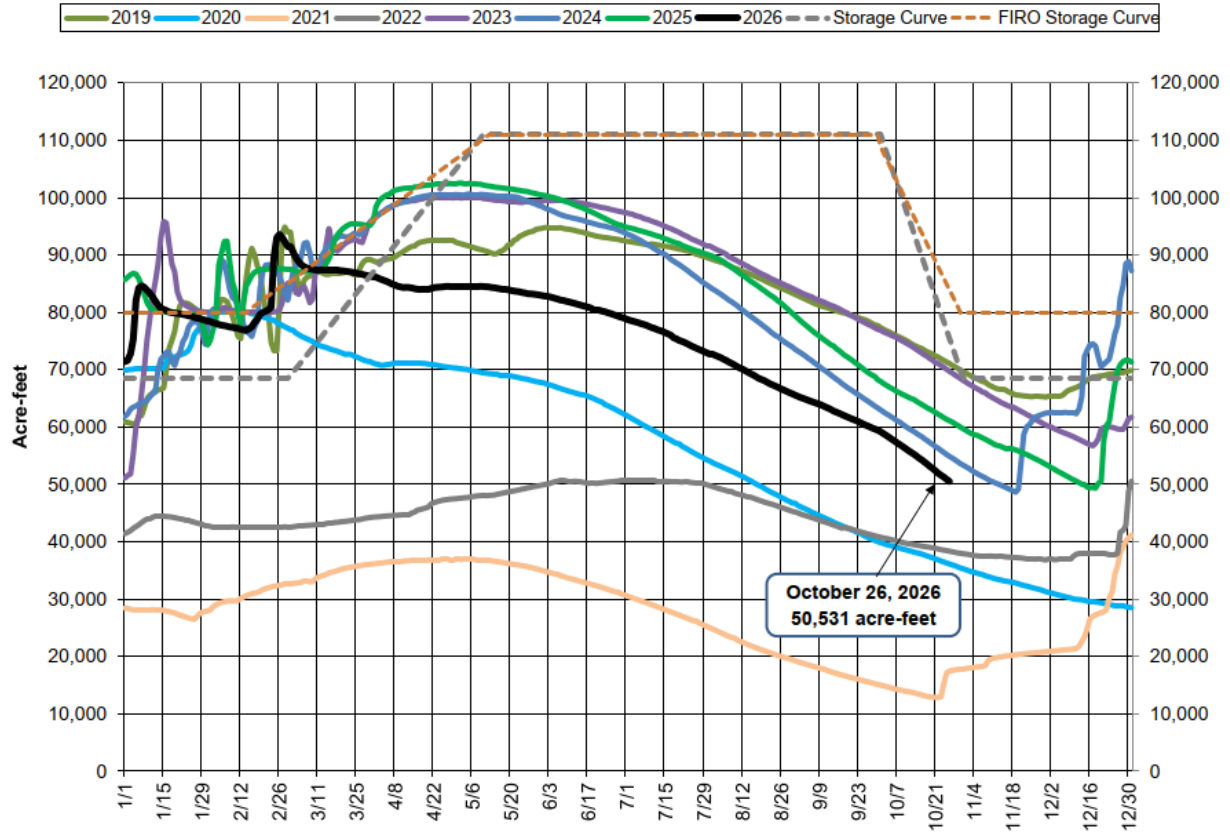
Lake Mendocino

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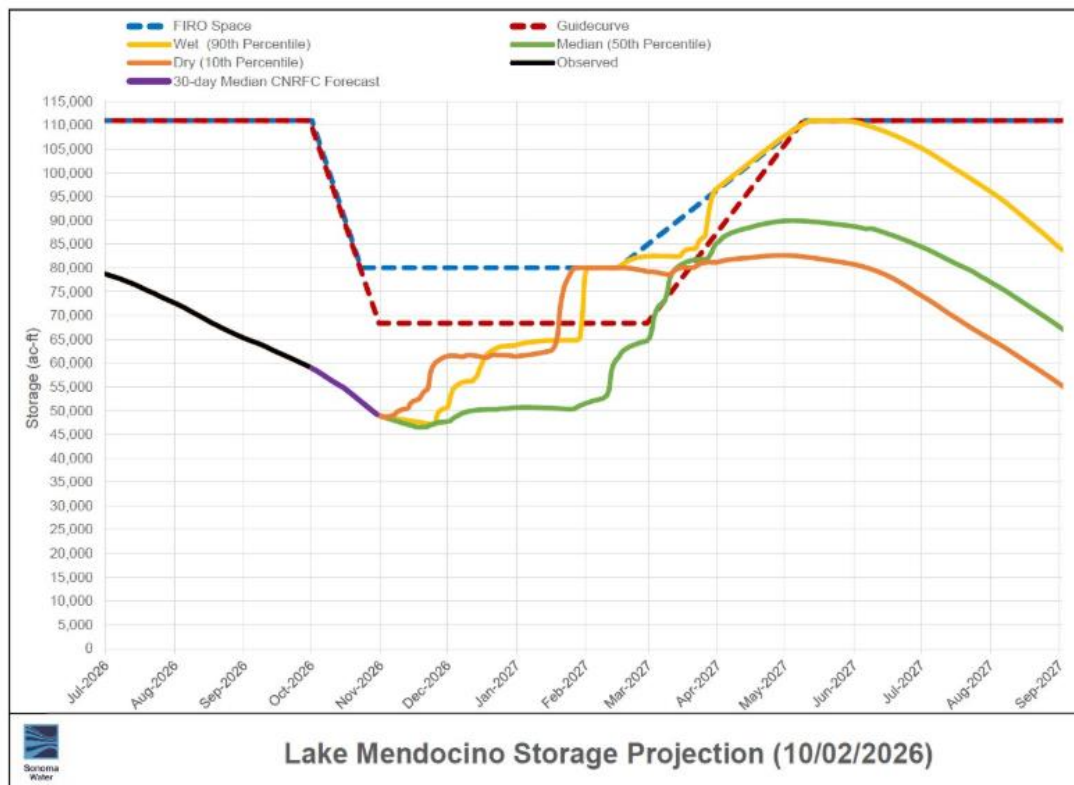
Current Storage (acre-feet)	50,531
FIRO Storage Curve (acre-feet)	83,950
% of FIRO Storage Curve	60.19%
7-day change (acre-feet)	-2,589

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Lake Mendocino Storage



LAKE MENDOCINO



Lake Mendocino Storage Projection (10/02/2026)

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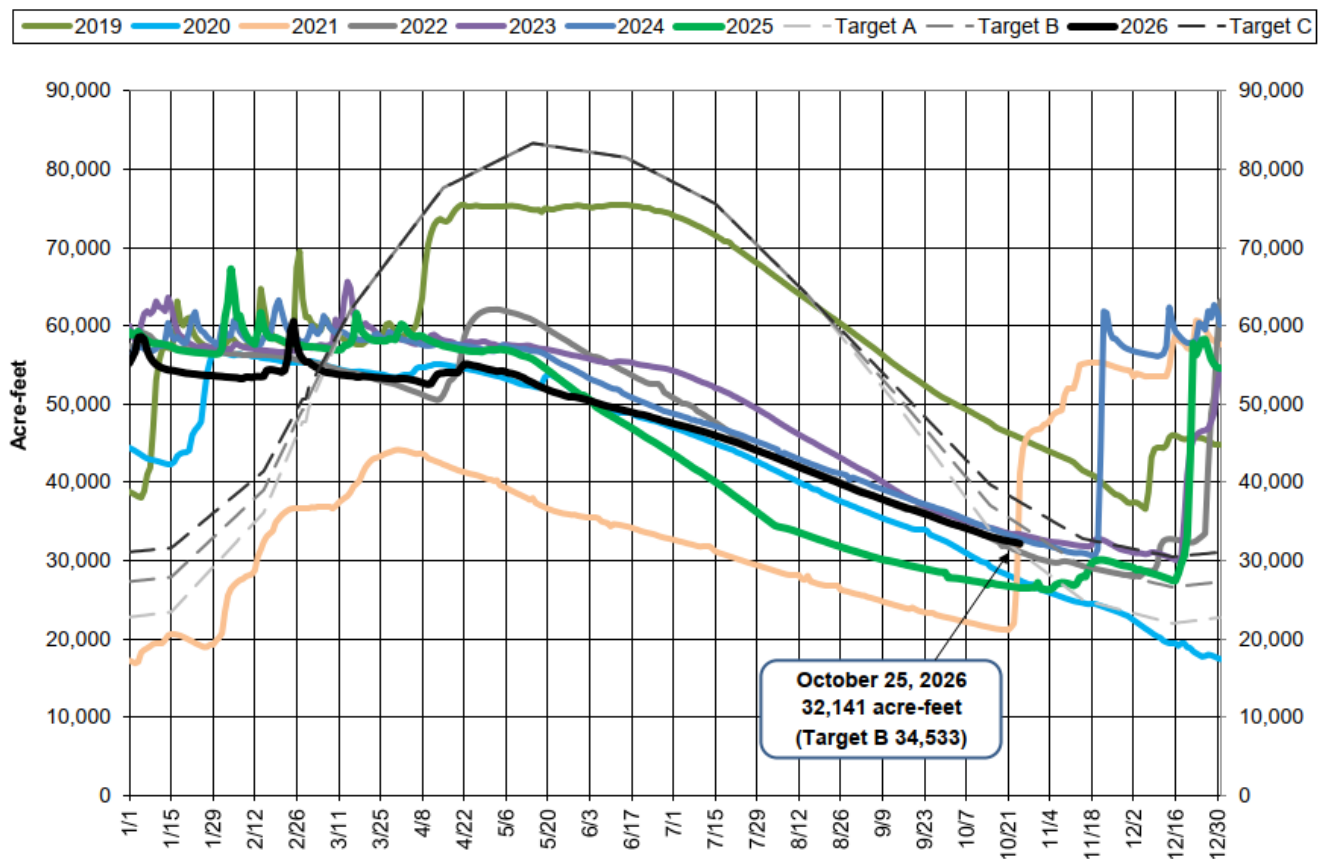
Operations of the Trans-Basin Diversion Through PG&E Owned “Potter Valley Project”

On May 14, 2026, FERC issued the order approving the 2026 temporary flow variance for the Potter Valley Project flows from the Eel to the Russian River. In September, PG&E held a Drought Working Group meeting as required by the FERC issued flow variance. As of September 23, 2026, Lake Pillsbury storage level was below 36,000 acre feet, meeting the threshold to remain in the variance until the water level exceeds 36,000 acre feet after November 1, 2026.

Beginning September 30th and for the remainder of variance, the minimum instream flow requirement reduced from 25 cfs down to 5 cfs. The actual total East Branch Russian River releases have hovered around 15 cfs since October 18, 2026.

The median forecast shows possibly late December for exiting the variance. PVID will still have its contract water of 15 cfs available from October 1-15, 2026. Reports are posted on the District website when made available: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/current-pg-e-potter-valley-project-operations>

Lake Pillsbury Storage and Target Storage Scenarios



Lake Pillsbury

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Current Storage (acre-feet)	32,141
Target Storage Curve (acre-feet)	34,533
7-day change (acre-feet)	-609

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Prepared and submitted to the Board of Trustees by: Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager