

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

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item 8: Water Supply Conditions

Monday, February 2, 2026

The Strategic Plan relevant priorities are: **Security** through ensuring reliable, resilient, and available sources of water; **Advocacy** in support of equitable water resource stewardship; and **Use** of water in effective and beneficial ways as a public resource, all in alignment with the District’s Mission to steward water resources for the benefit of people and the environment.

Lake Mendocino and the Mainstem Upper Russian River

Storage level was 79,278 acre feet as of January 26, 2026, up from 71,575 acre feet as of December 29, 2025. This is the maximum amount allowed under the recently approved Water Control Manual, which was revised to include the Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO.) To maximize reservoir storage, additional precipitation is needed throughout the spring months as the flood control maximum increases (see graph below.)

Lake Mendocino

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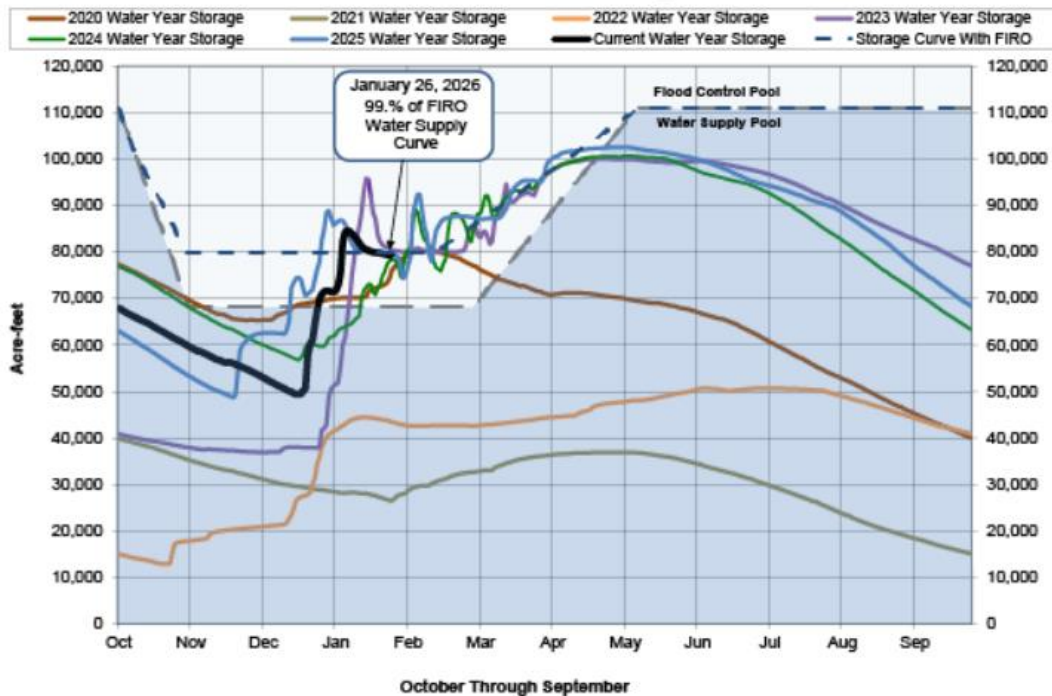
Current Storage (acre-feet)	79,278
FIRO Storage Curve (acre-feet)	80,050
% of FIRO Storage Curve	99.04%
7-day change (acre-feet)	-620

The State Water Resources Control Board approved the Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) filed by Sonoma Water in November 2025. For more information see:

<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/2025-2026-russian-river-and-lake-mendocino-operations>

or Sonoma Water’s TUCP webpage: www.sonomawater.org/tucp.)

Lake Mendocino Storage

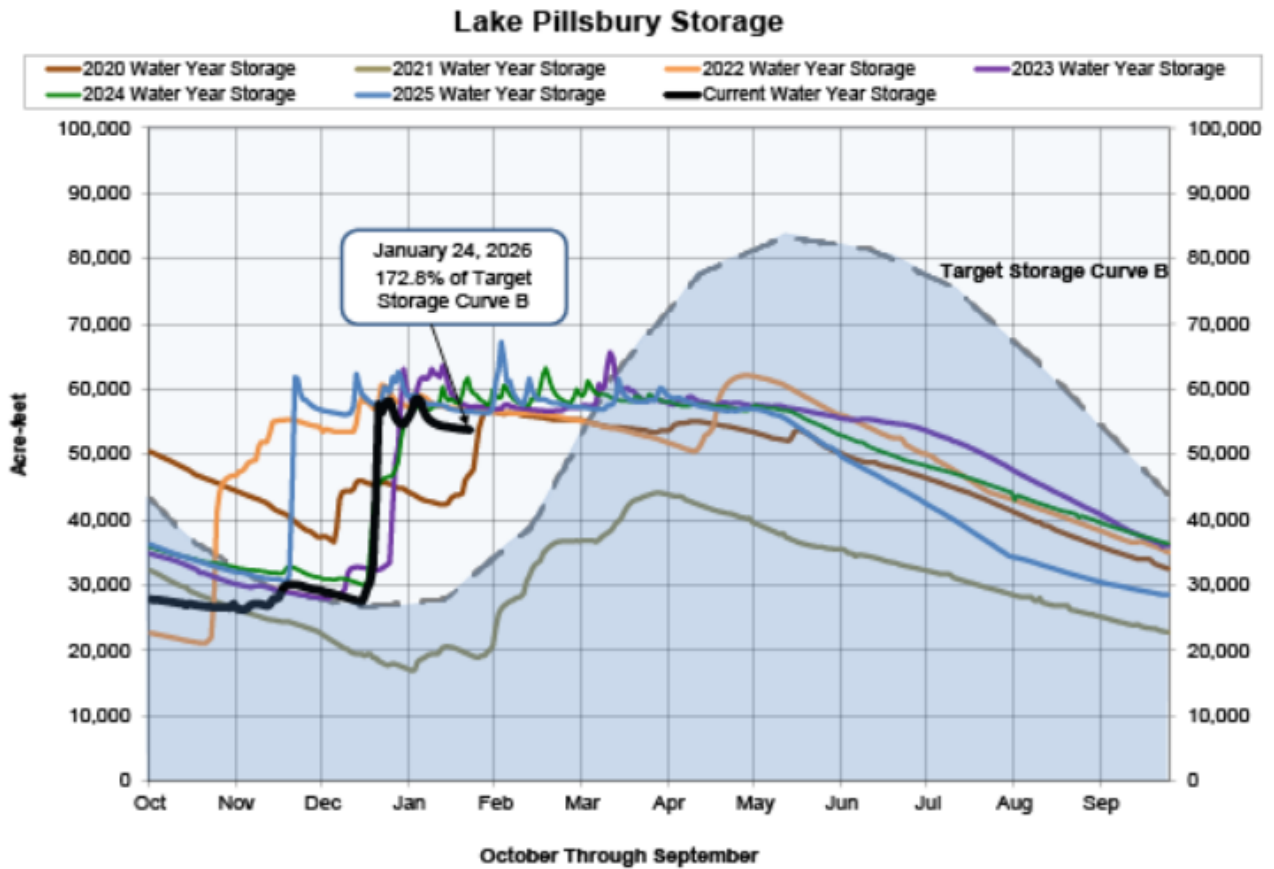


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Operations of the Trans-Basin Diversion Through PG&E Owned “Potter Valley Project”

In December 2025, Lake Pillsbury reservoir reached the required 36,000 acre feet to end the 2025 flow amendment (previously referred to as a temporary flow variance) for the Potter Valley Project 2025 operations. See <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/pg-e-2025-potter-valley-project-operations> for more information.

Based on the results of a 2023 seismic safety analysis, PG&E has established a 10-foot restriction on the maximum reservoir operating level. Instead of closing the spillway gates to store additional water during the spring and summer months, PG&E is leaving the gates open year-round to maintain the water level in Lake Pillsbury at or below the spillway crest elevation. The restriction will remain in place until long-term measures are developed and implemented. The proposed reservoir restriction will reduce the maximum water storage elevation in Lake Pillsbury by 10 feet and reduce the maximum available reservoir storage volume by approximately 26 percent (20,000 acre-feet) to “improve the dam’s expected stability and safety performance during a major earthquake.”



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