

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

**STAFF REPORT**

**Agenda Item 9: Water Supply Conditions**

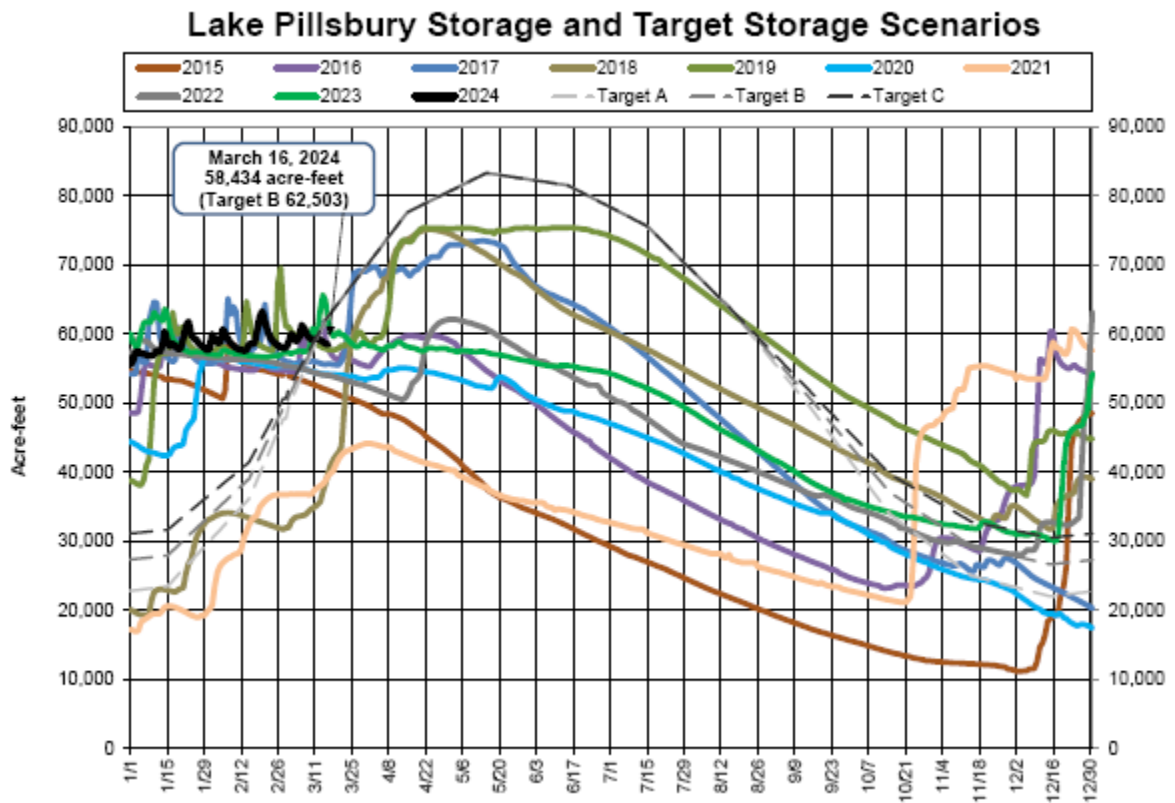
**Monday, April 1, 2024**

**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.

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

On February 21, 2024, PG&E submitted the 2024 Flow Variance Request Due to Restricted Storage Capacity to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC.) On February 29, 2024, FERC issued a notice for public comment before considering approval of the request. A summary is below and further highlights from the document can be found on our website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/updates>

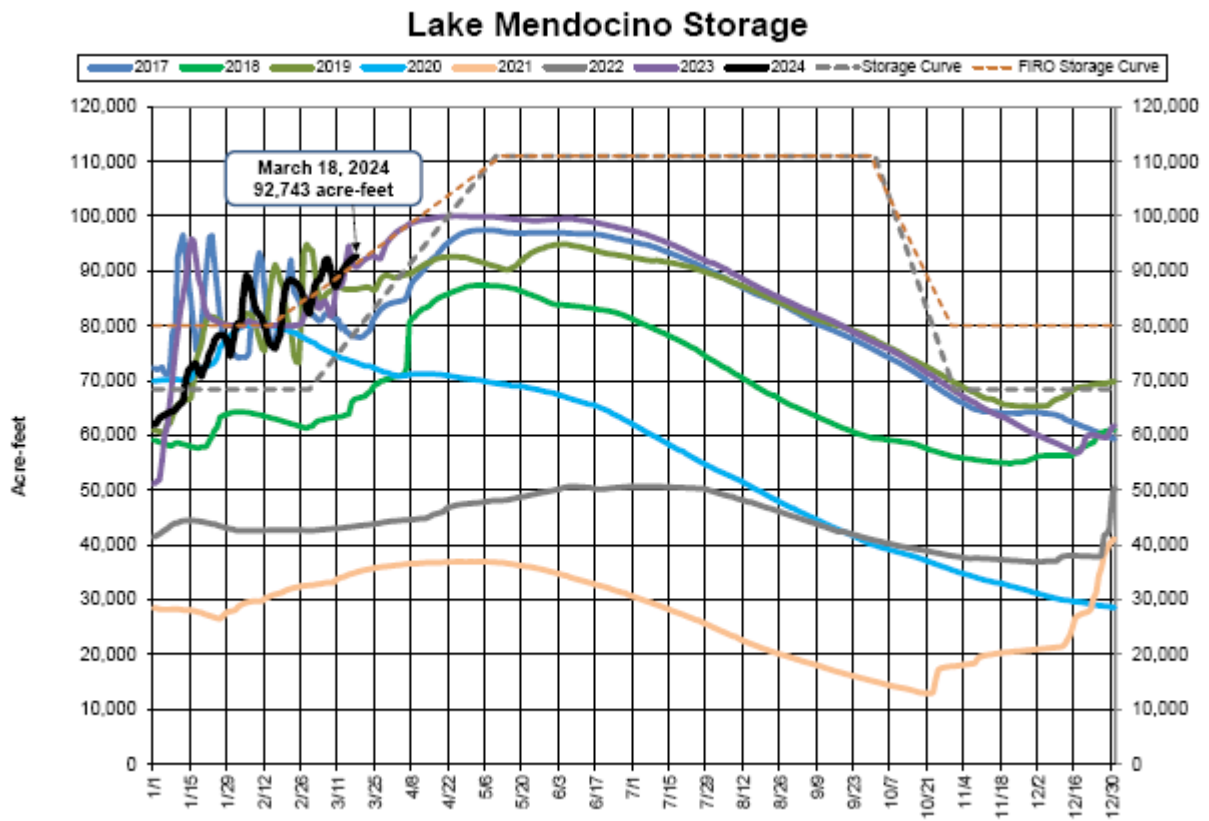
SUMMARY: East Branch Russian River flows will be 25 cfs and then adjusted between 5 and 25 cfs based on PG&E and agency determination when daily average reservoir release water temperatures exceed 15°C (typically in early June). After September 30, EBRR will be held at 25 cfs for the remainder of the variance. Reductions to EBRR flow releases may also occur if the Lake Pillsbury storage forecast indicates facility safety concerns due to low storage levels (12,000 AF).



*(Continued...)*

### Lake Mendocino and the Mainstem Upper Russian River

Lake Mendocino storage level was 92,743 acre feet (af) on March 18, 0224 down from 87,087 af on February 26, 2024. The potential storage capacity of the reservoir is increasing over the coming weeks, enhanced by the Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) as shown in the graph below as an orange dotted line. On December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the State Water Resources Control Board issued the Order approving Sonoma Water’s Temporary Urgency Change Petition (filed 10/12/2023) on water-right Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950, and 16596 (Applications 12919A, 15736, 15737, and 19351) to modify the hydrologic index used to set minimum instream flows in the Upper Russian River, Lower Russian River, and Dry Creek. Under the Order, the water supply conditions in the Russian River are established based on storage thresholds in Lake Mendocino instead of cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury. For additional information visit Sonoma Water’s TUCP webpage: [www.sonomawater.org/tucp](http://www.sonomawater.org/tucp).



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