

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

STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Trustees
From: E. Salomone, General Manager
Meeting: Monday, February 6, 2023
RE: Agenda Item 5: Water Supply Conditions Update & District Response

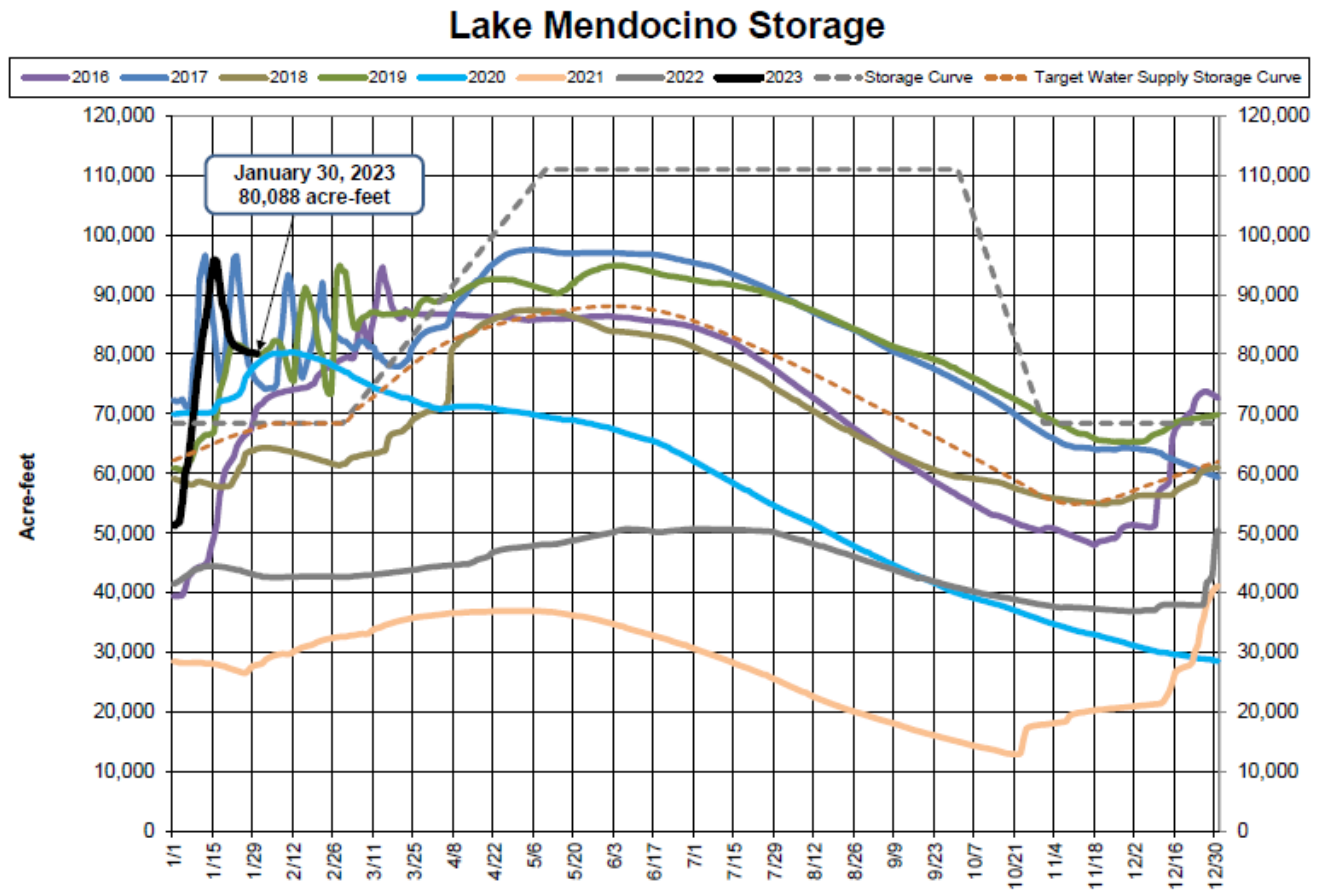
The Strategic Plan relevant priorities are: **Security** through ensuring reliable, resilient, and available sources of water; **Advocacy** in support of equitable water resource stewardship; and **Use** of water in effective and beneficial ways as a public resource, all in alignment with the District’s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

Inter-Basin Diversion of Water Through PG&E Owned “Potter Valley Project”

Nothing new to report.

Lake Mendocino and the Mainstem Upper Russian River

Lake Mendocino storage level was 80,088 acre feet (af) on January 30, 2023 as compared to 55,338 af on January 5, 2023.



Prepared by Sonoma Water. Additional information: <https://www.sonomawater.org/current-water-supply-levels>

(Continued...)

Flood Releases at Lake Mendocino/Coyote Valley Dam

As seen on the above graph, storage levels reached almost 96,000 af mid-January and the United States Army Corp of Engineers scheduled a flood release event for January 16, 2023. For more information on the flood release, visit <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/lake-mendocino-coyote-valley-dam-flood-releases-january-2023>

Temporary Urgency Changes to Lake Mendocino/Russian River Operations

On October 31, 2022, Sonoma Water Agency filed temporary urgency change petitions (TUCPs) with the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights. The TUCPs were submitted to address significant reductions in flows into the East Fork Russian River through PG&E's Potter Valley Project (PVP) due to a transformer bank failure, as well as continuing drought conditions in the Russian River Watershed. The TUCPs requested the implementation of a hydrologic index based on Lake Mendocino storage values, rather than the index based on cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury in the water right permits. On December 14, 2022, the Division of Water Rights issued an order that approved the requested changes of the TUCPs with various terms and conditions including fisheries habitat and water quality monitoring. The order will remain in effect through June 11, 2023. More information can be found on Sonoma Water's website: <https://www.sonomawater.org/tucp>

Curtailments in the Upper Russian River

As of January 13, 2023, due to continued precipitation throughout the region, the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights has updated the Curtailment Status List, effective January 14, 2023. Until further notice, there are no water right curtailments and no riparian reductions in place. Division staff will post a revised Curtailment Status List should supply conditions change, however staff do not anticipate further updates until late February at the earliest. More information can be found on the Russian River drought response page: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/russian_river/

The Upper Russian River Voluntary Water Sharing Agreement Program

The Water Sharing Program Steering Committee has continued to meet regularly and prepare the 2022 annual implementation report and prepare a 2023 Program in the event it is needed. Find out more on the District's website: <https://www.rrfc.net/upper-russian-river-voluntary-water-sharing-program>

District 2023 Water Supply & District Response:

The District does not currently have any active water shortage declarations in place. Customers are providing monthly projected water use under District contracts for planning purposes and development of the Technical Memo with Sonoma Water.