

WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS UPDATE 3/20/23

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



Lake Mendocino, February 11, 2023 by CJ Watt

Reservoir Storage & Operations([More info here](#)):

Water supply information below and **attached** provided by Sonoma Water.

Weather updates:

- [San Fran Chronicle - Another atmospheric river-fueled storm is heading to California. Here are the impacts to expect, 3/20/23](#)
- [Press Democrat - North Bay's next storm expected to bring more widespread rain, winds, downed trees, 3/20/23](#)

Lake Mendocino

3/20

Current Storage (acre-feet)	91,369
FIRO Storage Curve (acre-feet)	92,145
% of FIRO Storage Curve	99.16%
7-day change (acre-feet)	+2,881

Lake Pillsbury

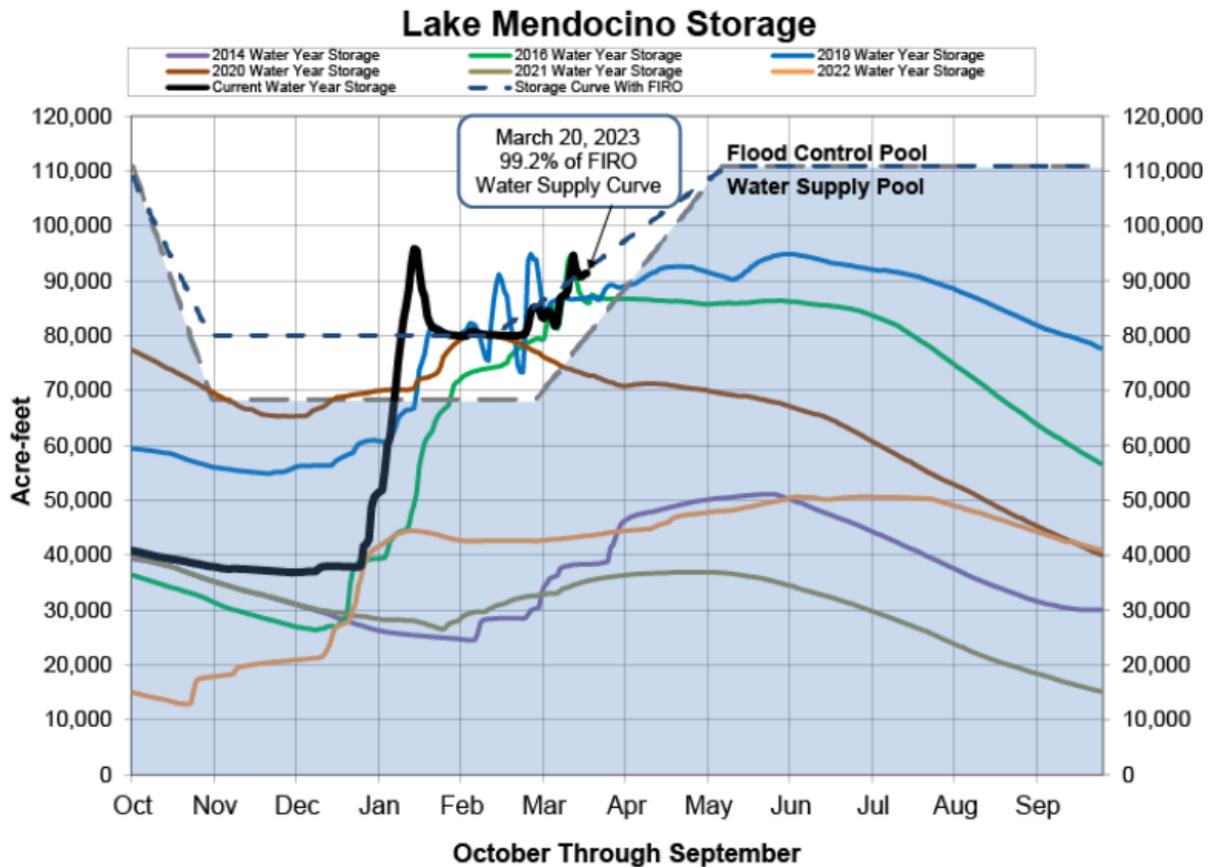
3/18

Current Storage (acre-feet)	59,628
Target Storage Curve (acre-feet)	63,510
7-day change (acre-feet)	-284

Lake Sonoma

3/20

Current Storage (acre-feet)	282,095
Minor Deviation Curve (acre-feet)	264,000
% of Minor Deviation Storage Curve	106.85%
7-day change (acre-feet)	-1,046



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

PG&E Announces Changes to Future Potter Valley Project Operations

- PG&E issued a [press release on 3/16/23: Water Levels at Lake Pillsbury to be Lower this Year](#). In summary, after a regular seismic analyses, the level of risk around seismic performance at Scott Dam has led to PG&E's decision to not only abandon the closure of the spill gates that impound additional storage but from this point forward, storage at Lake Pillsbury will be reduced to 74% of capacity. This results in less water available both for Eel River summer flows and in the summer diversions of water to the East Fork Russian River, similar to conditions experience in 2021. More information can be found:
- [Press Democrat article - Scott Dam gates to stay open, meaning Lake Pillsbury diversions to remain at drought levels, 3/16/23](#).
- [KZYX - Spillway gates on Scott Dam to remain open, curtailing flow into East Branch, 3/18/23](#)
- [CNN - Another atmospheric river will thrash storm-ravaged California, threatening more flooding and hurricane-force wind gusts, 3/20/23](#)

Russian River Water Forum Launches New Website

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

The Russian River Water Forum is a collaborative effort of regional partners with initial funding from the California Department of Water Resources. The Water Forum will seek to identify water-supply resiliency solutions that respond to PG&E's planned decommissioning of the Potter Valley Project while protecting Tribal interests and supporting the stewardship of fisheries, water quality, and recreation in the Russian River and Eel River basins. More broadly, the Water Forum will support ongoing regional collaboration on water supply and watershed restoration issues in the Russian River and Eel River basins. Check out the website and be sure to sign up for email updates!



State Water Board Releases Draft Regulatory Framework for 'Making Conservation a California Way of Life'

In a major development for long-term water use efficiency, the State Water Resources Control Board has released the [proposed regulatory framework](#) for “Making Conservation a California Way of Life.” This new framework proposes unique water use efficiency goals for each urban retail water supplier, including urban water use efficiency standards, variances, an urban water use objective, and commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) performance measures. A workshop is being held March 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM: [Rulemaking to Make Conservation a California Way of Life website](#)

State Agencies to Host Webinar on Executive Order N-4-23: Flood Water & Groundwater Recharge

The California Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are holding a webinar on the Executive Order N-4-23, related to flood water capture and groundwater recharge. The webinar will include opening remarks, a presentation detailing the requirements of the Executive Order, and opportunity for question and answer from participants.

Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 **Time:** 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM **How to join the webinar:**

Please pre-register in advance of the webinar. Via the registration link, please share any questions on the Executive Order that you may have, so that as many questions can be responded to during the webinar.

[Click here to register for the webinar event](#)

CA Tribal Water Summit Film Festival, April 12, 2023 in Sacramento

The CA Water Boards announce the [Tribal Water Summit Film Festival on April 12 9-4 in the Secretary of State Auditorium](#). The Tribal Water Summit may be sold out, but you can still learn about California Tribal Water Rights, TEK, cultural burns, habitat and species restoration, cultural ceremony, basketry, medicine gathering, forest protection, land back, and how Tribes are handling climate resilience - by attending the **Tribal Water Summit Film Festival on Wed, April 12, 2023 9am- 4pm at the Secretary of State auditorium, 1500 11th Street, Sacramento, CA**. Each film is produced in collaboration with California Tribes and highlights the theme of the Tribal Water Summit which is “The Water that Connects Us”.

City of Ukiah Diversity and Equity Committee seeks interested applicants

The city of Ukiah is currently recruiting for several vacancies on its Diversity and Equity Committee. Qualified candidates, who would like to make a difference in their community and are interested in serving as a committee member, are encouraged to apply. For more information about the vacancies and qualification requirements, visit <http://cityofukiah.com/boards-commissions-committees/>.

State Water Board- 5 Positions in Office of Public Participation

The Office of Public Participation ensures Water Boards decision-making processes involve the public and uplift the voices of environmental justice communities and California Native American tribes. The Office of Public Participation achieves this by designing and implementing effective stakeholder involvement processes, providing resources for language access, offering capacity building opportunities, and coordinating government-to-government tribal consultations. [Job posting link](#) Final filing date: March 21, 2023.

Congratulations to Sonoma Water!

Sonoma Water and partners were recently recognized for their efforts to advance the Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) which was piloted at Lake Mendocino. Sonoma Water received the Outreach Award from the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) for its advocacy on FIRO. [Find out more about FIRO](#).

April is Earthquake Preparedness Month

Please visit earthquake.ca.gov to learn more about the latest tools and resources and how to use them. You can also sign up for a regular partner e-newsletter on the website from Cal OES that includes the latest news and information about Earthquake Warning California.

Learn more at about Earthquake Warning California

In the press:

- [CA Water Plan eNews, 3/15/23](#)
- [Maven's Notebook, 3/12-3/17/23](#)

- [Press Democrat - Flood control releases planned from Lake Sonoma for 1st time in nearly 4 years amid heavy rain, 3/14/23](#)
- [US DROUGHT MONITOR AS OF MARCH 14, 2023](#)
- [ABC News - Drought over? Spring outlook finds relief -- and flood risk, 3/15/23](#)
- [Associated Press - World on 'thin ice' as UN climate report gives stark warning, 3/20/23](#)
- [Russian River Watershed Association - Get Ready to Chase Down Sneaky Leaks!, 3/1/23](#)
- [Press Democrat - Santa Rosa ends emergency drought declaration following winter storms, 3/16/23](#)
- [Press Democrat - New large storm system possible Tuesday across North Bay, 3/15/23](#)
- [Today Online - Earth to hit critical warming threshold by early 2030s, UN climate panel says, 3/20/23](#)
- [Civil Eats - Supreme Court Case Could Reshape Indigenous Water Rights in the Southwest, 3/15/23](#)
- [NCWA - This Week in Federal Policy, 3/13/23/](#)
- [Grist - How rising temperatures are intensifying California's atmospheric river, 3/15/23](#)
- [Phys.org - The world's atmospheric rivers now have an intensity ranking like hurricanes, 3/9/23](#)

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](#).

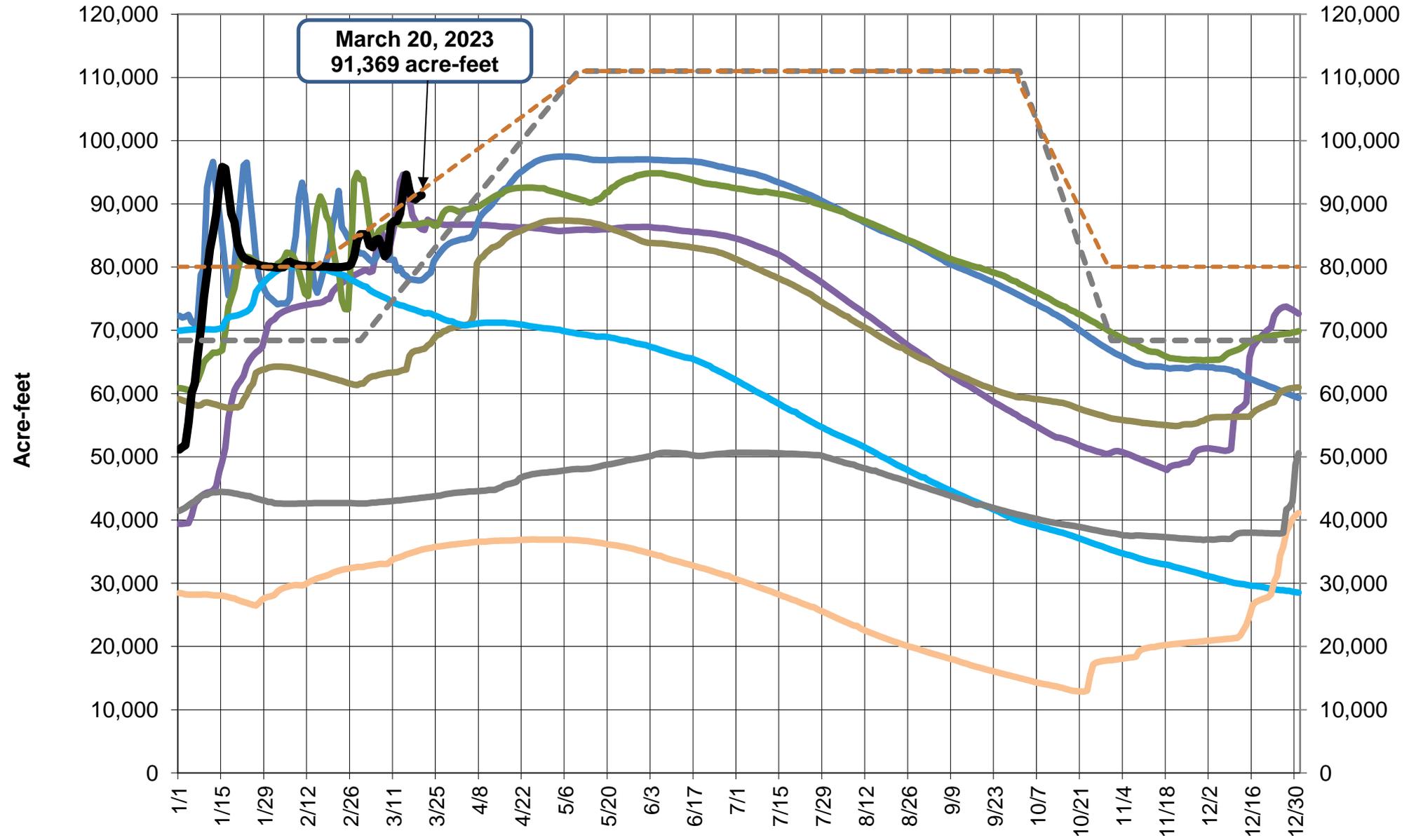
Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager

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

NEW ADDRESS: 304 N. State Street, #2, Ukiah, CA 95482

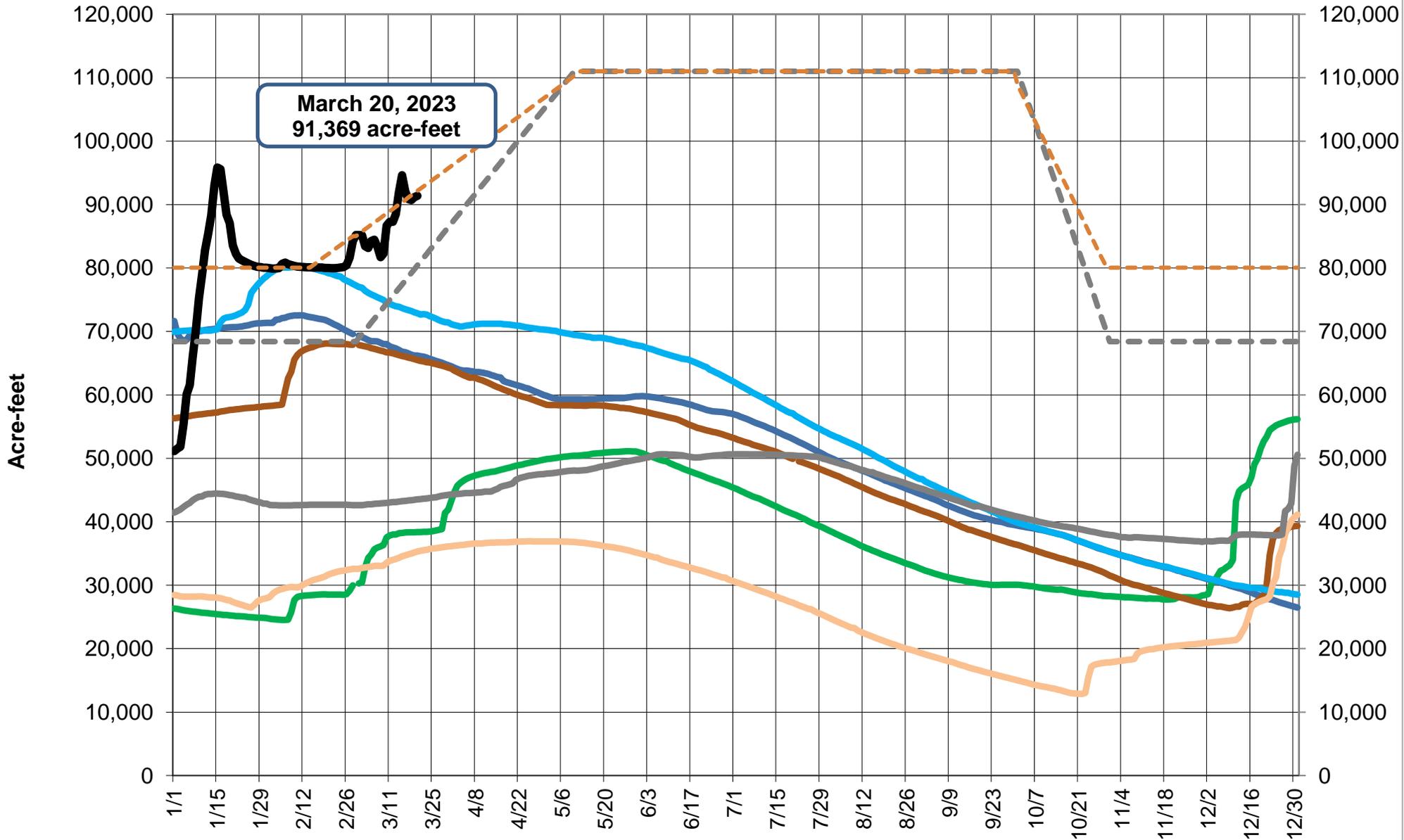
Cell: 707-462-5278 www.RRFC.net

Lake Mendocino Storage

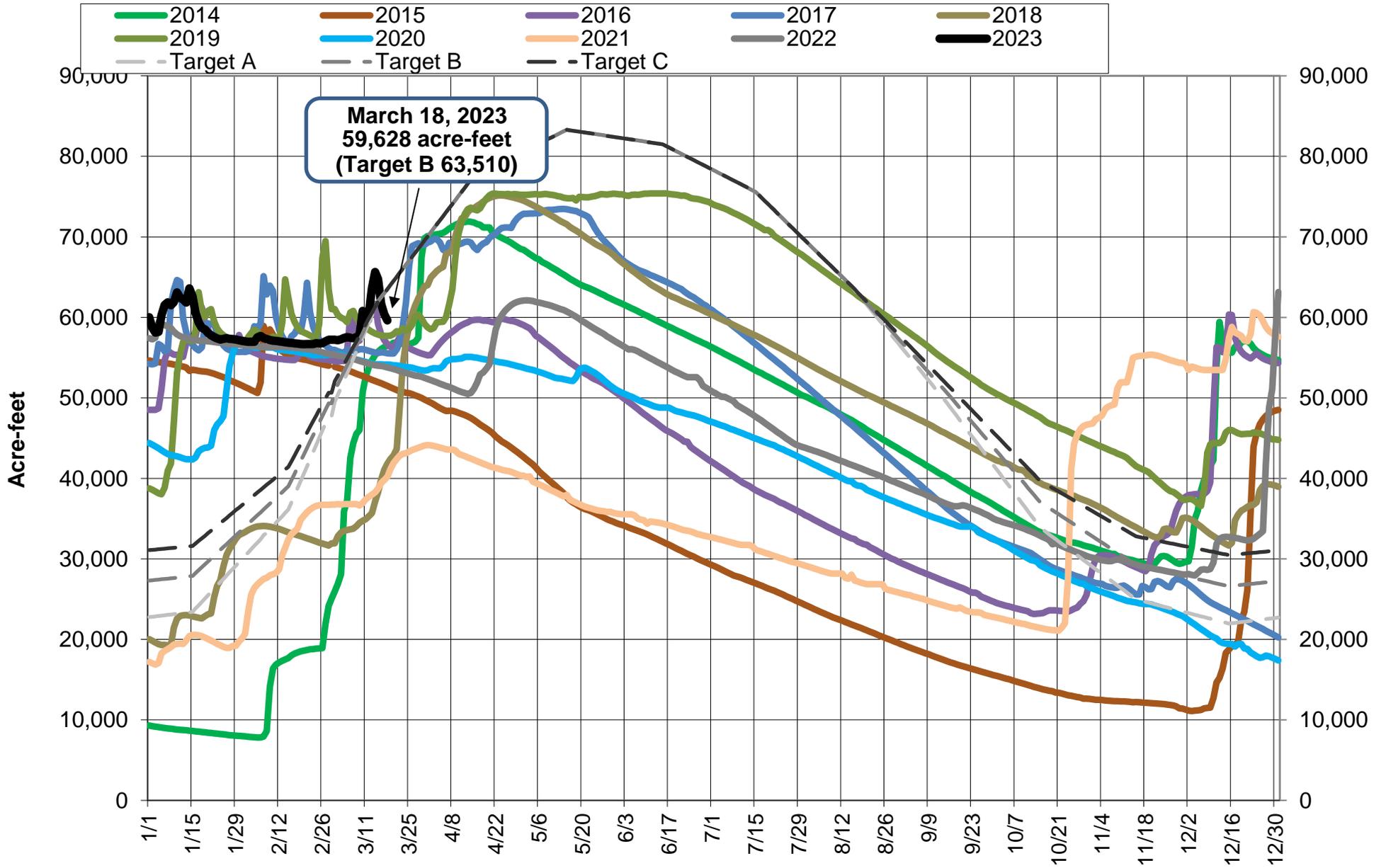


Lake Mendocino Storage - Drought Years

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



Lake Pillsbury Storage and Target Storage Scenarios



Lake Sonoma Storage

