

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

**STAFF REPORT**

**Agenda Item 9: Water Supply Conditions**

**Monday, October 5, 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 that remains in effect through November 17, 2026.

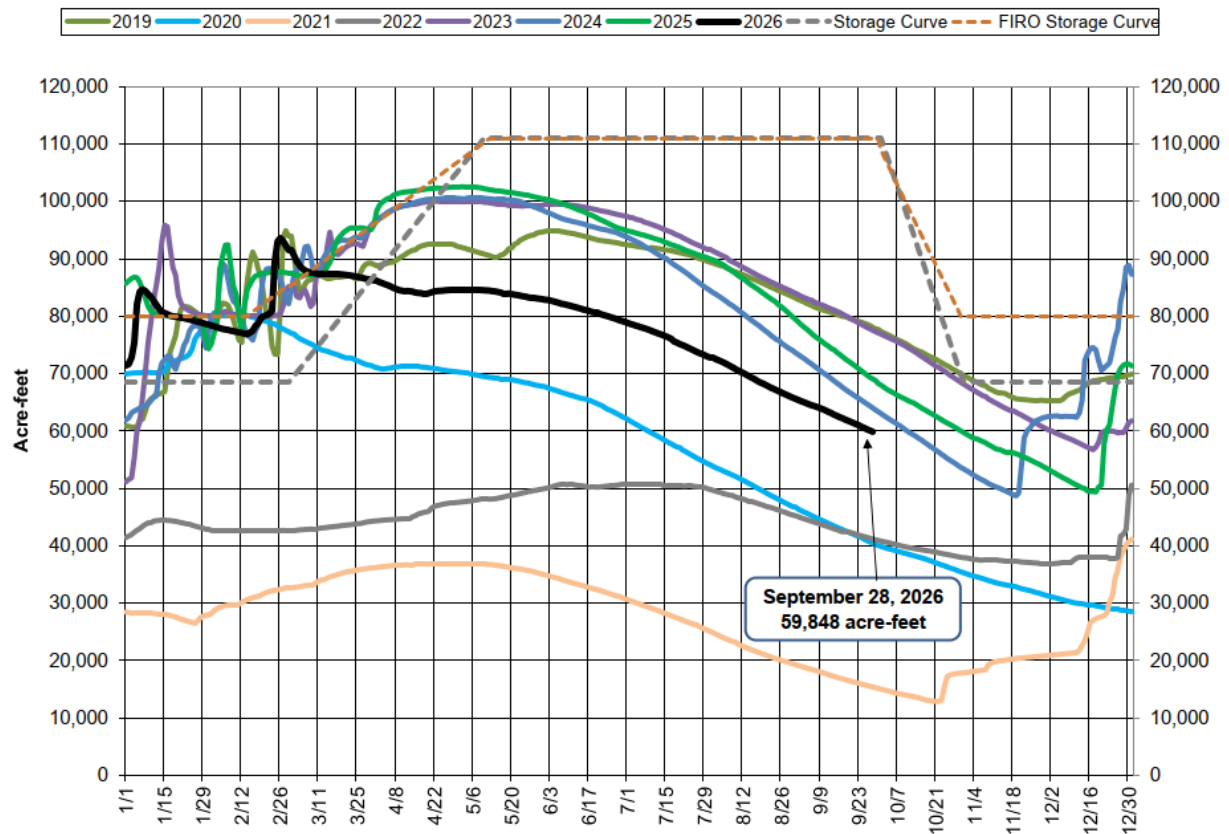
On August 28, 2026, Sonoma Water filed another temporary urgency change petition. The State Water Resources Control Board issued a comment period that closes by **4:30 pm on October 19, 2026**. For more information see: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/current-russian-river-and-lake-mendocino-operations> or Sonoma Water's TUCP webpage: [www.sonomawater.org/tucp](http://www.sonomawater.org/tucp).)

**Lake Mendocino**

**9/28**

|                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Current Storage (acre-feet)    | 59,848  |
| FIRO Storage Curve (acre-feet) | 111,000 |
| % of FIRO Storage Curve        | 53.92%  |
| 7-day change (acre-feet)       | -1,520  |

**Lake Mendocino Storage**



(Continued...)

### **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. Minimum instream flow requirement will reduce from 25 cfs down to 5 cfs beginning September 30th and for the remainder of variance. Flow change protocol is to decrease the morning of October 1st by 9 AM. 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:

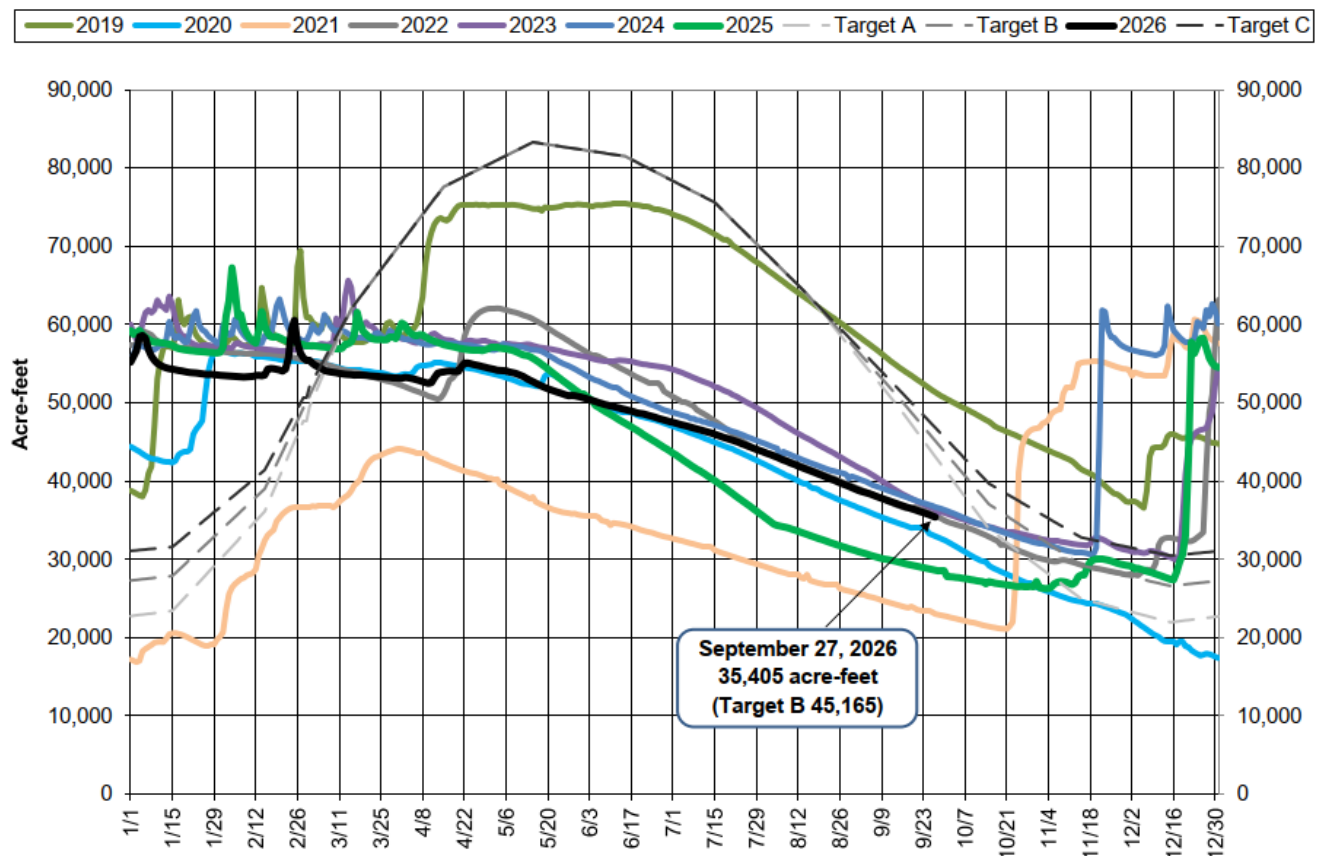
<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/current-pg-e-potter-valley-project-operations>

### **Lake Pillsbury**

**9/27**

|                                  |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Current Storage (acre-feet)      | 35,405 |
| Target Storage Curve (acre-feet) | 45,165 |
| 7-day change (acre-feet)         | -949   |

### **Lake Pillsbury Storage and Target Storage Scenarios**



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