

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

STAFF REPORT

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

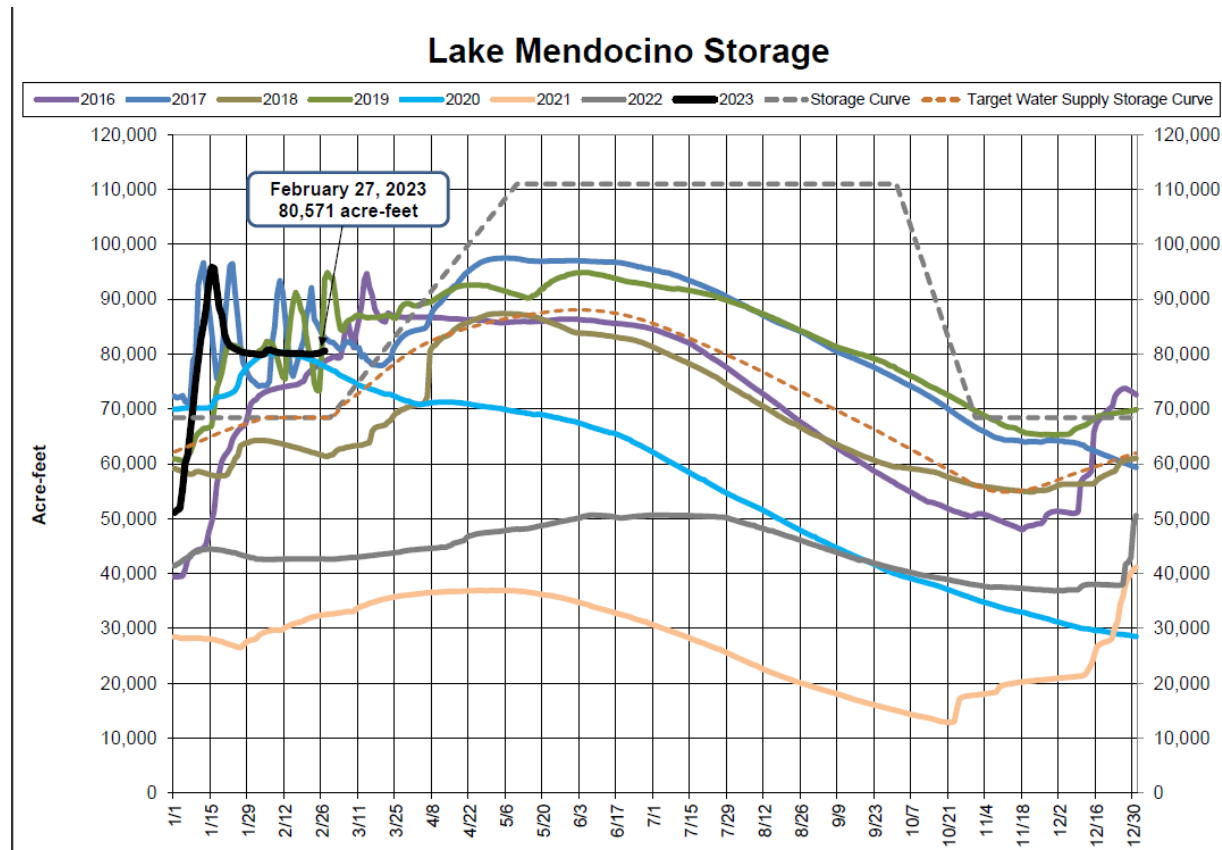
The Strategic Plan relevant priorities are: **Security** through ensuring reliable, resilient, and available sources of water; **Advocacy** in support of equitable water resource stewardship; and **Use** of water in effective and beneficial ways as a public resource, all in alignment with the District’s 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. A summary of recent activities is available in the Laytonville Observer Volume 47 #3, dated February 23, 2023 in the form of a letter from the Lake Pillsbury Alliance.

Lake Mendocino and the Mainstem Upper Russian River

Lake Mendocino storage level was 80,571 acre feet (af) on February 27, 2023 as compared to 80,088 af on January 30, 2023. On March 1, 2023, the Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) allow for additional water to be stored in Lake Mendocino.



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

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Curtailments in the Upper Russian River

Effective January 14, 2023 and 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. More information can be found on the Russian River drought response page:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/russian_river/

The Governor’s Executive Order N-3-23 issued on February 13, 2023 states:

“No later than April 28, 2023, state agencies shall send me their recommendations for what further actions, if any, are necessary for ongoing emergency drought response, and their views on whether any existing provisions in my proclamations and executive orders related to the drought emergency are no longer needed to prepare for and mitigate the effects of the drought conditions.”

These agencies include the State Water Resources Control Board which will be assessing the need for Emergency Regulations throughout the State, including the Russian River watershed. These Emergency Regulations allow for the Upper Russian River Voluntary Water Sharing Agreement Program to be implemented.

The Upper Russian River Voluntary Water Sharing Agreement Program

The Water Sharing Program Steering Committee has continued to meet regularly. The 2022 annual implementation report was submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board and the 2023 Program continues to be developed in the event it is needed. If the Emergency Regulations are revoked, the Program needs to find an alternative process for implementation and a working group is exploring an option. Find out more about the Program 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. Monthly meetings are underway to develop the Technical Memo and updates will be available at future Board meetings.

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