

# Staff Report

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Chip Close, Director of Water Operations  
Thor Larson, Water Resources Superintendent

**DATE:** March 25, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Water Supply Update / Surplus Water Declaration

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## **WATER OPERATIONS**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive an update on current & forecasted water supply conditions and adopt a Resolution making a declaration of surplus water availability for 2026.

### **BACKGROUND:**

As required by the Districts Water Shortage Contingency Plan, prior to the start of the irrigation season, NID's Hydrography team analyzes forecasted water availability for the upcoming summer months. The forecast incorporates current reservoir storage and anticipated snowpack runoff based on snow survey data. This analysis is utilized to determine the amount of water available for the summer irrigation season, and to make a determination on whether the Water Shortage Contingency plan will need to be enacted.

Following the water availability analysis, a determination of the potential of surplus water supply will be made. Surplus water is defined as water exceeding the needs of customers within our service area boundary. In years where surplus water is declared, the District, as per CA Water Code Section 22259, can sell the surplus supply to customers outside the District's boundary. Historically, the District has provided surplus water sales to a small number of outside District customers. Additionally, NID supplies surplus raw water to the City of Grass Valley and Nevada City through a long-term water supply agreement.

The current and forecasted water supply portfolio is as follows: District reservoir storage as of March 11th is 255,168 Acre Feet, representing 112% of average for this time of year, and 94% of total capacity. The official runoff forecast from the Department of Water Resources Bulletin 120 is projecting 50% of average runoff

within the Yuba watershed. Staff has utilized this forecast to project the remainder of the year using 49% of the average moving forward. This 49% forecast correlates to approximately 61,000, Acre Feet in expected watershed runoff from NID's watershed.

PG&E anticipates having water available for purchase per the Coordinated Operating Agreement; however, an estimated amount is not available at this time. Given the lack of specific PG&E numbers, staff has conducted the water availability analysis without it

When taken in total, the water supply information above indicates a forecasted available April 1st water supply of 279,300 Acre Feet. This exceeds the 235,000 AF necessary for a normal year, as established in the District's Drought Contingency Plan. The excess availability supports a declaration of surplus for the 2026 irrigation season.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

A declaration of surplus water will allow for continued revenue from historic outside District sales. The fee for outside District customer sales includes a 25% increase to offset the lack of tax revenue contributions from out of District parcels. The estimated revenue in water sales from surplus customers for the 2026 irrigation season is shown below:

Outside District Customers (Based on 2025)

16 Customers Fixed Fee Outside District	(15.5 X \$713.73) = \$11,062.82
17 Miners Inches @ Outside District Rate	(16 X \$420.61) = \$6,729.76
	<u>Total = \$17,792.58</u>

Outside District Municipal Customers

City of Grass Valley R/W Usage (Based on 2025 demand)

Base Rate + Per Acre Feet (\$713.73 + (\$370.99 X 980.07 AF) = \$364,309.90

City of Grass Valley T/W Usage (Based on 2025 demand)

Base Rate + Per Acre Feet (\$1,833.40 + (\$851.60 X 68.71 AF) = \$58,478.17

City of Nevada City R/W Usage (Based on 2025 demand)

Base Rate + Per Acre Feet (\$713.73 + (\$370.99 X 215.78 AF) = \$80,765.95

Total Municipal Sales = \$503,554.02

Total Estimated Surplus Sales (\$18,570.05 + \$459,934.17) = \$521,346.60

Attachment (1):

- Resolution 2026-10
- Water Supply PowerPoint



**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-10**  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**DECLARING SURPLUS WATER CONDITIONS FOR 2026**

**WHEREAS**, Nevada Irrigation District (District) provides water for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, municipal, environmental, recreation, hydroelectric generation, and fire protection and prevention purposes, as well as other beneficial uses of water; and

**WHE REAS**, according to the District's the Drought Contingency Plan and Board Policy #8200, a water supply analysis must be conducted prior to April 1 to determine available water deliveries and assess surplus availability; and

**WHEREAS**, to date, the 2025/2026 water year has been above average in overall precipitation, with a below average forecasted April 1st snowpack.; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 11, 2026, precipitation amounts at the District's Bowman Lake recording station are at 111% of the average for this date, and

**WHEREAS**, the March 1, snow survey results indicated a snowpack with a water content of only 65% of average; and

**WHEREAS**, the District's current water storage is at 255,618 acre-feet, representing 118% of average for this date; and 94% of overall storage, and

**WHEREAS**, two years of PG&E emergency repairs in 2024 and 2025 severely limited access to the Districts high elevation storage therefore the District's mountain division reservoirs remain full despite the limited snowpack; and

**WHEREAS**, the forecasted available water supply for April 1, 2026, is 279,300 acre-feet, exceeding the threshold for implementation of the Drought Contingency Plan as established in the District's Urban and Agricultural Water Management Plans by 20,617 acre-feet; and

**WHEREAS**, the current and forecasted available water supply exceeds the needs of current internal customer demands and can be classified as surplus water conditions per California Water Code Section 22259;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED** by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District that a surplus water condition exists for 2026. The Board authorizes local water sales, at the discretion of the General Manager, to traditional surplus water purchasers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, given the District's favorable water supply position and the anticipated ongoing demand for water from neighboring out-of-District municipalities and private water users, the District's General Manager is authorized and delegated responsibility to establish rules and regulations for such surplus water sales. This includes determining eligibility, setting prices, defining terms, establishing limitations on volume and delivery season, and other requirements in the discretion of the General Manager.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Board of Directors.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of Nevada Irrigation District at a meeting duly called and held within the District on the 25th day of March 2026, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Directors:

**NOES:** Directors:

**ABSENT:** Directors:

**ABSTAINS:** Directors:

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President of the Board of Directors

**Attest:**

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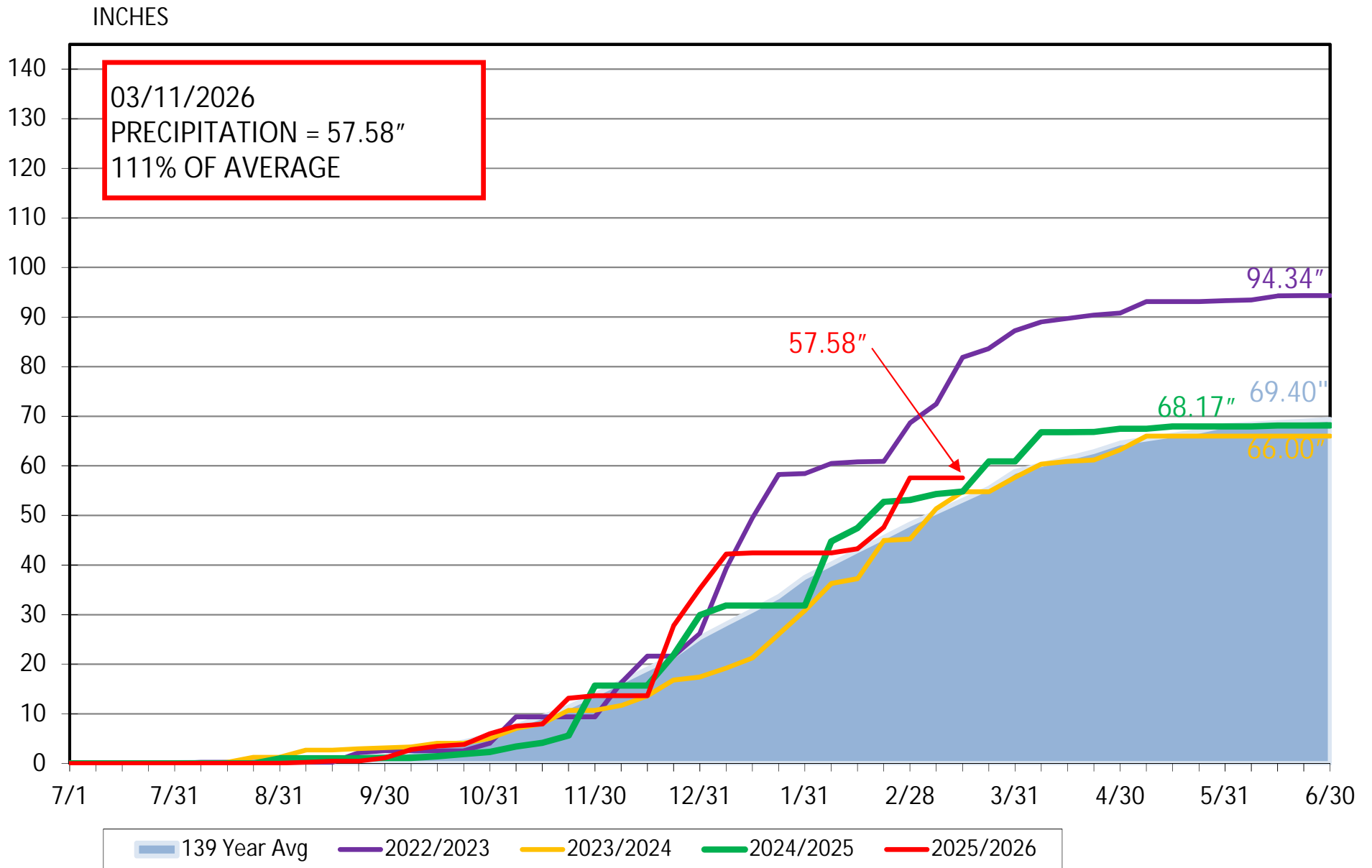
Secretary to the Board of Directors



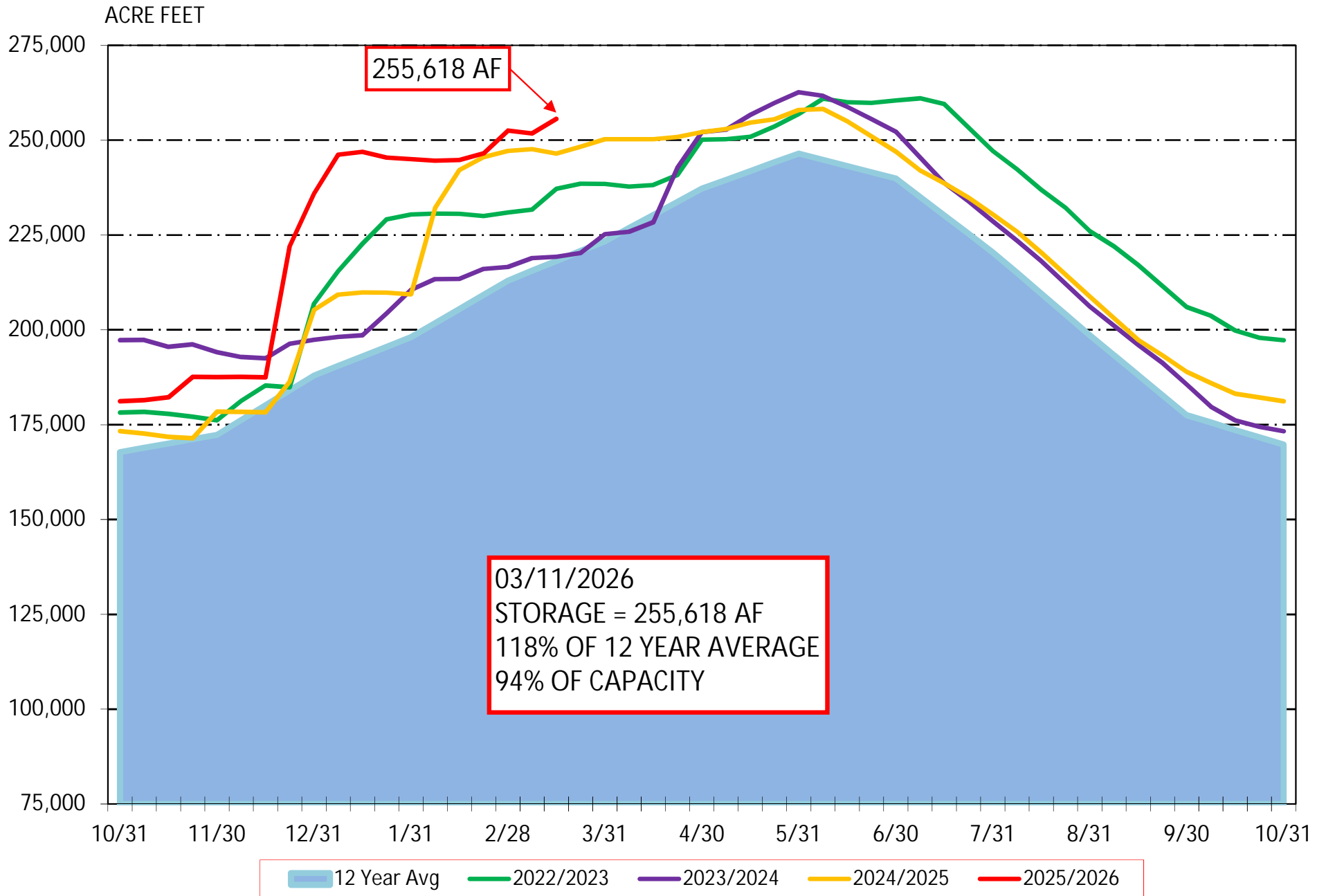
# Nevada Irrigation District Water Supply Update March 25, 2026



# BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



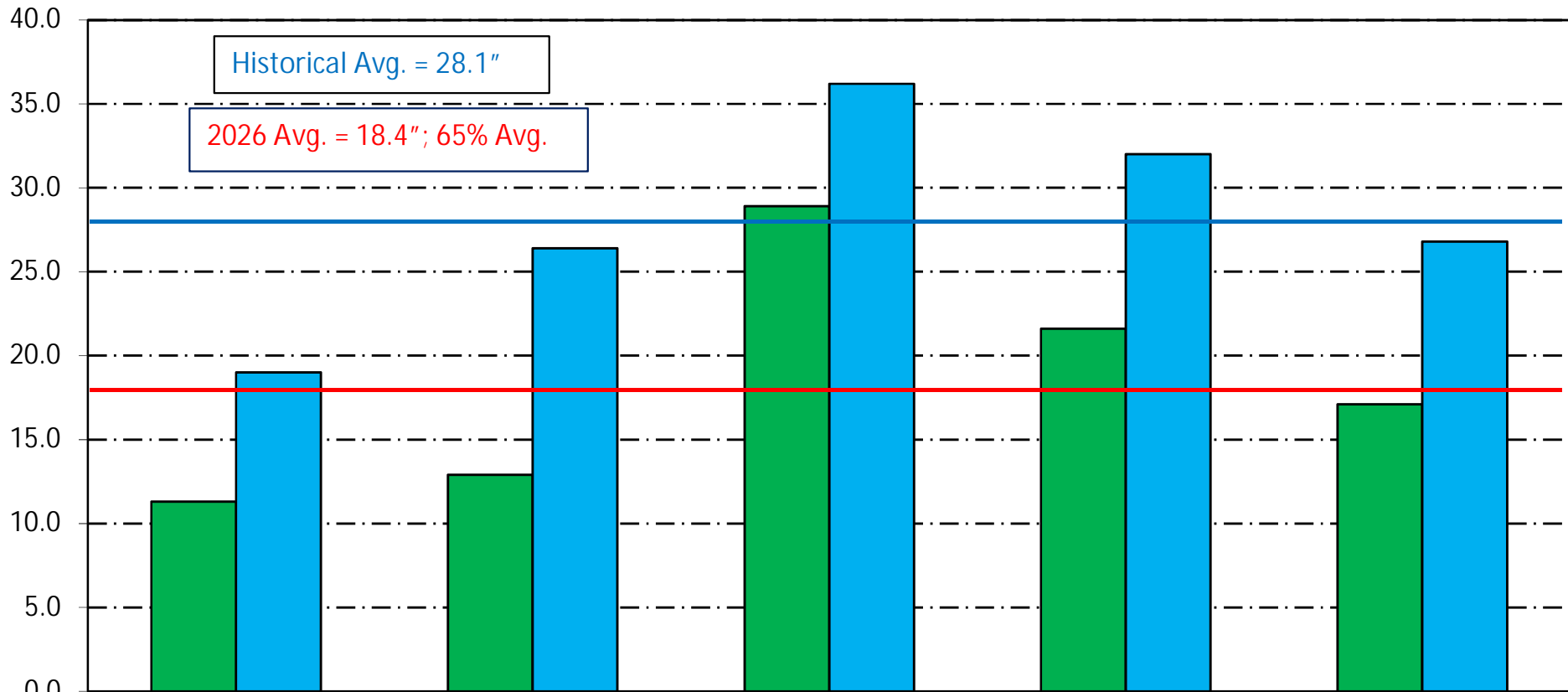
# NID RESERVOIR STORAGE



# NID SNOW SURVEY

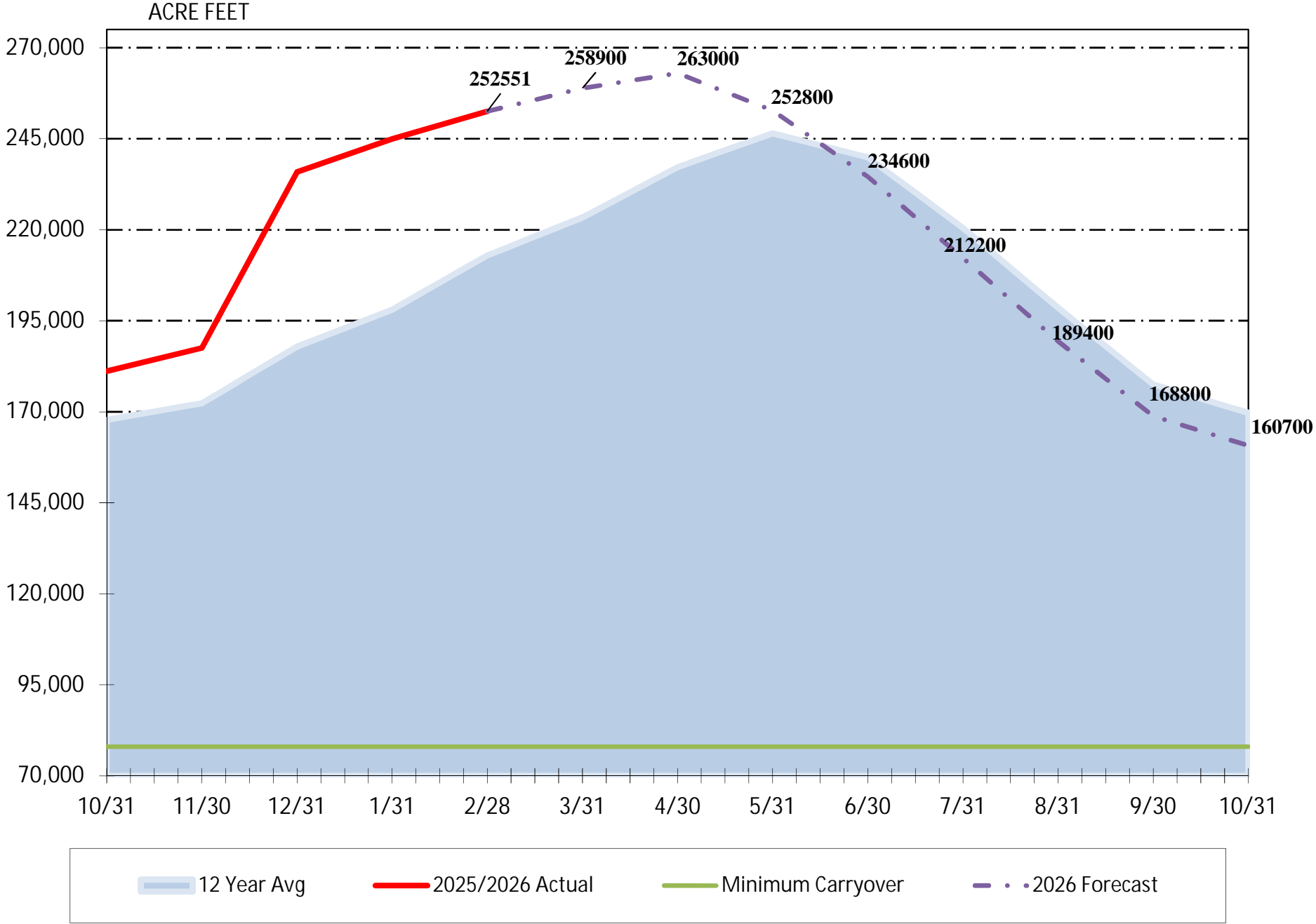
## March 1, 2026 WATER CONTENT

WATER CONTENT (IN.)



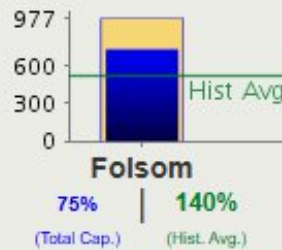
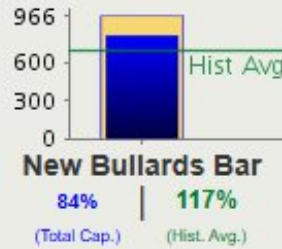
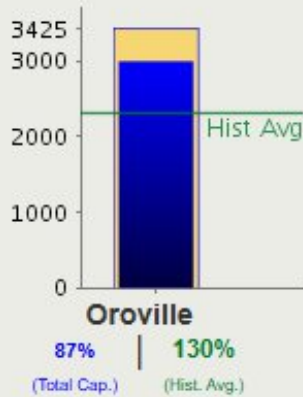
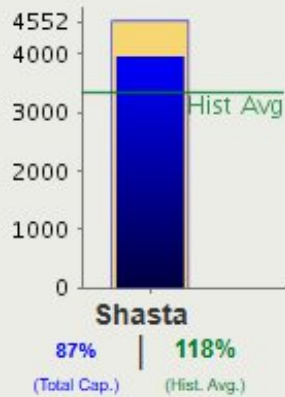
	BOWMAN LK.	FINDLEY PK.	ENGLISH MTN.	WEBBER PEAK	WEBBER LAKE
■ 2026	11.3	12.9	28.9	21.6	17.1
■ AVERAGE	19.0	26.4	36.2	32.0	26.8

# 2026 STORAGE STATUS



Data as of Midnight: 08-Mar-2026

Change Date: 08-Mar-2026

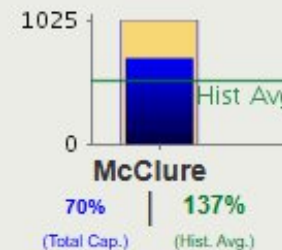
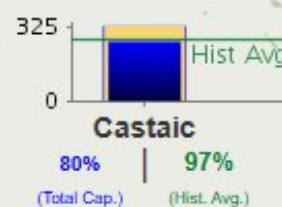
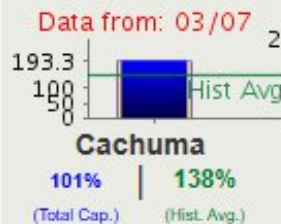
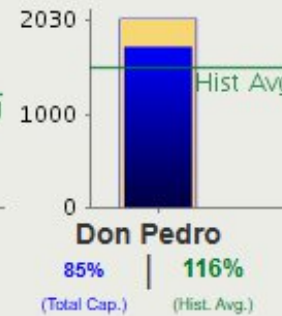
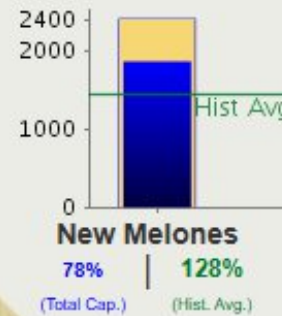
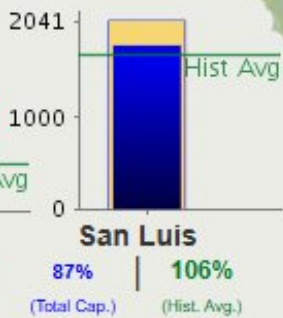
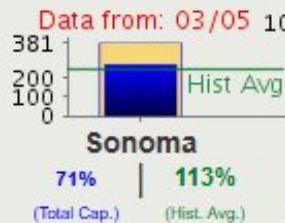
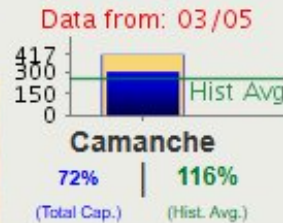
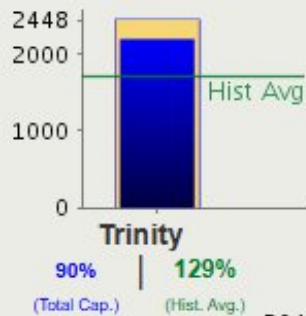


**LEGEND**

- Blue Bar: Storage level for date
- Gold Bar: Total reservoir capacity
- Green Line: Historic level for date.

Capacity (TAF) | Historical Avg Mark

% of Capacity | % Hist. Avg.  
(Click res. 3 char. code for details)



Data from: 03/05

## CURRENT REGIONAL SNOWPACK FROM AUTOMATED SNOW SENSORS

% of April 1 Average / % of Normal for This Date



NORTH	
Data as of March 6, 2026	
Number of Stations Reporting	33
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	9.4
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	35
Percent of normal for this date (%)	38

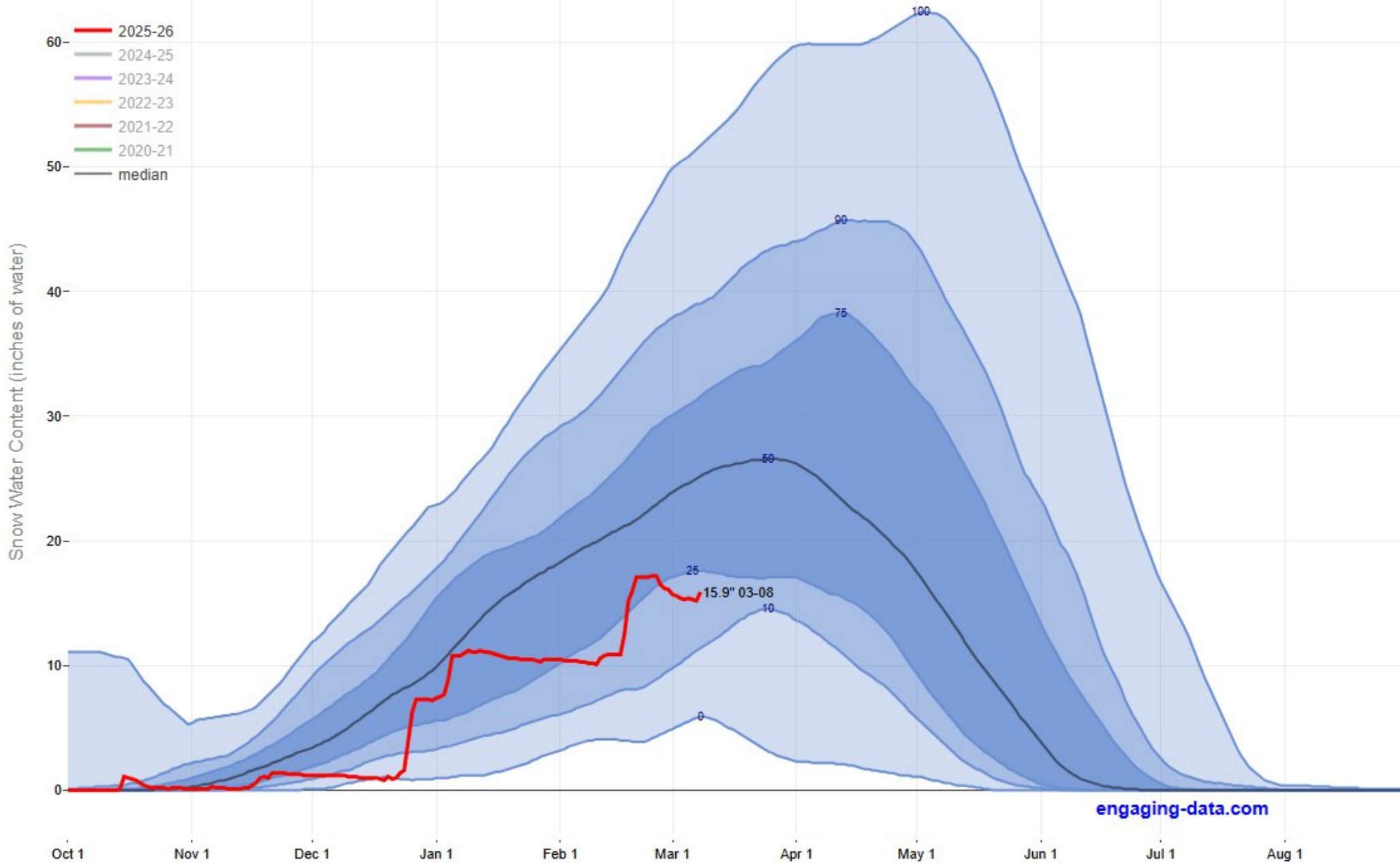
CENTRAL	
Data as of March 6, 2026	
Number of Stations Reporting	54
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	15.5
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	56
Percent of normal for this date (%)	60

SOUTH	
Data as of March 6, 2026	
Number of Stations Reporting	26
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	18.5
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	75
Percent of normal for this date (%)	80

STATE	
Data as of March 6, 2026	
Number of Stations Reporting	113
Average snow water equivalent (Inches)	14.4
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	54
Percent of normal for this date (%)	58

Central Sierra  Snow Water Content  
vs Historical (1970-2022) Percentiles

2026-03-08 **15.9"** (63% of historical median, and 61% of April 1 median)

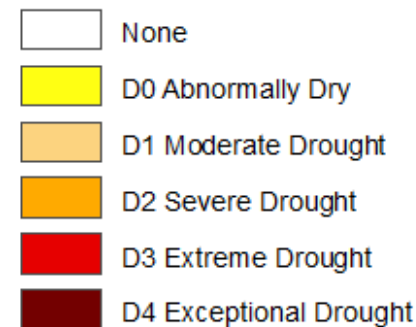


# U.S. Drought Monitor California

**March 3, 2026**  
(Released Thursday, Mar. 5, 2026)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



### Intensity:



*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

### Author:

Brad Pugh  
CPC/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

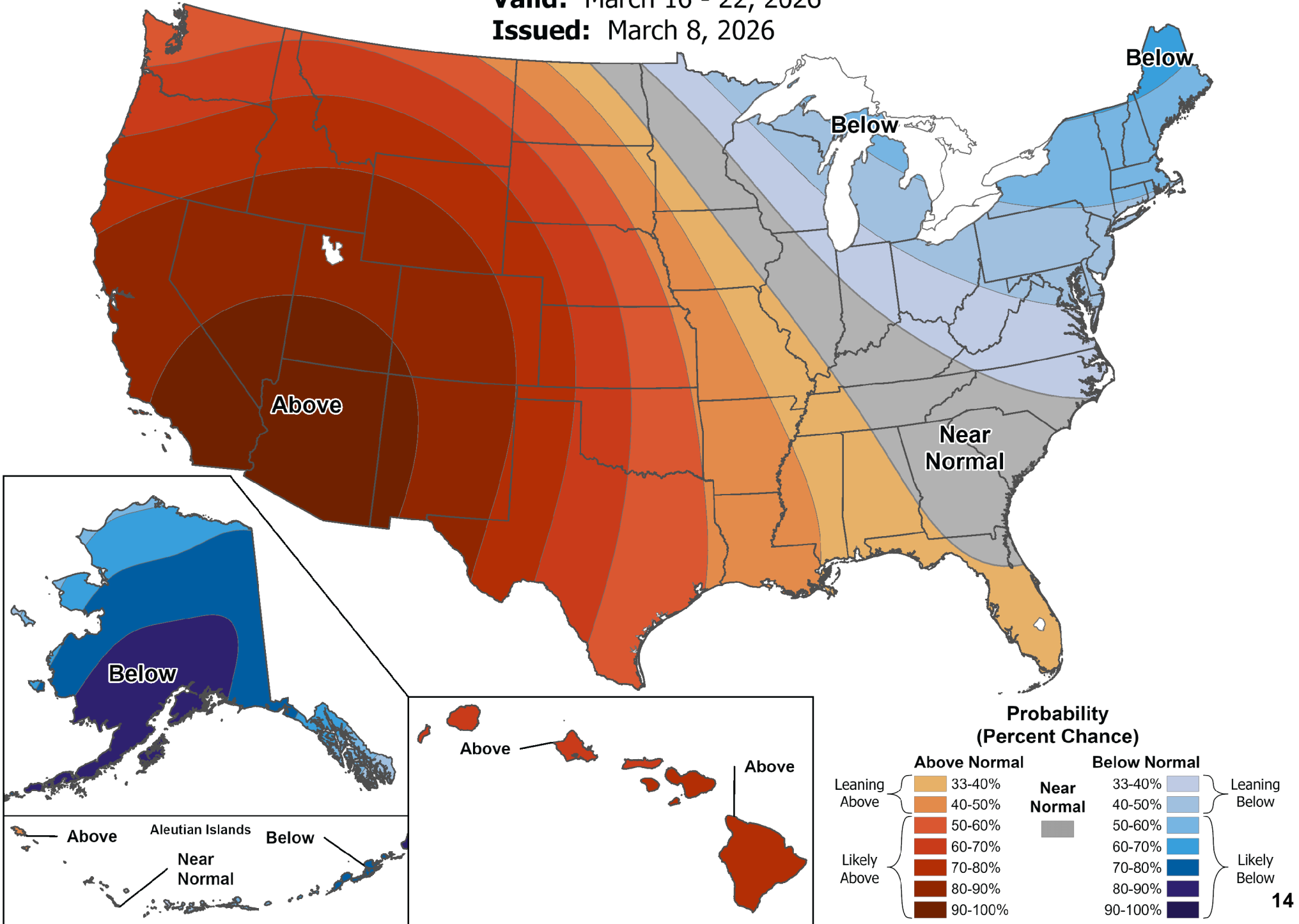


# 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook



**Valid:** March 16 - 22, 2026

**Issued:** March 8, 2026



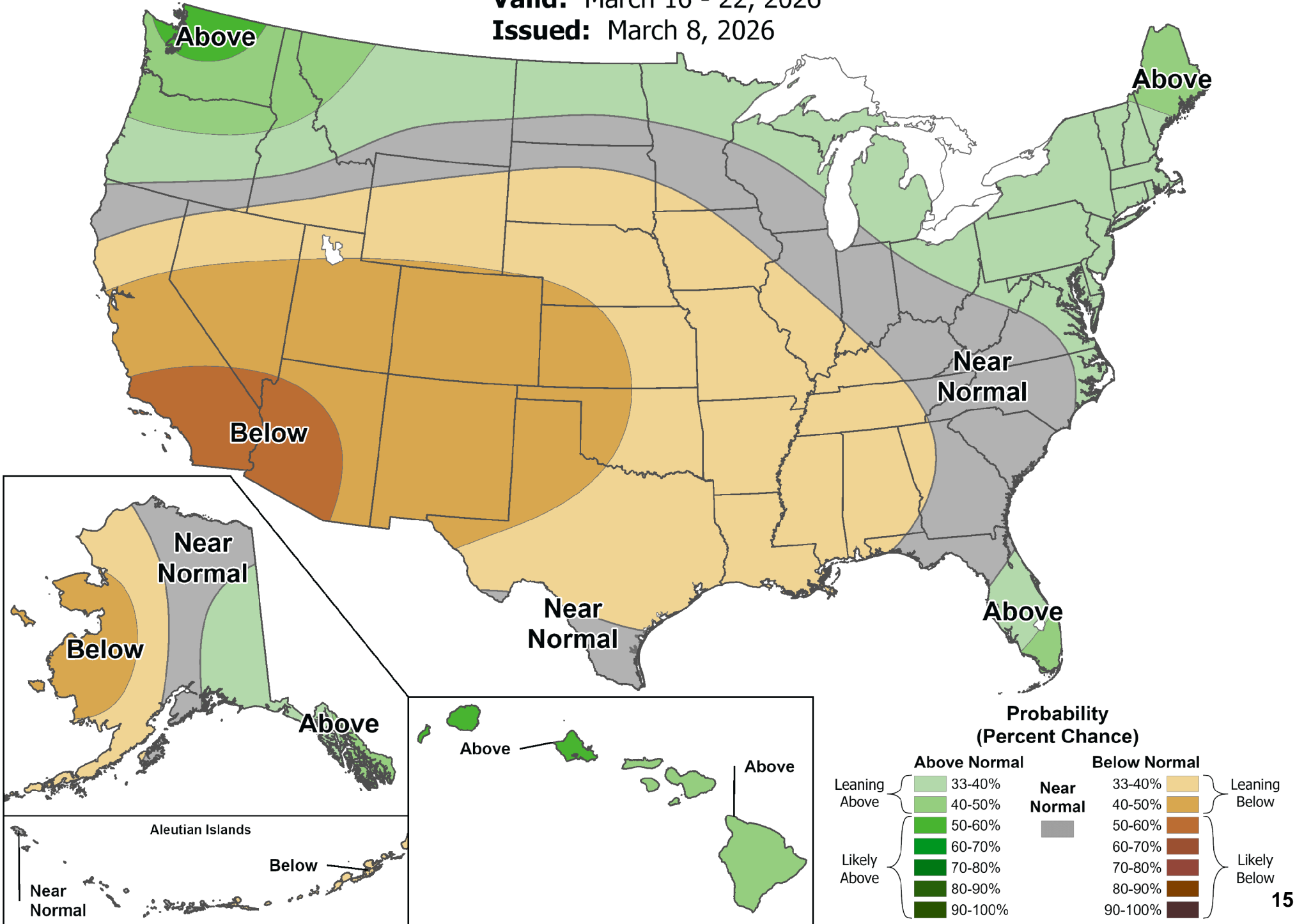


# 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook



**Valid:** March 16 - 22, 2026

**Issued:** March 8, 2026



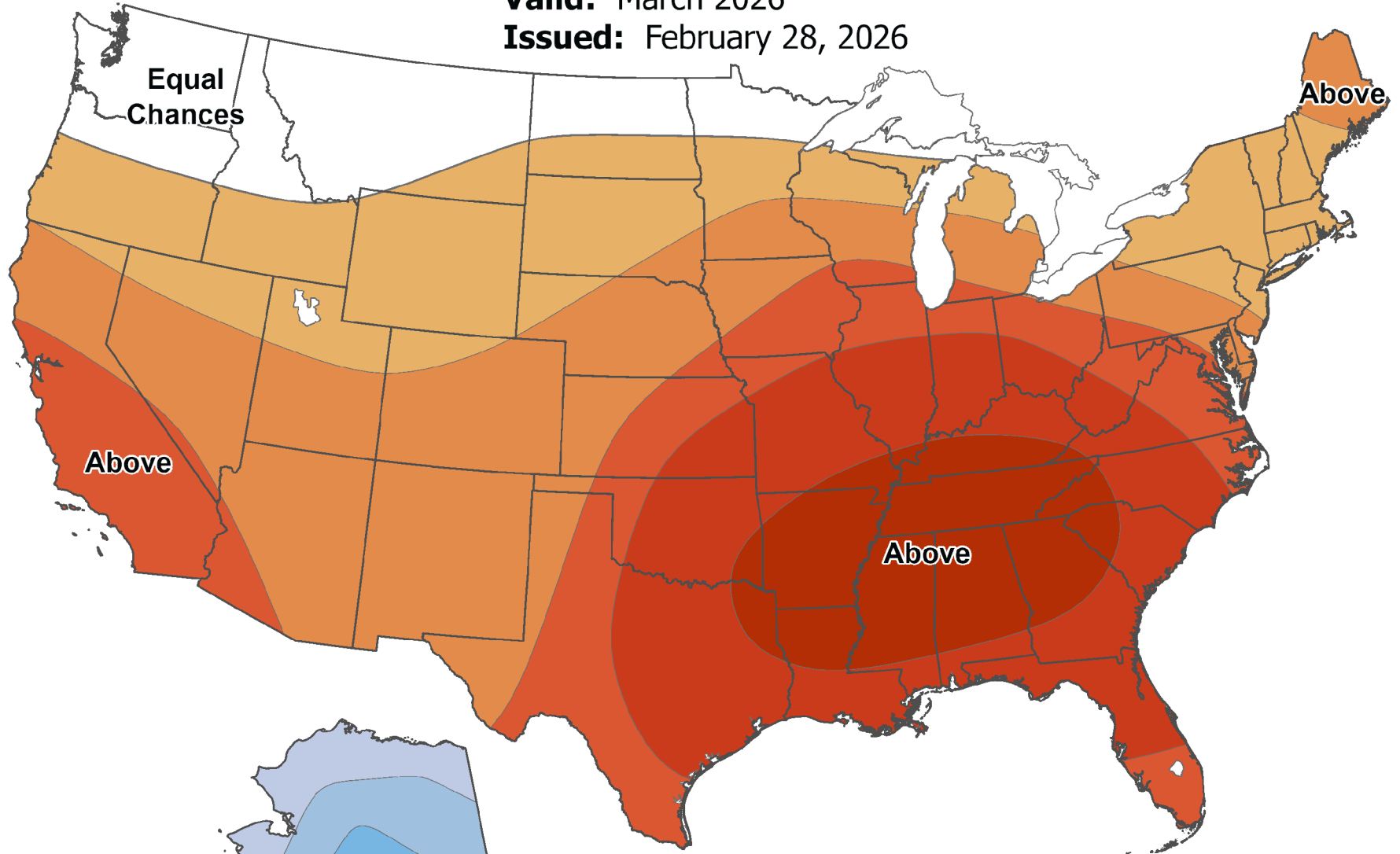


# Monthly Temperature Outlook

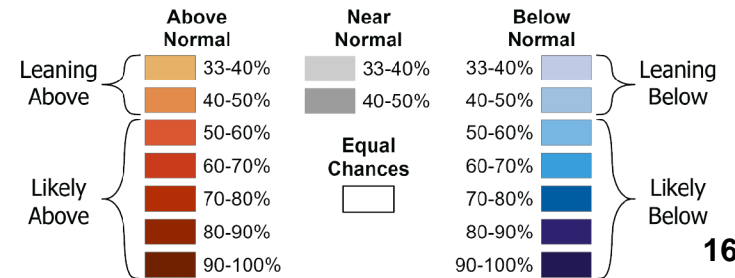


**Valid:** March 2026

**Issued:** February 28, 2026



**Probability (Percent Chance)**



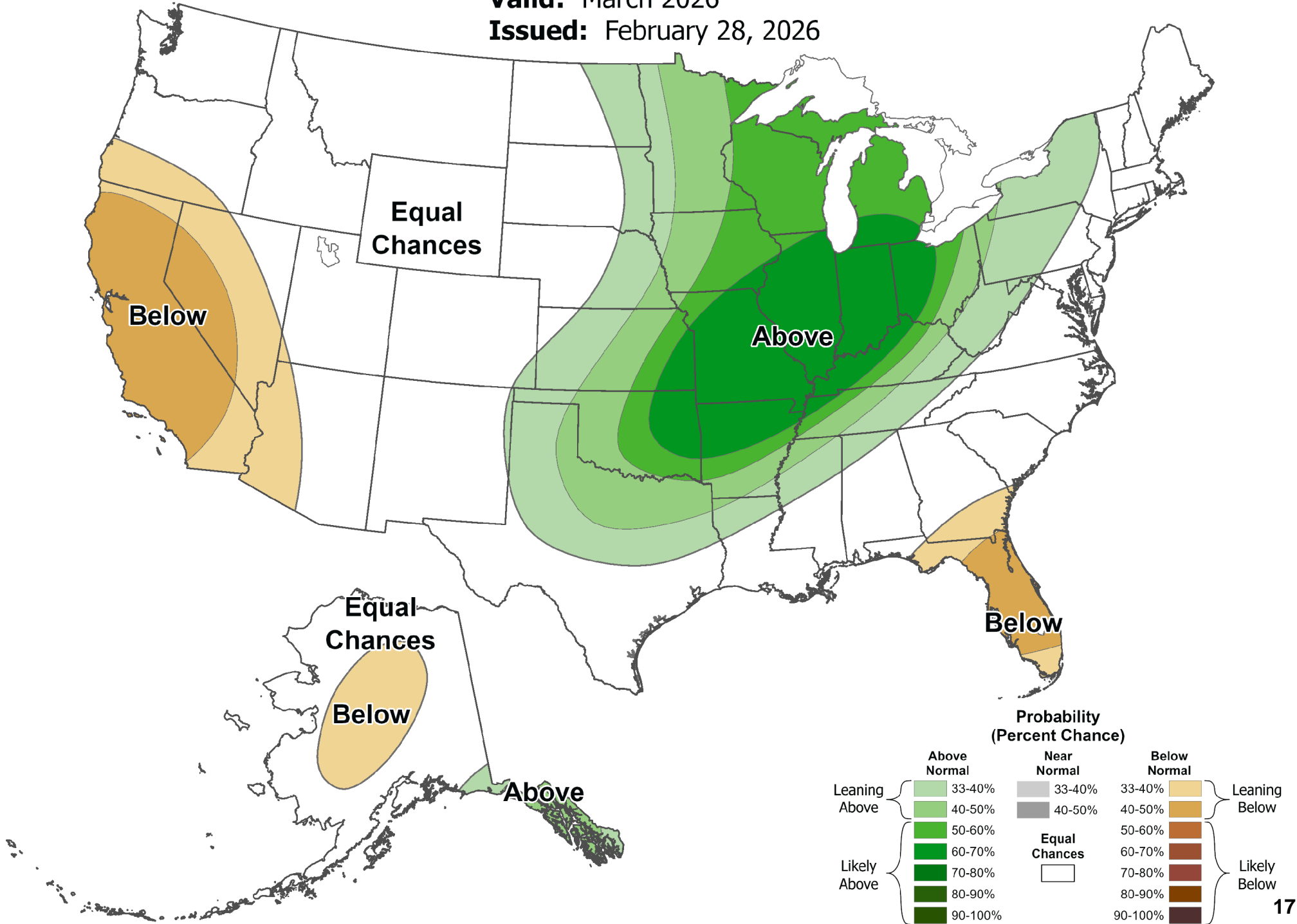


# Monthly Precipitation Outlook

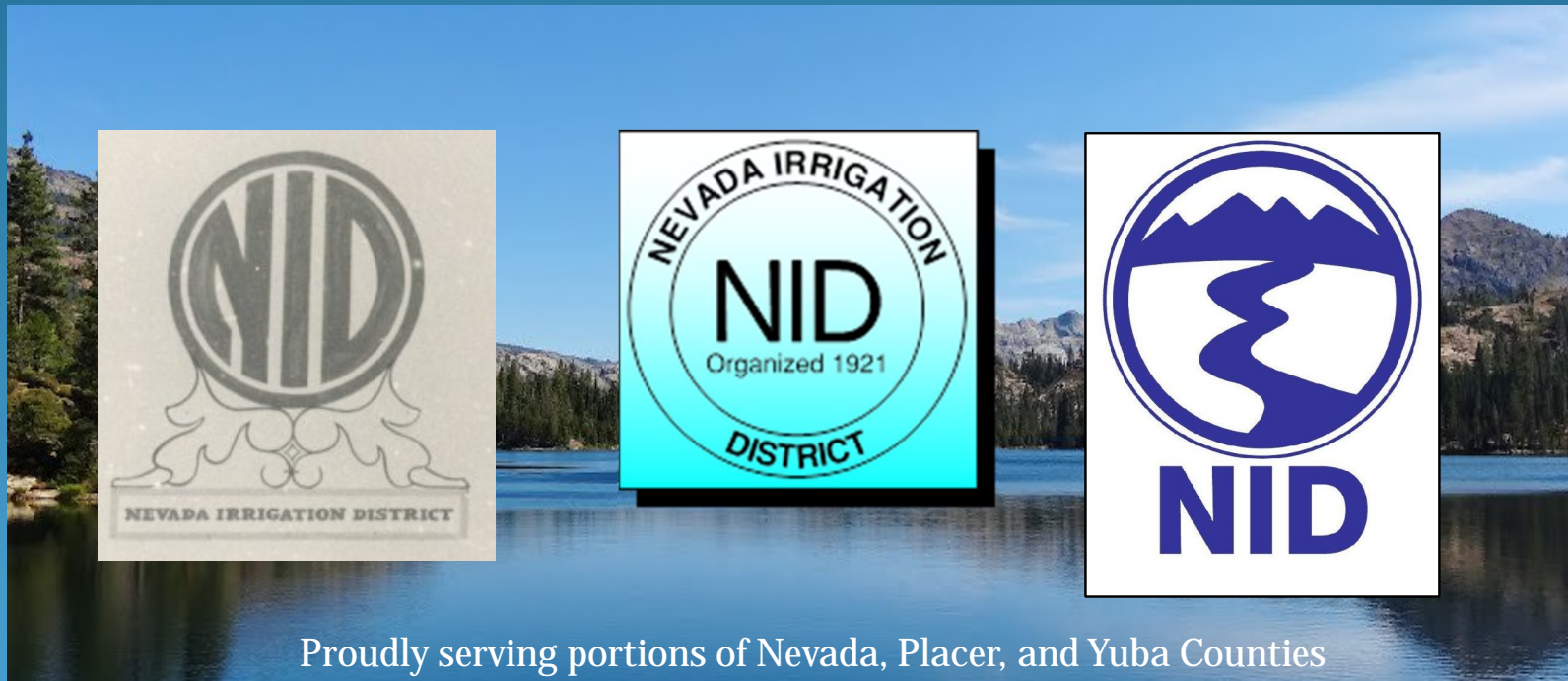


**Valid:** March 2026

**Issued:** February 28, 2026

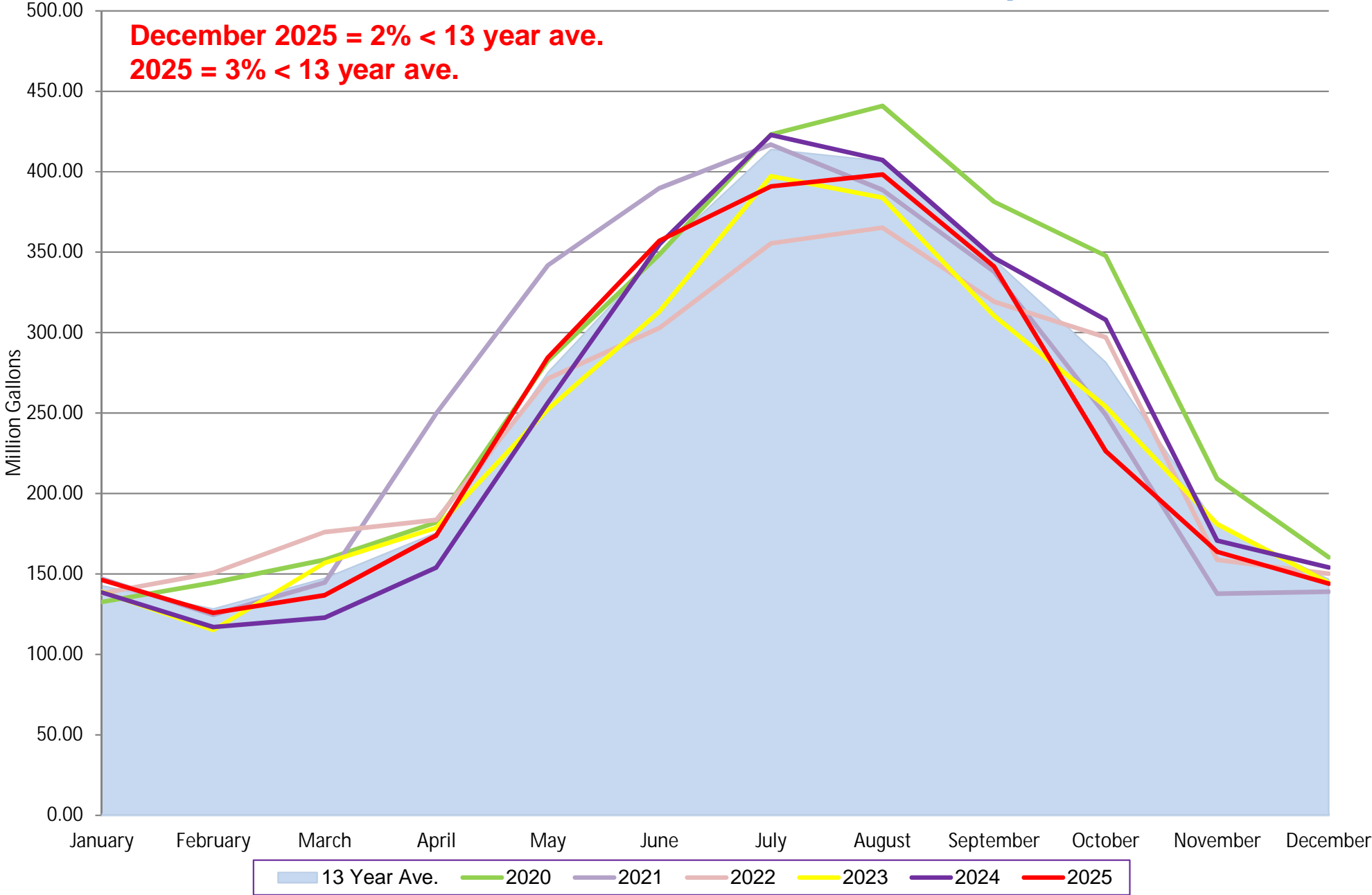


# Questions



Proudly serving portions of Nevada, Placer, and Yuba Counties

# NID Treated Water Use Comparison



<b>Stage 1 – 10% Supply Shortage</b>
<p>Forecast April 1 Available Supply: 234,999 to 211,500 AF</p> <p>Actions include normal rules and regulations plus those listed below</p>
<p>Treated Water and Municipal Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 10 Percent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage customers to limit outdoor irrigation to every other day.</li><li>• Request fire department limit practices drills and hydrant flow testing.</li></ul>
<p>Raw Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 10 Percent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allow Ag customers to voluntarily reduce purchase allotment for the year while reserving their right to return to their previous allotment in the following year if water supply is available.</li></ul>
<p>District Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communicate conservation regulations as identified in Section 3.05 of District Rules and Regulations.</li><li>• Declare no new or increased surplus water availability.</li><li>• Leak repair receives higher priority.</li><li>• Increase drought awareness through additional public outreach measures that notify the public and customers for declared stage, requirements, and available conservation program support.</li><li>• Standard rates in effect.</li></ul>
<p>Enforcement Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Standard measures per District Rules and Regulations.</li></ul>

## Stage 2 – 20% Supply Shortage

Forecast April 1 Available Supply: 211,499 to 188,000 AF

Actions include Stage 1 plus those listed below

### Treated Water and Municipal Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 20 Percent

- Outdoor irrigation is limited to every other day and a maximum of three days per week.
- Odd address numbers can irrigate outdoors on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
- Even address numbers can irrigate outdoors on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.
- Customers shall adjust irrigation controllers to reduce usage for each zone by 20 percent.
- Corresponding to Fall Daylight Saving Time, customers shall strive to limit outdoor irrigation to only once per week.

### Raw Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 20 Percent

- Limit new water sales and increases to 1 miner's inch.
- Required to change delivery schedule developed by the District, aimed at achieving 20 percent demand reduction.

### District Actions

- Declare no new or increased surplus water availability.
- Declare no new or increase in Fall/Winter deliveries.
- Communicate mandatory reduction targets to customers.
- Inform Municipal customers of the mandatory 20 percent reduction requirement.
- Distribution system flushing only for public health & safety.
- Organize Drought Hardship Committee.
- Purchase available Contract water to achieve a target carryover of 110,000-acre-feet.
- Implement Stage 2 conservation rates.

### Enforcement Measures

- A written warning will be issued for a first violation.
- A District imposed fine of \$250 for a second violation, and any subsequent violation, and doubling with each subsequent violation up to a maximum of \$1,000 for any single violation.
- Upon a fourth violation or an earlier violation, the General Manager determines to create a significant threat to the goals of the stage, the General Manager may order the installation of a flow restrictor on service lines in question.
- Similar penalties, fines, and charges may be implemented by the District as needed to enforce the restrictions on specific prohibited water uses.

## Stage 3 – 30% Supply Shortage

Forecast April 1 Available Supply: 187,999 to 164,500 AF

Actions include Stage 2 plus those listed below

### Treated Water and Municipal Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 30 Percent

- Outdoor irrigation is limited to two days per week.
- Odd address numbers can irrigate outdoors on Thursday and Sunday.
- Even address numbers can irrigate outdoors on Wednesday and Saturday.
- Customers shall adjust irrigation controllers to reduce usage for each zone by 30 percent.
- Irrigation of ornamental turf in public street medians with treated water is prohibited.

### Raw Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 30 Percent

- Limit new water sale and increases to ½ miner's inch.
- Required to change delivery schedule developed by the District, aimed at achieving 30 percent demand reduction.

### District Actions

- Declare no surplus water availability for exterior boundary customers.
- Declare no Fall water availability.
- Communicate mandatory reduction targets to customers.
- Inform Municipal customers of the mandatory 30 percent reduction requirement.
- Purchase available Contract water to achieve a target carryover of 100,000 acre-feet.
- Implement Stage 3 conservation rates.
- Dedicate additional staff for increased water waste patrols.

### Enforcement Measures

- A written warning will be issued for a first violation.
- A District imposed fine of \$250 for a second violation, and any subsequent violation, and doubling with each subsequent violation up to a maximum of \$1,000 for any single violation.
- Upon a fourth violation or an earlier violation the General Manager determines to create a significant threat to the goals of the stage, the General Manager may order the installation of a flow restrictor on service lines in question.
- Similar penalties, fines, and charges may be implemented by the District as needed to enforce the restrictions on specific prohibited water uses.