Water Conservation Quarterly Update

Kevin Kluge | November 14, 2023

Water Supply Update

Water Weekly

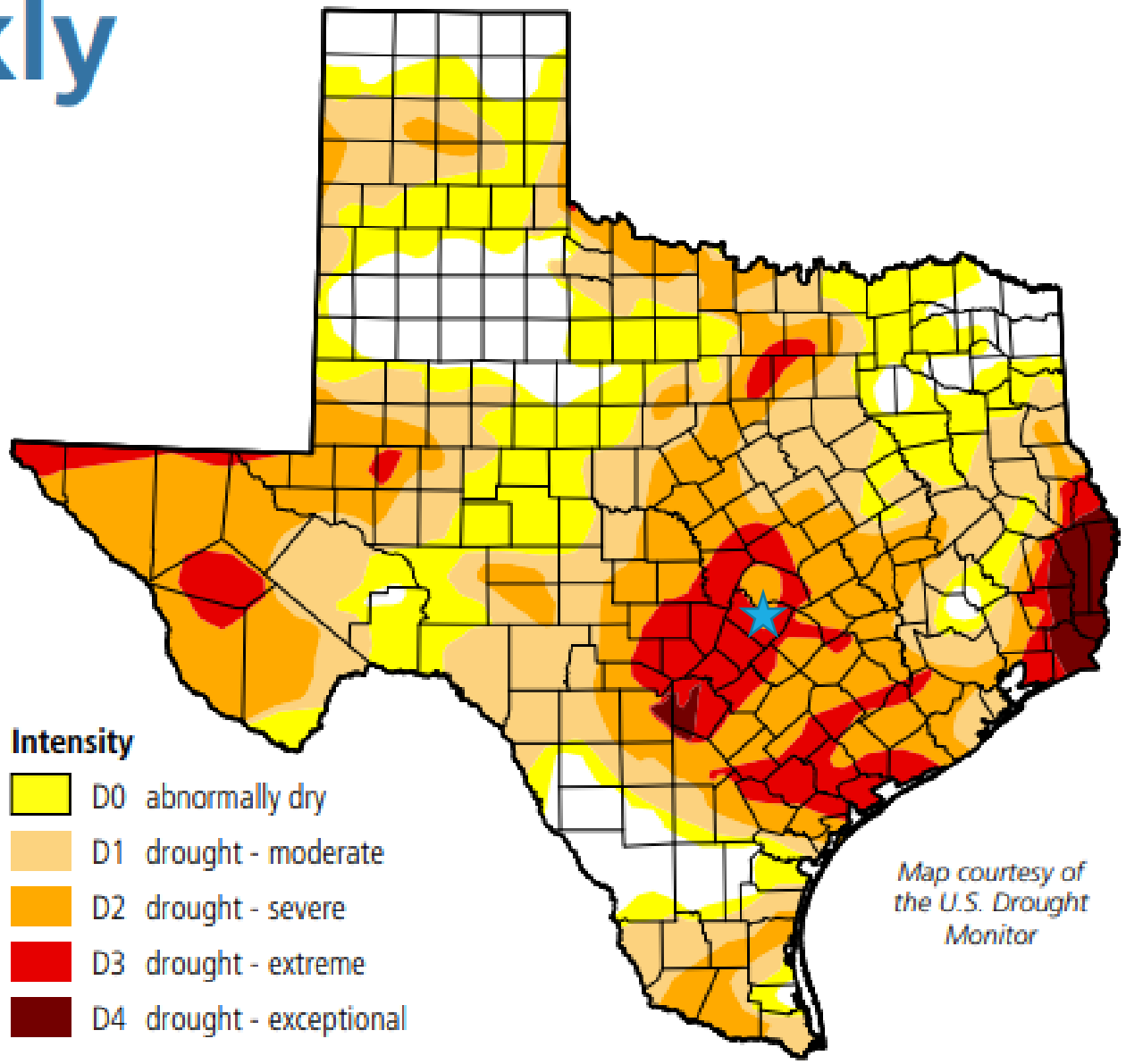
For the week of 11/06/23

Water conditions

Recent rains have helped ease drought conditions across the state. The drought map for conditions as of October 31 shows the smallest area of drought in 13 weeks. But complete drought recovery may still be months away as 65 percent of the state remains in drought.

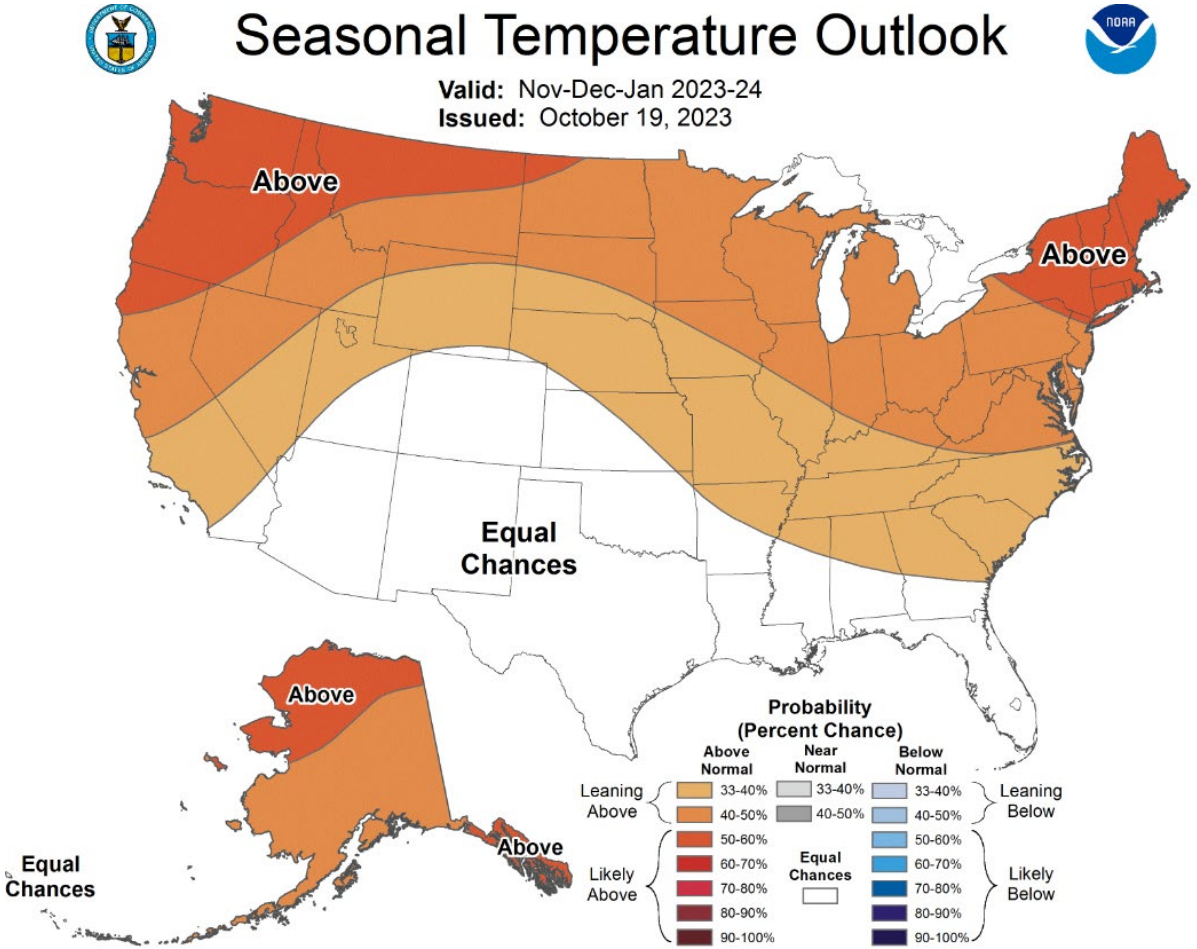
Drought conditions

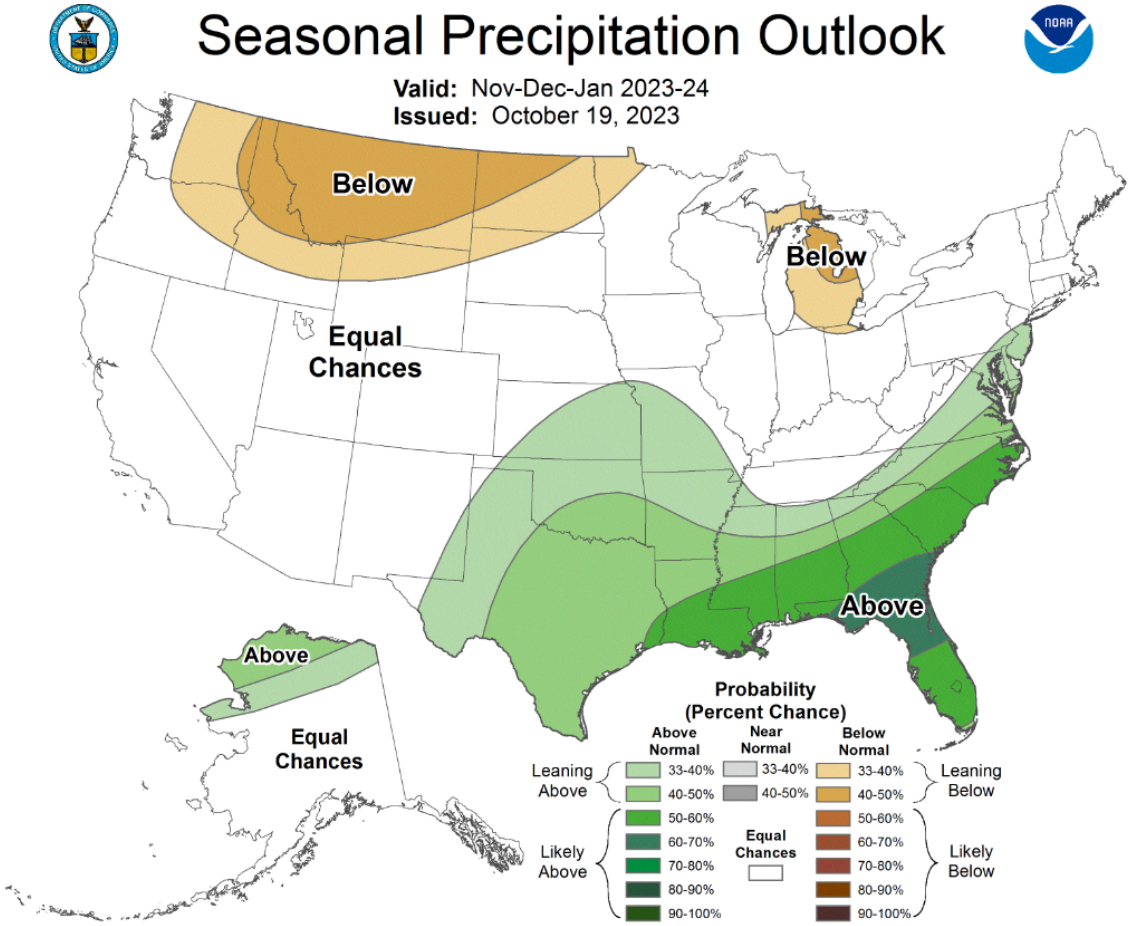
- 65% now
- 75% a week ago
- 52% three months ago
- 70% a year ago



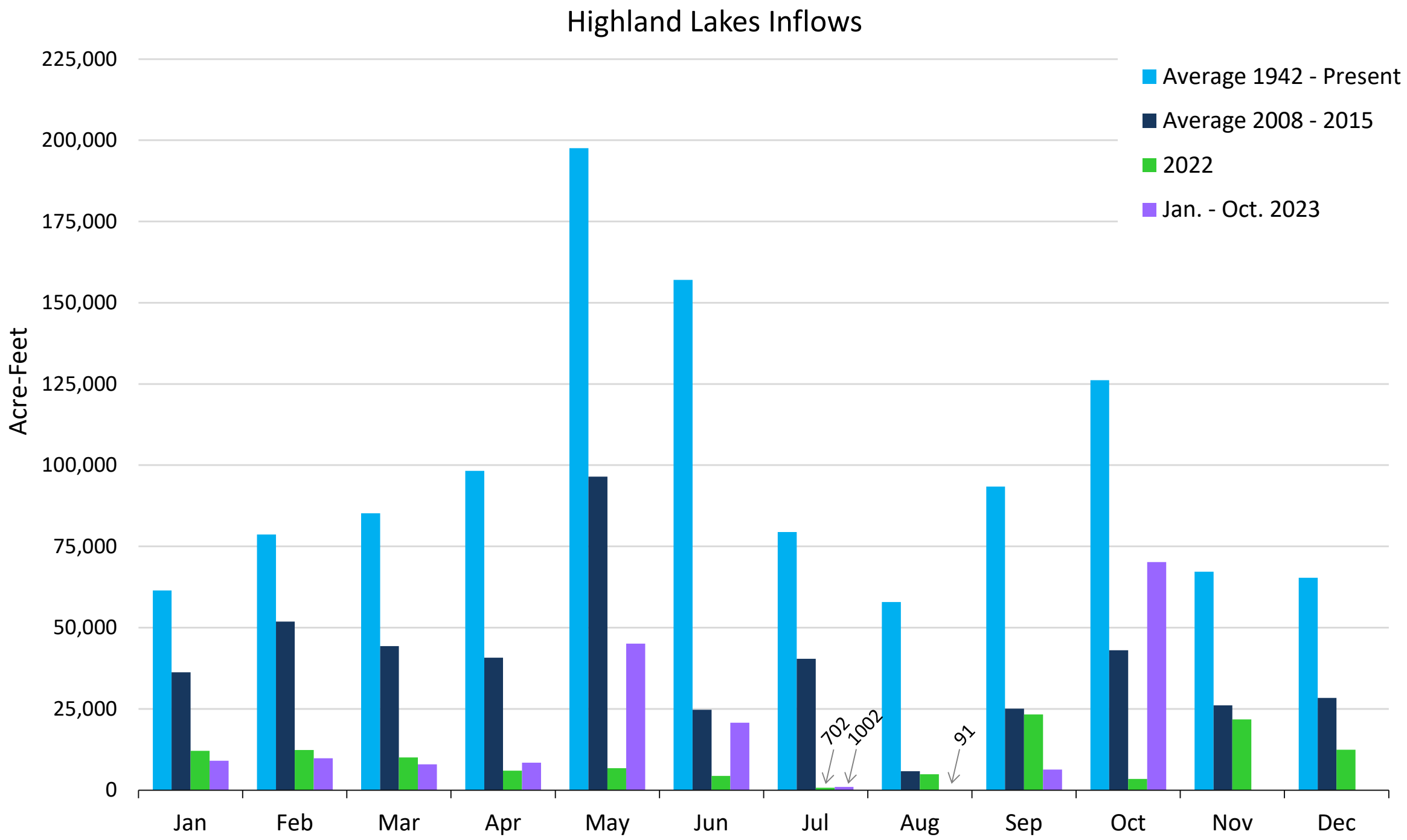
Map courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor

NOAA 3-Month Outlook: Nov. – Jan.



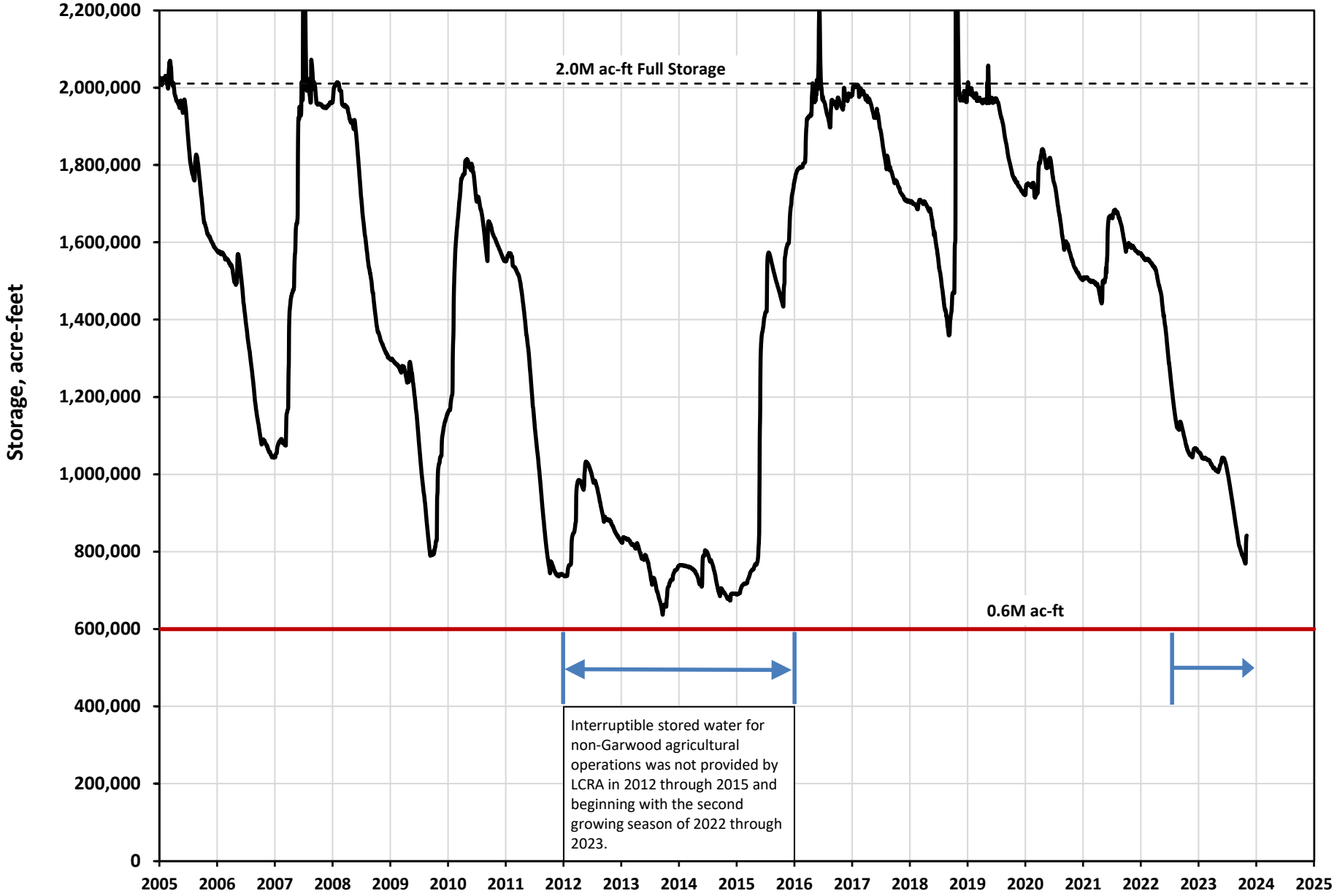


The seasonal outlooks combine the effects of long-term trends, soil moisture, and, when appropriate, ENSO.

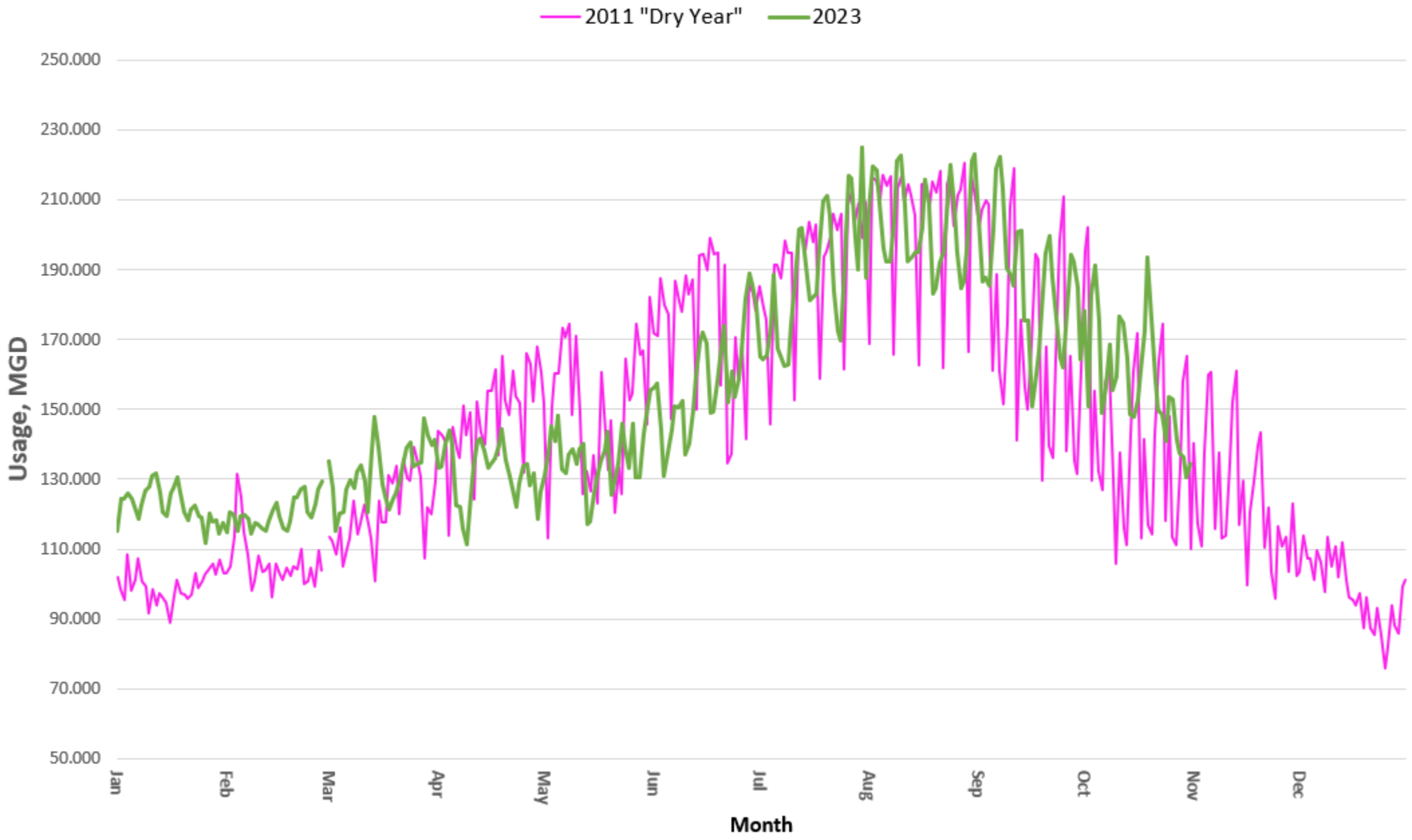

Highland Lakes Inflows
Acre-Feet
225,000
200,000
175,000
150,000
125,000
100,000
75,000
50,000
25,000
0
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
702
1002
91
Average 1942 - Present
Average 2008 - 2015
2022
Jan. - Oct. 2023

Combined Storage of Lakes Buchanan and Travis

January 1, 2005 through November 1, 2023



Multi-Year Daily Water Usage



Conservation Activities (Fiscal Year 2023)

Incentive Activities & Water Savings

1,330,000 gallons saved

- Commercial Bucks for Business: 2 rebates, 922,000 gallons
- Rainwater Harvesting: 93 rebates, 296,000 gallons
- Drought Survival Tools: 55 rebates, 231,000 gallons
- Irrigation Enhancement: 26 rebates, 74,000 gallons
- Waterwise Landscape: 19 rebates, 34,000 gallons
- Pressure Regulating Valves: 7 rebates, 30,000 gallons
- Home conservation kits: 560 kits sent to households

Mandatory Activities & Water Savings

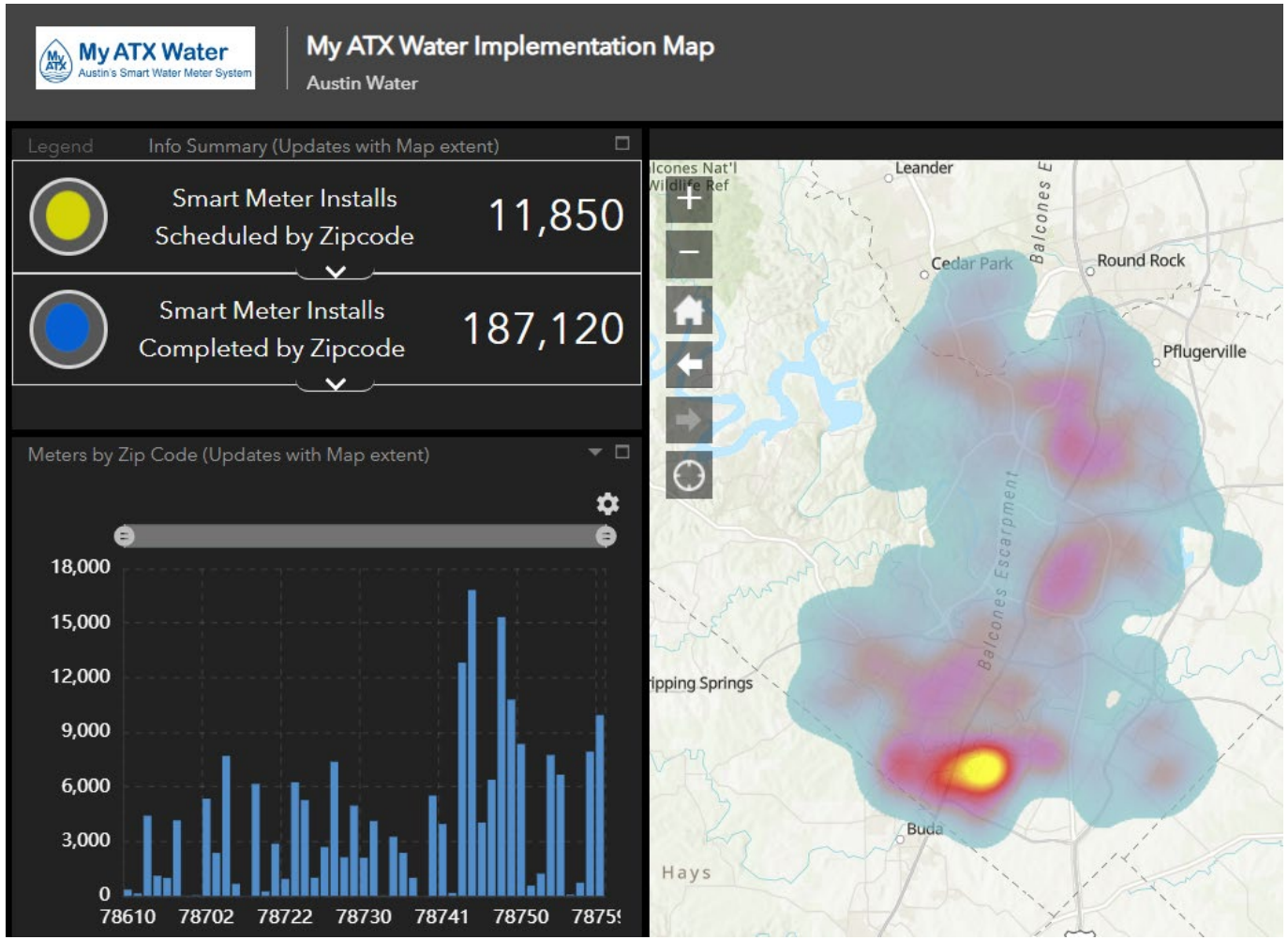
345,000,000 gallons saved

- Commercial Facility Assessment Programs
  - Irrigation: 93% compliant, 96 mg saved
  - Vehicle wash: 83% compliant, 28 mg saved
  - Cooling tower: 80% compliant, 135 mg saved
- Water Waste Enforcement
  - 2,300 notice of violation warnings
  - 100 citations (penalties)
  - 3,600 311 actions (postcards)
  - 86 mg saved based on warnings

Cooperative Activities

- 19 households received plumbing assistance
  - Austin Housing Dept. & non-profits
  - Up to $15,000 for plumbing repairs to qualifying households
- 3,400 water timers
  - Austin Energy Instant Savings Program
  - Home Depot and Lowes
  - $5 instant savings
- 5,000 student conservation kits
  - Austin Energy All-Stars Program
  - 6th grade students in AE service area
  - Goal of 7,500 students next year

My ATX Water



- 190,000 meters installed
- Allows customers to see their water use
- Leak alerts
  - 116,000 alerts sent
  - 469,000,000 gallons estimated savings
- 75,000 tiered rate alerts sent
  - Customer water use going into higher cost tiers

Ongoing Activities

Landscape Transformation activities

Task	Anticipated Implementation
Soil and compost requirements in new homes (existing code)	June 2023
Inspection of new irrigation systems (existing code)	Spring 2024
Builder-scale rainwater harvesting rebate for new homes	Spring 2024
Irrigation check ups for new irrigation systems	Summer 2024
Required plant list in new homes	July 2024
Limit irrigation area in new homes (upcoming plumbing code amendment)	January 2025
Require irrigation pressure devices for new irrigation systems (upcoming plumbing code amendment)	January 2025
Require plumbing for laundry to landscape reuse in new homes (upcoming plumbing code amendment)	January 2025

Update of 2024 Drought Contingency Plan (DCP)

Speak Up Austin > Drought Contingency Plan

Drought Contingency Plan

Our goal:

Central Texas is currently experiencing severe to extreme **drought conditions**. Record high temperatures and low rainfall over the summer have taken a toll on the Lower Colorado River Basin and Lakes Travis and Buchanan, the source of our water supply. To respond to this drought, Austin Water is following its Council-approved Drought Contingency Plan that was developed with community input in 2016.

We must update our Drought Contingency Plan next year and projections show that Central Texas can expect more frequent extreme droughts in the future. We want to hear from you about additional ways we could conserve water during times of extreme drought that could be included in the 2024 Drought Contingency Plan

https://publicinput.com/droughtplanupdate

2024 Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) & Water Conservation Plan (WCP)

- November 2023
  - DCP Survey
  - DCP Speak Up Austin!
- December 2023
  - DCP Public meeting

- Feb. 2024
  - Austin Water Oversight Committee
  - Water Forward Task Force
  - Resource Management Commission
- March 2024 – Water and Wastewater Comm.
- April 2024 – City Council
- May 2024 – Submit to TCEQ

Thank You

Austinwater.org