

# BCPUD PIPELINE



Spring-Summer 2023

270 Elm Road, P.O. Box 390, Bolinas, CA 94924 (415) 868-1224

## New BCPUD Directors!

The BCPUD Board of Directors has two new members: Andrew Alexander Green, who was elected to a four-year term of office in the November 2022 election, and Kevin McElroy, who was appointed to the Board at the November 16, 2022 regular Board meeting to fill the remaining term (two years) of outgoing director Don Smith. Welcome Andrew and Kevin!

## BCPUD Board Meetings:

Regular monthly meetings of the BCPUD Board are held on the third Wednesday of the month at the BCPUD offices: 270 Elm Road, Bolinas. The public is invited to attend these meetings in-person, or via Zoom.

The BCPUD Board meeting agendas are published on the Friday before each meeting on the BCPUD's website ([www.bcpud.org](http://www.bcpud.org)), NextDoor, and in the Hearsay News; agendas are also mailed out to all persons requesting to receive them.

**Water or Sewer emergency? Please contact our office at 415-868-1224**

## WATER SUPPLY UPDATE MID-2023

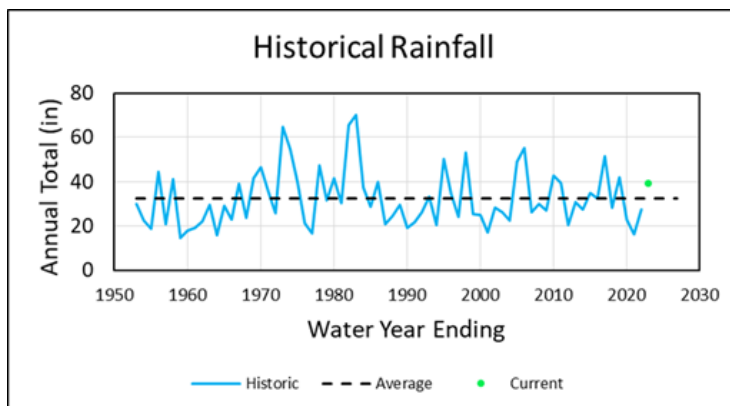
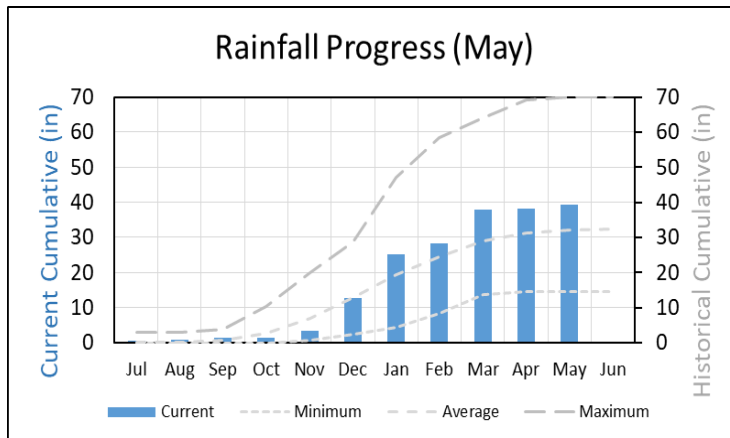
Happy Spring 2023! Many in the community are asking: how is our water supply doing after the recent winter rains? May we relax our vigilant conservation efforts? Is it okay to water our gardens? Our short answer is: what a difference a year makes! In this newsletter, we provide an update on our rainfall totals, reservoir storage and creek flows, and we address your questions about conservation as we head into the typically driest season of the year (summer and early fall). More information also is available on our website.

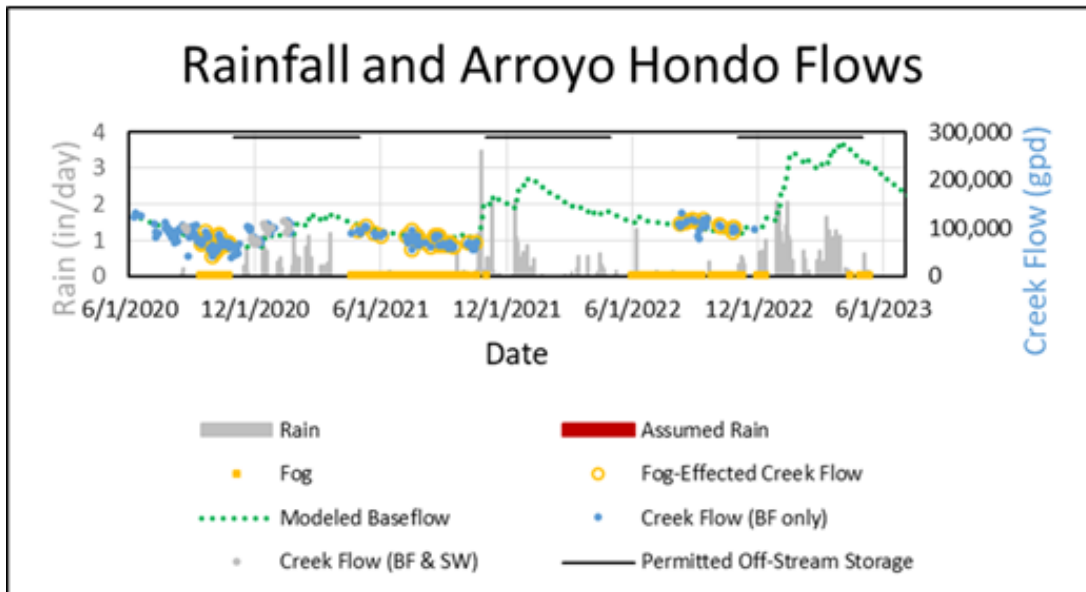
**Rainfall:** As of May 31, 2023, the district has received 39.27 inches of rain; this cumulative rainfall total is well above the average rainfall for this time of year (see Rainfall Progress graph) and compares very favorably to last year (2021-22),

when rainfall totaled 27.57 inches, and to the two years prior to that, when rainfall totaled 16.42 inches (2020-21) and 22.7 inches (2019-20), respectively (see the Historical Rainfall graph above). As a reminder, the "rain year" begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year, and average annual rainfall in the district is approximately 32.5 inches.

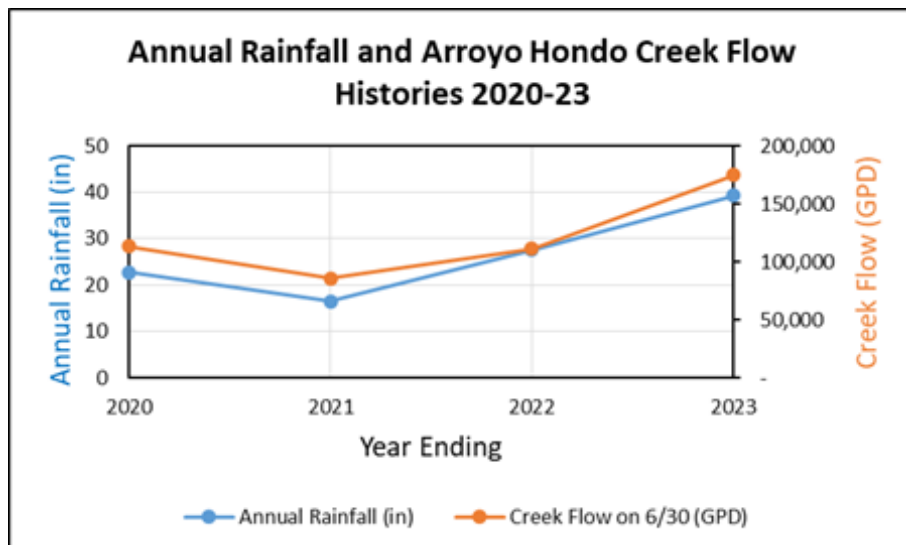
**Water in Storage:** The Woodrat 1 Reservoir is full (7.6 million gallons, 6.9 million of which are usable), as is the Woodrat 2 Reservoir (9.3 million gallons, 8.6 million of which are usable). As such, we are approaching the summer months with maximum emergency water supplies.

**Arroyo Hondo Creek flow:** The graph on the following page depicts the district's base flow (BF) recession model for the Arroyo Hondo Creek, updated to depict predictions of the base flow portion of creek flows through June 30, 2023. Creek flows continue to be much higher than in prior years as a result of the above-average annual rainfall received this rain year, with a projected creek flow of close to 175,000 gallons per day (GPD) by June 30, 2023. This compares very favorably to creek flows of approximately 111,000 GPD on June 30, 2022, creek flows of approximately 85,500 GPD on June 30, 2021, and creek flows of approximately 113,000 GPD on June 30, 2020.





The graph to the right depicts the annual rainfall and creek flow histories from 2020-2023. As you can see, the graph vividly depicts how responsive the Arroyo Hondo Creek flow is to current rainfall totals. Because of this responsiveness, the BCPUD's water system often is a bellwether of drought conditions elsewhere in our region: our system quickly experiences the impacts of limited rainfall, but also responds quickly when more abundant rainfall occurs.



In response to improved water supply conditions this year, the BCPUD Board of Directors at its regular monthly meeting on May 17, 2023 voted to cancel the Heightened Water Conservation Alert it issued nearly three years ago, on June 17, 2020. That alert was issued in response to declining water supplies at the time (due to low rainfall) and rising demand correlating with warm weather over the 2020 Memorial holiday weekend; the alert requested all customers to reduce their water use by 20-30%. As the drought worsened during the following months, the BCPUD's requests for conservation tightened and the Board eventually enacted Resolution 680, declaring prolonged drought conditions and implementing mandatory conservation measures that would be triggered if community water use exceeded a specific threshold. Thanks to the incredible conservation efforts of the community and improved rainfall conditions, the Board was able to suspend Resolution 680 in November 2021 and avoid mandatory rationing.

In voting to cancel the Heightened Water Conservation Alert on May 17, 2023, the Board officially removed all emergency drought-related water conservation requirements. . . . **for now**. So, yes, you can relax your vigilant conservation efforts (to a reasonable extent) and you may water your garden (if you do not have a source of non-potable water such as rain catchment storage), but please keep in mind that the BCPUD's water supply is limited at best — as such, it is *always* important in Bolinas to conserve water as a “way of life” and it is critical not to waste water. Forecasters anticipate longer and more prolonged droughts in our future as a result of climate change, so we encourage everyone to do their part to help us carefully manage this precious resource. Thank you!!!