

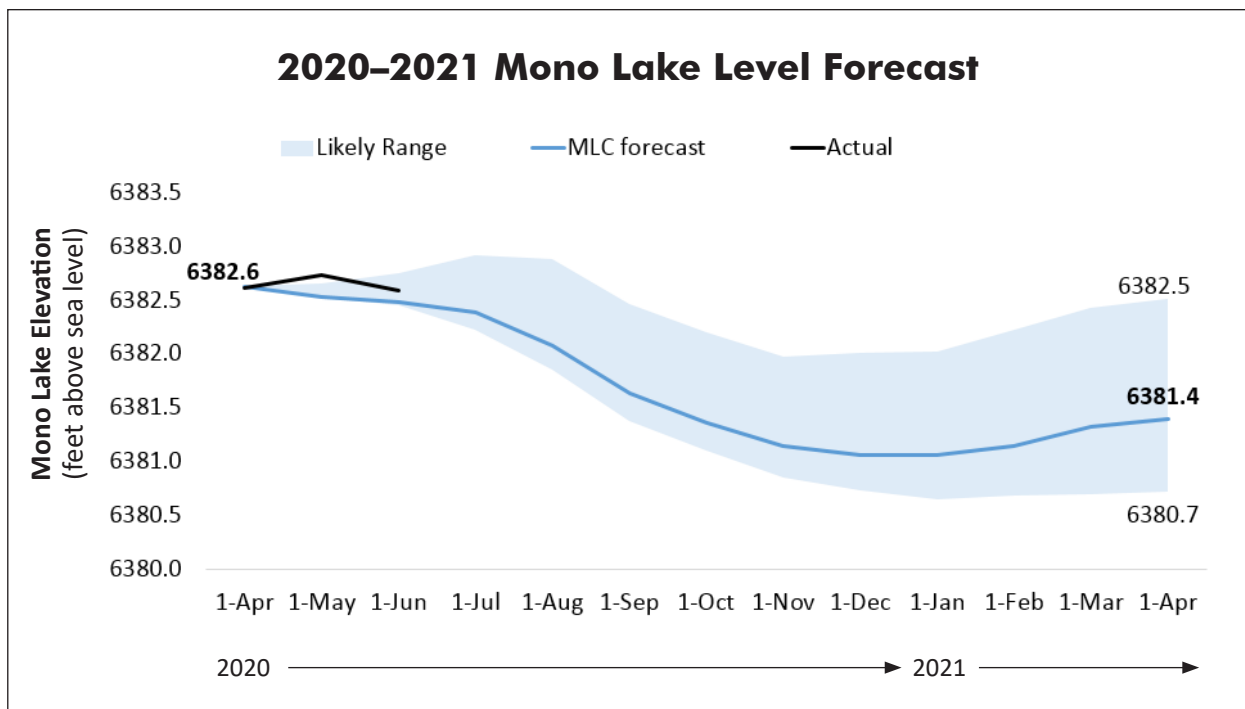
2020 Mono Lake Level Forecast

Prepared by the Mono Lake Committee, June 22, 2020

The 2019 runoff year was classified as “Wet,” but due to very dry weather conditions throughout most of the year, Mono Lake rose only slightly over half a foot to 6382.6 feet above sea level by April 1, 2020.

April 1 is the start of the 2020–2021 runoff year; DWP’s final runoff classification is for a “Dry-Normal I” year. The graph below shows the range of likely Mono Lake elevations for April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. The range of projections is produced by the Mono Lake Committee’s modeling of hydrologic sequences using some of the driest years in the historical record.

This forecast shows that the most probable lake level, with average climate, for March 31, 2021, is 6381.4 feet above sea level.



Reference lake levels

- State Water Board mandated lake level to protect Mono Lake: 6392 feet above sea level.
- Lake level rise from April 1, 2020 needed to achieve the mandated level: 10 feet.
- The 2012–2016 drought lowered the lake 7 feet. The lake level rose 4.5 feet in 2017, and the lake level held steady in 2018, and there was a net rise of about a half a foot in 2019.



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Mono Lake Elevation

