

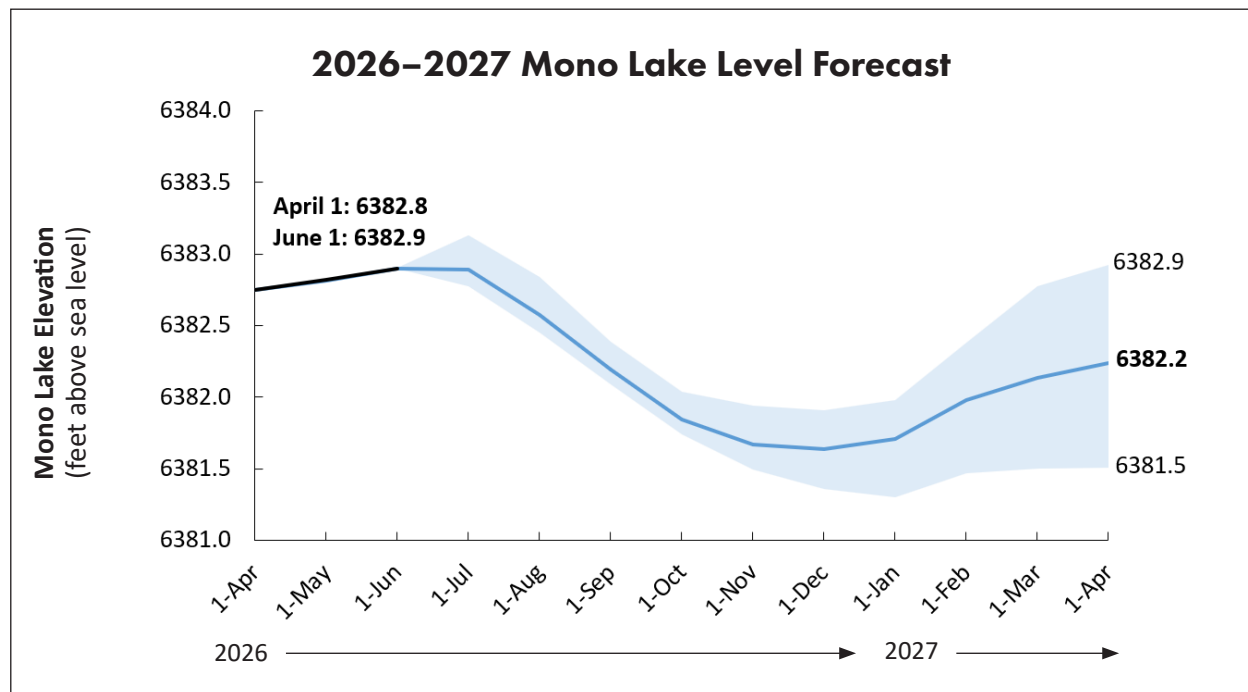
2026 Mono Lake Level Forecast

Prepared by the Mono Lake Committee, June 2026

On April 1, 2026 the surface elevation of Mono Lake was 6382.75 feet above sea level. The lake level rose slightly through June 1. This forecast projects the lake will fall to 6382.24' as the most probable lake level on April 1, 2027.

April 1 was the start of the current runoff year, which is classified as a "Dry-Normal I" year type. The graph below shows the range of likely Mono Lake elevations for the runoff year. The range of projections (light blue shading) is produced by the Mono Lake Committee's modeling of hydrologic sequences using a variety of similar runoff years, with the most probable (solid blue line) level based on slightly-adjusted conditions from the most similar past runoff year (2004).

The Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) plans to divert and export the maximum allowed volume of water this year—16,000 acre-feet. This surface export volume represents one third of a foot of Mono Lake elevation and is being diverted at a time when Mono Lake is not rising toward its mandated, and urgently-needed, 6392-foot management Level. In total, Mono Lake will lose about half a foot of elevation this year due to LADWP's combined surface and groundwater exports.



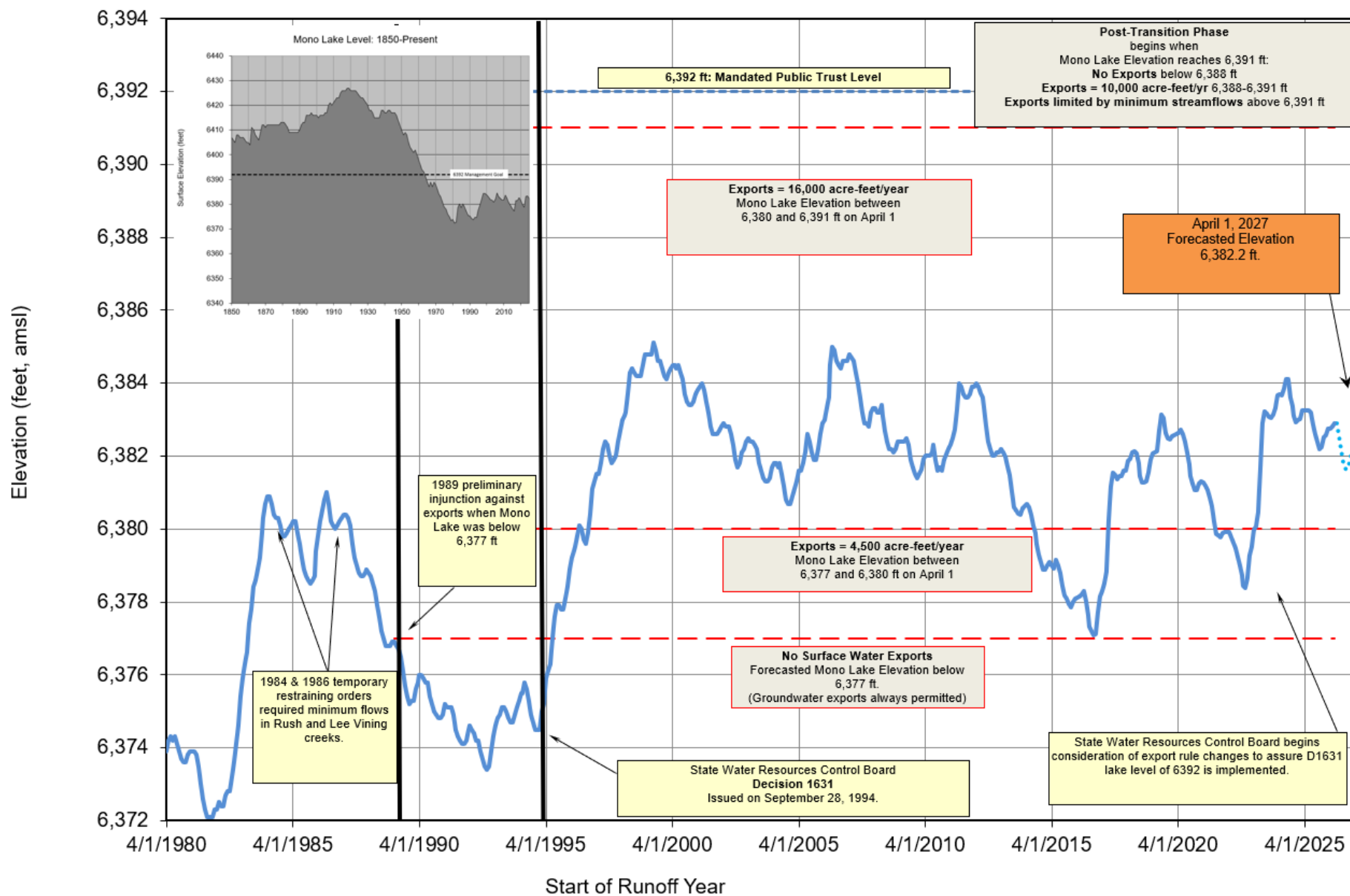
Reference lake levels and exports

- State Water Board mandated lake level to protect Mono Lake: 6392 feet above sea level.
- Lake level rise from April 1, 2026 needed to achieve the mandated level: 9.2 feet. Last year the rise needed was 8.7 feet.
- Groundwater exports in the form of a constant flow in the Mono Craters Tunnel, total about 5,000 acre-feet of additional water to leave the Mono Basin annually.



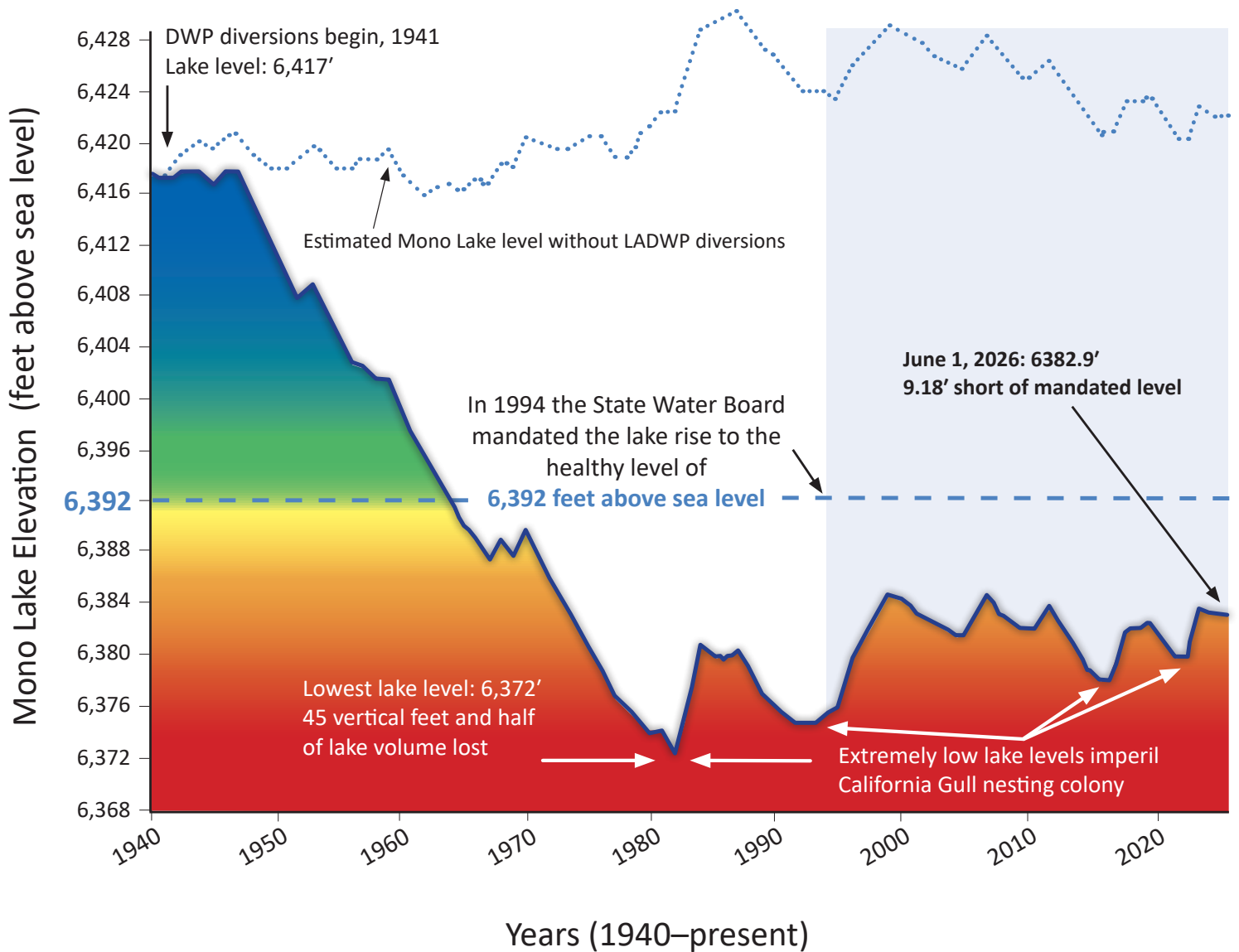
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Mono Lake Elevation



Mono Lake Surface Elevation

9.1 vertical feet below the State Water Board mandated level



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