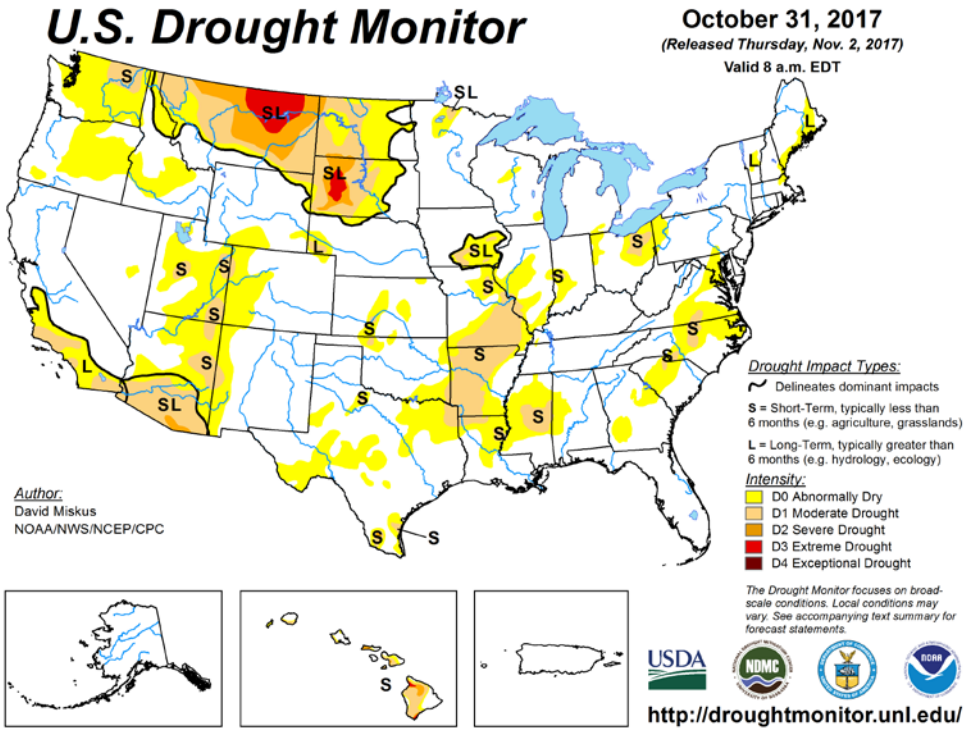
Regional Drought and Water Supply Status and Outlook November 2017

SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS

October proved to be one of the hottest months on record for our region but thankfully we received some much needed rain throughout the month, especially during the last week. The current U.S. Drought monitor indicates that the COG region is experiencing some abnormally dry conditions. The Potomac River Basin received an above average amount of precipitation in October, most regional groundwater levels are reporting normal to below normal levels, and local reservoirs are nearly full. In Maryland, the Central region and Eastern regions are under a normal status. In Virginia, the Northern Virginia drought evaluation region is normal, although groundwater levels are low.

The CO-OP* performed daily drought monitoring from October 20 -30 due to the fact that streamflows fell below the monitoring trigger level of 2,000 cubic feet per second or 1,293 million gallons per day at Point of Rocks. During this time, the CO-OP sent daily email reports to stakeholders summarizing flow, weather, and demand conditions. For a summary of activities and to learn more about the CO-OP, please visit ICPRB's drought monitoring website. Note that current Potomac streamflows are well above median levels.



The October 31, 2017 7 U.S. Drought monitor indicates that the COG region is experiencing some abnormally dry conditions.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

POTOMAC STREAMFLOW LEVELS

Potomac streamflows are currently well **above** median levels. Instantaneous flows readings and long term median levels on November 2, 2017 are indicated below:

Source: USGS	cfs=cubic feet per second		MGD=million gallons per day
Little Falls	14,300 cfs/median 3,130 cfs	or	9,242 MGD/2,023 MGD
Point of Rocks	10,200 cfs/ median 2,580 cfs	or	6,592 MGD/1,667 MGD

USGS Little Falls: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?01646500
USGS Point of Rocks: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/md/nwis/uv?01638500

POTOMAC BASIN PRECIPITATION

The Potomac Basin received 4.8 inches in October which is 1.8 inches or 51-75% **above** normal. Source: Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center
http://www.weather.gov/images/marfc/departures/marfc.basin.dep.oct.2017.png

GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Groundwater levels vary throughout the Potomac Basin but most are reporting normal to below normal levels. Source: USGS
https://md.water.usgs.gov/groundwater/web_wells/current/water_table/counties/index.html
https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/NetMapT1L2.asp?ncd=crn&sc=51
https://pa.water.usgs.gov/potomac/new/

DROUGHT OUTLOOKS

The latest U.S. Seasonal Drought outlook indicates that our region should not experience drought conditions over the next few months, and the monthly outlook indicates that drought development is not likely. Source: NOAA
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.php
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/mdo_summary.php

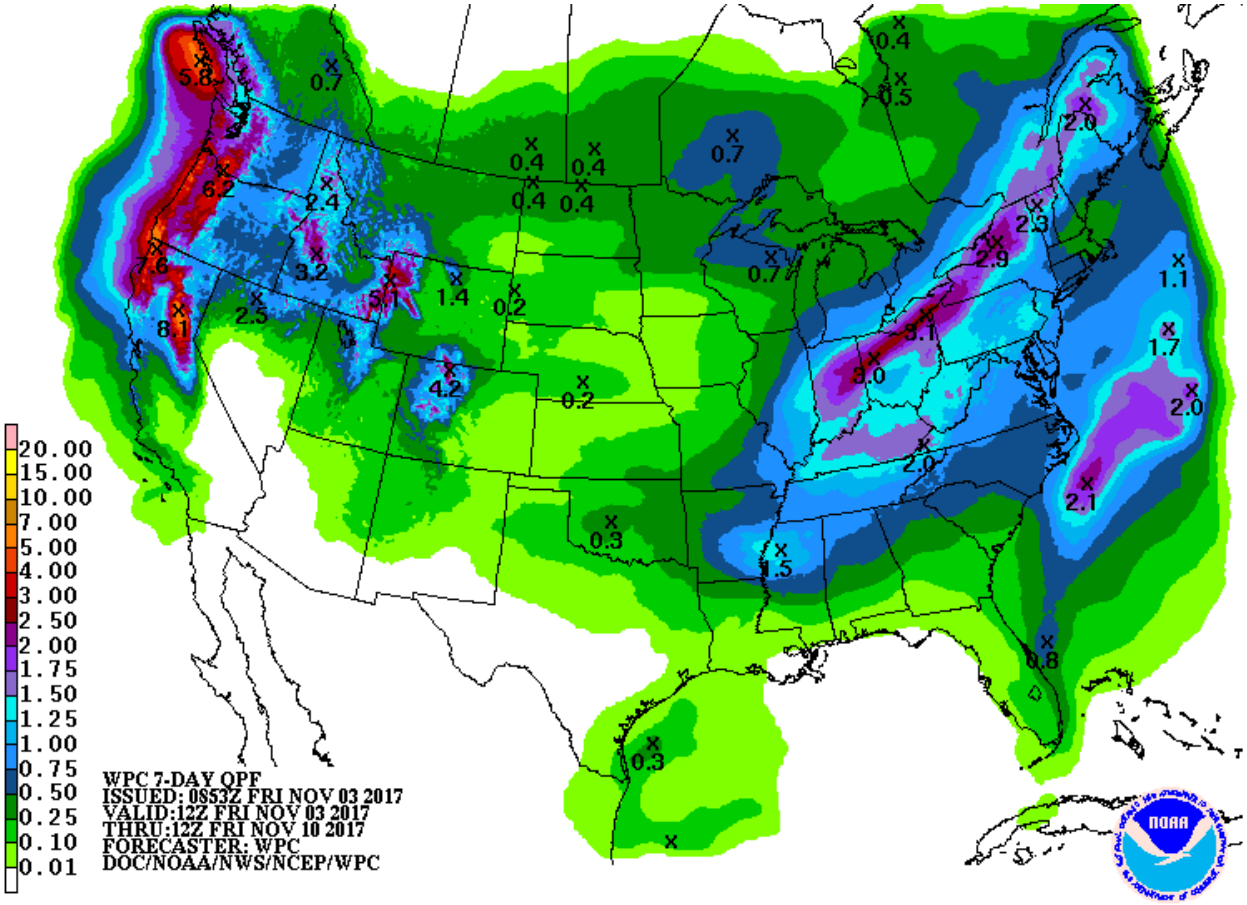
RESERVOIR LEVELS

Drinking water reservoirs at Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca are near full levels.
Source: http://www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/nab/potopub.html

ICPRB's October 2017 report stated that is a below normal probability of releases from the Washington metropolitan area's back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2017 summer and fall seasons. Generally, the use of Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs is triggered by low flows brought about by a combination of low summer precipitation and low groundwater levels. There is a 1 to 4 percent conditional probability that natural Potomac flow will drop below 600- to 700 MGD or 938- to 1,083 cfs at Little Falls through December 31 of this year. Source: ICPRB
https://www.potomacriver.org/focus-areas/water-resources-and-drinking-water/cooperative-water-supply-operations-on-the-potomac/drought-monitoring-and-operations/water-supply-outlook-status/

*CO-OP: ICPRB's Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac (CO-OP) was established in 1979 to serve as a cooperative technical center on water resources in the Potomac basin. The Section consists of ICPRB's District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Federal Commissioners. Learn more about CO-OP's history.

7 DAY PRECIPITATION FORECAST



The 7 Day quantitative precipitation forecast calls for roughly 1.0 inch of precipitation.
Source: National Weather Service, Weather Prediction Center
http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/day1-7.shtml

For additional information regarding regional water supply and drought conditions, please visit COG's website at: https://www.mwcog.org/drought