Okanagan Basin WATER BOARD
1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3Z4
P 250-469-6271 F 250-762-7011
www.obwb.ca

MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors

From: Sandra Schira

Date: Jan. 26, 2026

Subject: Weather Report

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
Feb. 3, 2026
Agenda No: 9.5

Temperature

Weekly temperatures – as of Jan. 25, 2026 – began to drop after a period of being warmer than normal across the valley (Figure 1). Fall temperatures for 2025 were consistently above the 1991-2020 average. By mid-January, temperatures had begun trending downwards below normal levels. For the week of Jan. 19-Jan. 25, 2026, average temperatures were -5.3 C in Vernon, -5.4 C in Kelowna, and -3.0 C in Penticton.

Cold temperatures were also observed across Canada due to a polar vortex event. These cooler temperatures are not unprecedented for the Okanagan. However, as seen with the 2024 cold snap, sudden temperature drops after warmer periods can have lasting impacts on plants. The 2024 cold snap was colder, with the coldest weekly average temperature observed being -12.4 C in Vernon.

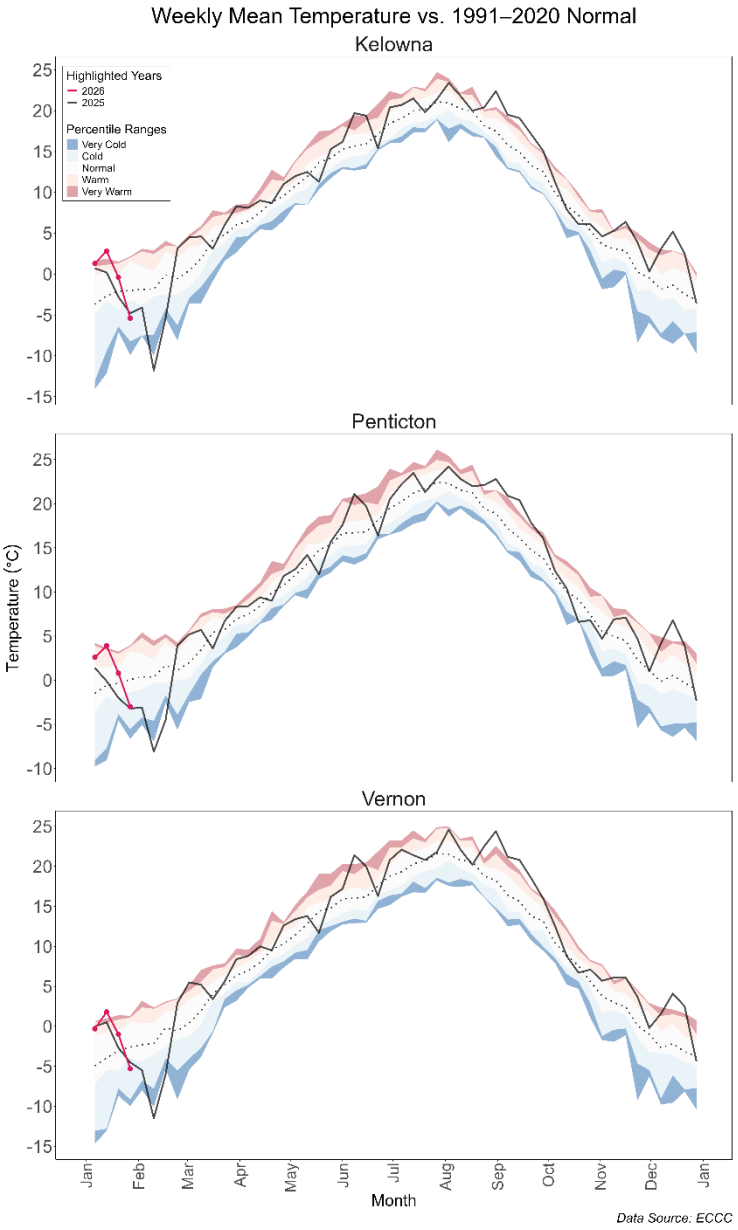

Figure 1: Weekly average temperature across the Okanagan as of Jan. 26, 2026. Compared to 1991 to 2020 range. Data retrieved from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Precipitation

Monthly total precipitation was low as of mid-January after being within the normal range in November and December (Figure 2). Overall, 2025 was drier than the 1991-2020 average, and a consistent wet period is needed to offset the long-term dry conditions across the valley. Provincial snow data shows snowpack remains lower than average across the valley (Figure 3). Snow accumulation at Silver Star is the closest to normal, while Mission Creek and Brenda Mines remain similar to last year.

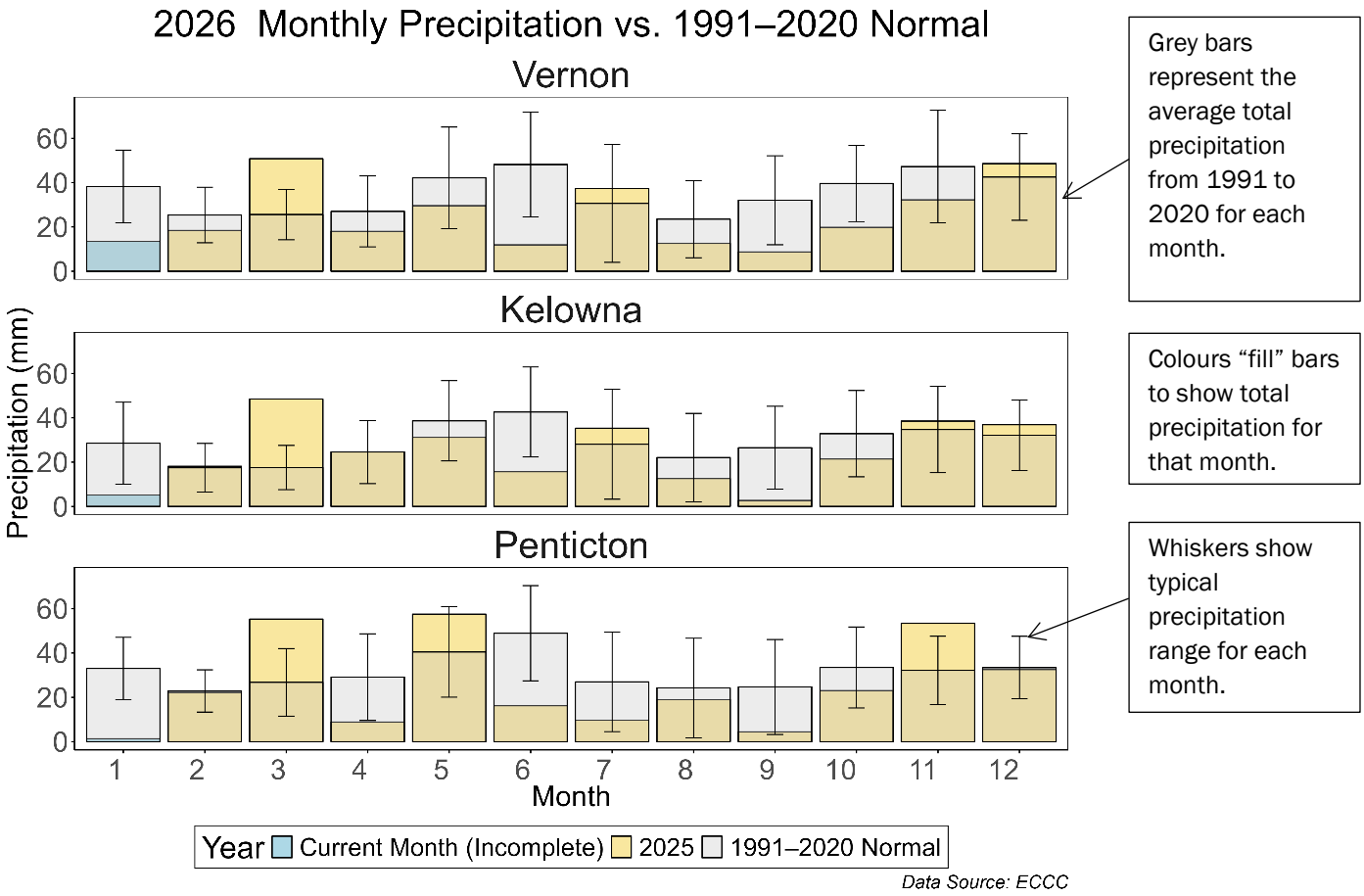

Figure 2: Monthly precipitation in the Okanagan as of Jan. 26, 2026 compared to 1991 to 2020 range. Data retrieved from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

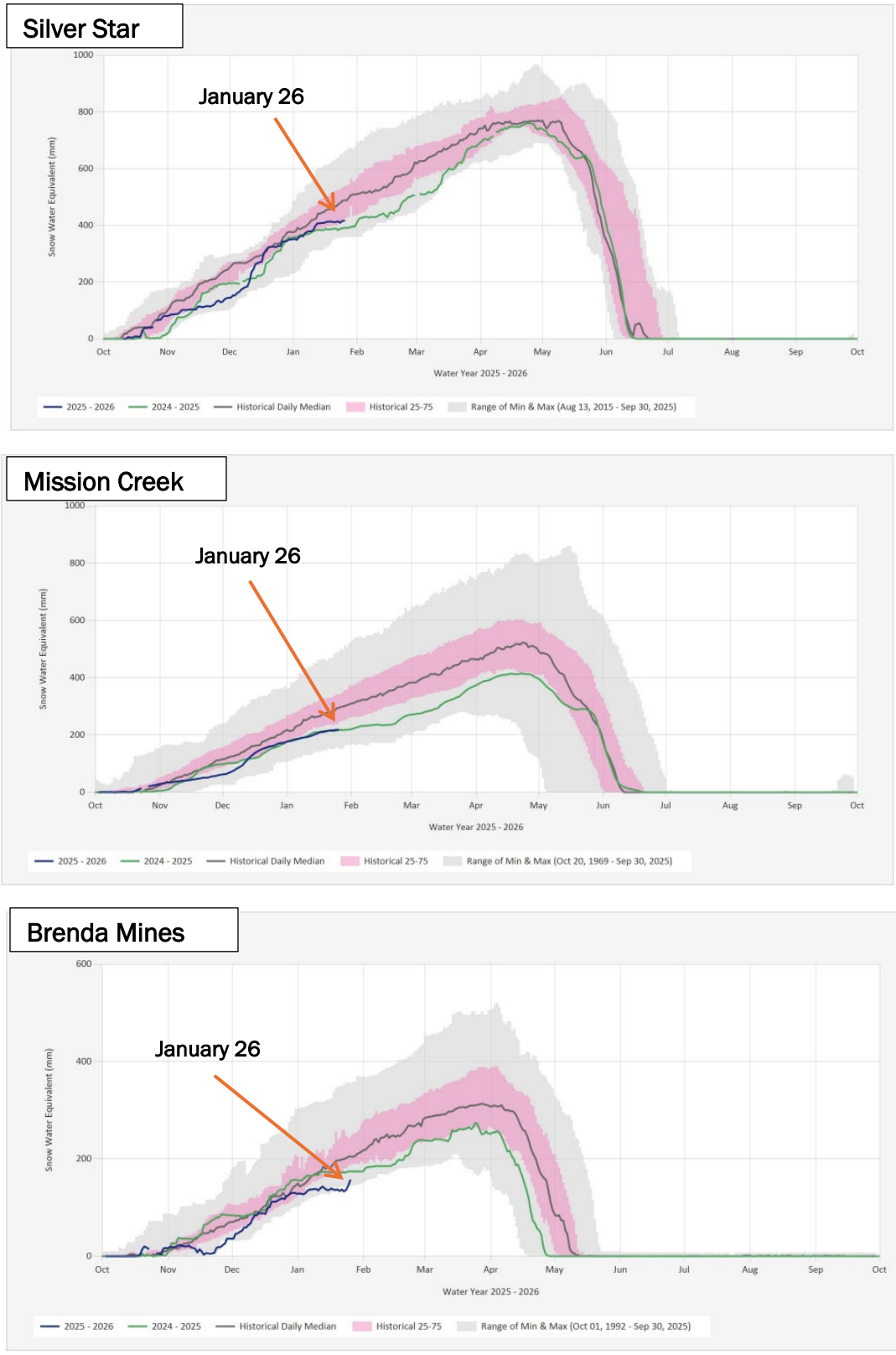

Figure 3: Weekly snowpack accumulation across the Okanagan as of Jan. 26, 2026. Data from the Province of B.C.

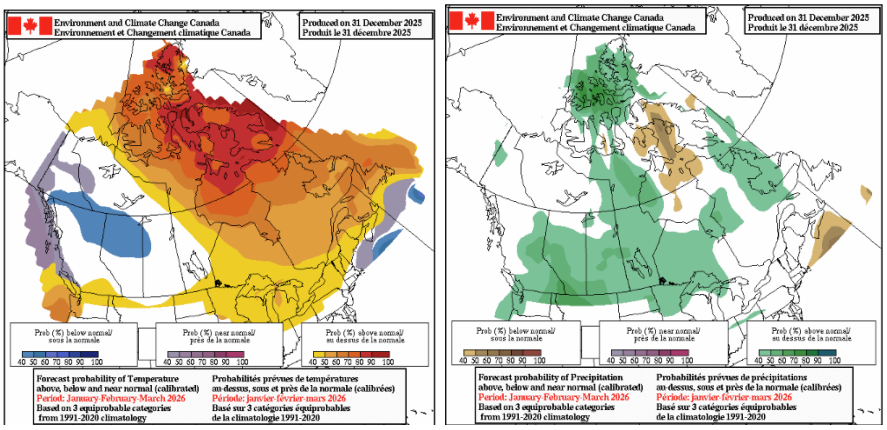

Figure 4: *Three-Month Seasonal Forecast from ECCC[1] (Jan-Mar).*

Seasonal forecasts indicate that January through March might be warmer and wetter than normal (Figure 4). The Environment and Climate Change Canada[1] long-term seasonal forecast indicates a moderate likelihood of above-normal temperatures in the Okanagan over the next three months. Precipitation also shows a moderate likelihood of wet conditions. Seasonal forecasting is highly challenging, so disagreement between models or variations from projections is not uncommon. The forecasts show the likelihood of above or below normal conditions and do not show by how much those conditions vary. Seasonal forecasts can be used to provide a sense of likely future conditions, but they should not be taken as 100% certain.

Hydrology

Okanagan Lake levels at Kelowna started off the year slightly low (Figure 5). As of mid-January, most streams across the Okanagan were flowing around normal values for this time of year. Mill Creek, Naramata Creek, and Coldstream Creek are the exceptions, and were all lower than normal. Across the valley, many streams have some form of control structures, so observed stream flows reflect a combination of natural conditions and management decisions.

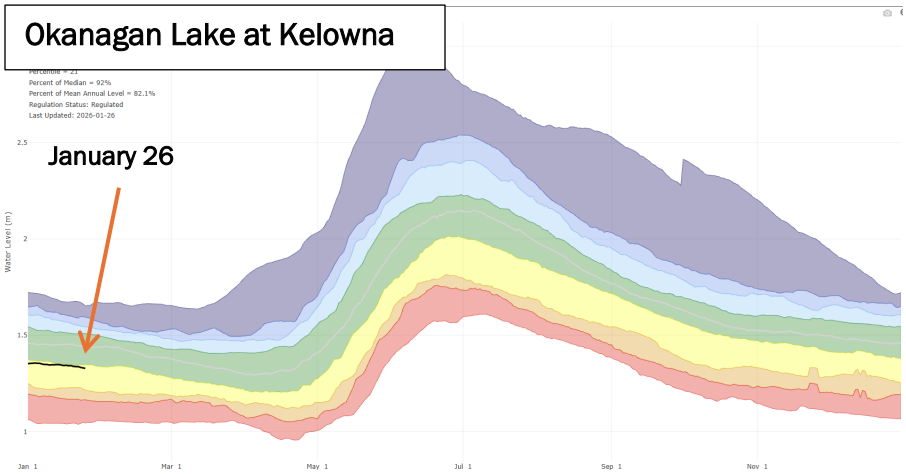

Figure 5: Weekly lake levels for Okanagan Lake at Kelowna compared to the 1944 – 2023 range as of Jan. 26, 2026. Data is retrieved from the Water Survey of Canada.

[1] ECCC Seasonal forecasts. https://climate-scenarios.canada.ca/?page=cansips-prob