

Pima County Local Drought Impact Group  
(Drought Monitoring Committee)  
Wednesday, September 9, 2009  
2:30 p.m.  
Public Works Building-3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room

|             |                  |         |                    |                    |
|-------------|------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Attendance: | Kathy Chavez     | RWRD    | Fernando Molina    | Tucson Water       |
|             | Chris Smith      | USGS    | Linda Smith        | Tucson Water       |
|             | Terry Sprouse    | NEMO/UA | Steven Amesbury    | NEMO/WRRC/UA       |
|             | Mike Crimmins    | UA      | Vicki France       | Pima NRCD          |
|             | Alison Meadow    | UA      | Chad Kahler        | NOAA/NWS           |
|             | Bill Petroustson | PDEQ    | Karn Boyce         | Town of Oro Valley |
|             | Emily Wunder     | ADWR    | Kelly Mott-Lacroix | ADWR               |
|             | Lilian von Rago  | RWRD    |                    |                    |

1. Introductions were made and K Chavez reviewed the summary of the July 8, 2009 meeting. There were no corrections or additions.
2. ADWR Activities
  - K Mott-Lacroix reviewed the July Drought Monitor Report. For the short term status, the Bill Williams and San Pedro watersheds improved by one level; from moderate drought to abnormally dry. The long term status is updated quarterly and the July report reflects the quarterly update. The Bill Williams and Agua Fria watersheds worsened by one level; from moderate drought to severe drought. The Santa Cruz River and Verde River watersheds also worsened by one level; from abnormally dry to moderate drought. In the last six months precipitation through much of the state has been 70% below average. The August Drought Monitor Report will be issued soon.
  - ADWR will be preparing the annual report to the Governor and will be asking for a summary of the LDIG activities across the State, including Pima County's. The format will be similar to last year's. K Chavez will prepare the Pima County LDIG summary and will circulate to the LDIG for review and input.
3. Overview of 2009 Monsoon Season
  - C Kahler reviewed temperature and precipitation data for the Tucson area for the recent monsoon season including June, July and August.
  - 2009 had the coolest June since 1998, the third warmest July and the second warmest August in terms of temperature. The 2009 monsoon season was the eighth warmest and the 13<sup>th</sup> driest. The month of July had a 29-day streak of temperatures higher than 75°F. Data on temperature and precipitation can be viewed at <http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=twc>
  - F Molina noted that Tucson Water's peak day normally occurs in June and this year the peak day was August 3. K Boyce noted the same was observed in Oro Valley and it was agreed that the 2009 monsoon season has been atypical.
4. DroughtWatch Update
  - M Crimmins provided a brief overview of DroughtWatch. Many drought impacts may be occurring, but are not reported. DroughtWatch provides a platform for reporting drought observations which can be used to supplement climate data and confirm the status of drought conditions. DroughtWatch is also being evaluated to identify success elements and to identify where improvements are needed.
  - One example discussed was a stream in northeast Arizona that was observed by a local resident to have gone dry for the first time in over 90 years. A USGS stream gage that, for the first time, is no longer recording flow in the Upper Gila watershed is another example of a drought impact. An additional example is the Kino Environmental Restoration Project in which more reclaimed water is being purchased this summer because low precipitation did not yield as much harvested stormwater. These impacts can be reported to DroughtWatch. The U of A is looking for input on how to improve the DroughtWatch Program.
  - V France noted that ranchers are seeing impacts to stock ponds and grasses that indicate the drought is worsening. She is coordinating drought impact reports from the ranching sector. She noted that not all the agencies have the same criteria for declaring drought emergency. On the

other hand, it was mentioned that the Governor's emergency drought declaration is still in place. For the water providers, the drought level has remained at Stage 1 and has not improved or worsened.

5. Review and Input on Pima County Drought Page
  - Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the November meeting
  - K Chavez noted the addition of a Drought Primer prepared under the City/County Water/Wastewater Infrastructure to the Pima County Drought Webpage: [www.pima.gov/drought](http://www.pima.gov/drought)
  - The Pima County Sustainability Report Card presented to the Board of Supervisors on August 14, 2009 included mention of the LDIG's trip reduction efforts by using videoconferencing and teleconference capabilities.
6. Next Meeting
  - Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.
  - 201 N Stone-3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room
7. Adjournment