

Pima County Local Drought Impact Group
(Drought Monitoring Committee)
Wednesday, May 12, 2010
2:30 p.m.
CAWCD Twin Peaks Pumping Plan

Attendance:	Kathy Chavez	RWRD	Mitch Basefsky	CAP
	John Glueck	NWS	Dan Hartley	TON
	Bill Petroustson	PDEQ	Lilian von Rago	RWRD
	Greg Garfin	CLIMAS/UA	Mead Meir	PAG
	Karen LaMartina	Tucson Water	Julia Fonseca	PC/OCSEP

1. Introductions - Kathy Chavez thanked Mitch Basefsky and the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) for hosting the LDIG meeting. M Basefsky welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the Central Arizona Project Delivery System. Introductions were made.
2. Recap of March 12 meeting - K Chavez reviewed the summary of the March 12 LDIG meeting. There were no corrections or additional to the summary
3. ADWR Activities
 - K Chavez noted that due to budget cuts the ADWR representative assigned to Pima County's LDIG meeting will no longer be attending. Susan Craig, ADWR, notified K Chavez that they will be assigning someone else and that ADWR will continue to support LDIGs as available resource allow.
 - K Chavez reviewed the May 7 Governor's Drought Interagency Coordinating Group meeting at which SRP reported that that reservoirs of both the Salt River and Verde River watersheds are one hundred percent full. The report provided by ADWR on the Colorado River Basin wasn't as favorable. The upper Colorado watershed received below normal snowpack and the combined storage at Lake Powell and Lake Mead is 55 percent of capacity. The forecasted flow into Lake Powell is projected to be 66 percent of normal and at that the rate water levels at lakes Powell and Mead will continue to decline. It is estimated that a shortage will be declared on the Colorado River in 2012. Long-term drought conditions are still being observed and if the summer is dry, the ranching industry will be in a tough spot. It was recommended that the Coordinating Group recommend to the Governor that the drought declaration be continued. There was discussion that public perception is the drought is over and that although the winter rains were plentiful, the long-term outlook is that drought conditions will persist.
4. US Drought Monitor – Greg Garfin, Climate Assessment for the Southwest explained the US Drought Monitor is being used in lieu of the monthly ADWR Drought Monitor Report. The reasons are:
 - a. The US Drought Monitor provides more timely information
 - b. In some cases, drought conditions can change rapidly
 - c. The ADWR DMR was reporting conditions that were at least one month old
 - d. The US Drought Monitor has better and more timely input
 - e. The US Drought Monitor is a more sustainable process in light of the ADWR budget cuts

G Garfin explained that Arizona's input is a multi-agency effort that consists of weekly reporting. The process starts with the current map and input includes precipitation, stream flow data, snow measurements, soil moisture, pasture and range reports, vegetation information and local and regional drought impact reports. G Garfin described the five drought categories: abnormally dry, drought-moderate, drought-severe, drought-extreme and drought-exceptional. He explained possible impacts of each and discussed the various indices used. According to the most recent US Drought Monitor, 43 percent of Arizona is in no drought condition, 56 percent is abnormally dry and 14 percent is drought-moderate. By comparison, this time last year, 19 percent of Arizona was in no drought condition, 81 percent was abnormally dry and 26 percent in moderate drought.

5. Next Meeting - The next meeting will be on July 14 at the Pima County Public Works Building. Possible topics include Tucson Water's Drought Assessment and the status of the Colorado River.

6. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned and participants toured the Twin Peaks Pumping Plant.