

Pima County Local Drought Impact Group
(Drought Monitoring Committee)
Wednesday, July 14, 2010
2:30 p.m.
Public Works Building
201 North Stone

Attendance:	Kathy Chavez	RWRD	Linda Smith	Tucson Water
	Delphine Clavrreul	U of A	Lilian von Rago	RWRD
	Mead Meir	PAG	Susan Craig	ADWR (via telecom)

1. Introductions – were made
2. Recap of May 12 meeting - K Chavez summarized the May 12 LDIG meeting. There were no corrections or additions to the summary
3. ADWR Activities - Susan Craig explained that ADWR has experienced a staff reduction of 60 percent resulting in the elimination of the Statewide Planning Division.

The Drought Program is now in the Water Management Division - Data Management and Planning Section. Drought activities include working with the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee, the Mohave and Pima Local Drought Impact Groups and the Governor's Drought Interagency Coordinating Group. There's been no impact to the Community Water Planning Program, which deals with the drinking water providers outside of the active management areas. The review and analysis of system water plans to determine vulnerable areas in the state will be one priority for our section this year.

ADWR staff will be working on the Water Resources Sustainability Assessment from information based on groundwater basins. The assessment is funded by a grant from the Water Infrastructure Financing Authority

The Drought Monitoring Report is updated regularly. It is still dry in many parts of the State resulting in an increased fire danger. The Long Term Drought Status Map will be updated after the August 2nd State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee meeting. S Craig also recommended that drought impacts be reported to AZ DroughtWatch. ADWR plans to prepare the annual drought report to the Governor due November 15th.

4. Tucson Water Drought Assessment - Linda Smith, Tucson Water, noted the City of Tucson's Drought Response Plan is available on line and it requires an annual drought assessment. The annual drought assessment was provided to the City Manager in June.

The regional indicators evaluated are drought status of the Colorado River watershed and the Santa Cruz River Watershed as determined by the Statewide Monitoring Technical Committee. The assessment noted that the Bureau of Reclamation declared 2009 a "normal" water year.

Winter storms provided a slight improvement in the Santa Cruz Watershed. Water levels in the metropolitan area have stabilized primarily due to increase CAP water use. Reclaimed water production capacity is slightly less than it was a year ago, however, municipal water use, measured in gallons per capita per day, has been declining due to water conservation efforts and the economic downturn.

In summary, Tucson Water recommends maintaining Drought Stage One. Their summer water conservation program, *Beat the Peak*, will transition into a year around water conservation message. It was recommended that K Chavez poll the other water providers regarding their drought stage status.

Tucson Water will form a climate variability team and may factor redundancy measures in water supply to hedge unknown drought and climate change impacts. Tucson Water is working to take its full CAP allocation by 2012. They are using more CAP water which means the groundwater/CAP blend is changing.

Mead Meir, PAG, noted that she will add drought impacts to DroughtWatch and that groundwater levels are lower than they were last year. Groundwater levels in three wells have dropped as much in the last year as they have in the last 15 years. Stream reaches are also shorter and the surface water volume is lower. She will share photos of the drought impacts and will load them to DroughtWatch.

5. Next Meeting - The next meeting will be September 8 at the Pima County Public Works Building. Possible topics include review of the 2010 monsoon season, City/County Water/Wastewater Phase 2 Action Plan, Colorado River Status
6. Adjournment