

PIMA COUNTY LOCAL DROUGHT IMPACT GROUP
(LDIG)
Wednesday, November 14, 2018
Pima County Public Works Building
RECAP

Attendance: Kathy Chavez (OSC), Erin Boyle (NWS), Wally Wilson (Metro Water), Glen Barnes (Community Water of Green Valley), Jeannette Montañó (Pima County/RWRD), Marie Light (PC/DEQ), Chris Magirl (USGS), Zack Richards (ADWR)

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Review September 12 LDIG meeting Kathy Chavez, OSC
3. ADWR Activities and Updates Zack Richards, ADWR
 - a. Review Short-Term and Long-Term Drought Status
 - i. October Short Term status shows major improvements throughout central Arizona because of remnants of several Pacific tropical storms. Northeast Arizona is still experiencing exceptional drought conditions. November's status will also show improvement in central Arizona and Cochise County.
 - ii. The October Long Term status actually reflects conditions from July, August and September, with many areas of the state in extreme and exceptional drought. Areas showing no drought or an abnormally dry status are due to the lack of weather stations. The next long term status will include October's precipitation and will likely show an improvement. Although October's precipitation was significantly above normal, one month will not alleviate 20 years of persistent drought conditions. The ENSO signal is still present, indicating the possibility of a warmer and wetter winter.
 - b. Recap of the October 24th meeting of the ADWR Monitoring Technical Committee (MTC) - October was the third wettest in Phoenix since 1896 and 600% above normal. Vegetation indices show increased greenness within the Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties. Over the past two years, State Parks has observed a one-foot decrease in base surface water flows during the summer months. The draft Annual Drought Preparedness Report is nearly complete and will be considered by the Interagency Coordinating Group in November. MTC discussed participating in the Southwest Drought Impact Assessment in collaboration with Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS). The effort is a regional assessment of the economic impacts of drought. It will include economic impacts to the agricultural, tourism and recreational sectors. ADWR is coordinating with University of Arizona (UA) researchers Mike Crimmins and George Frisvold. MTC supports the effort and ADWR staff will be seeking the director's support to proceed with the assessment. Marie Light expressed support for the assessment.
 - c. ADWR Interagency Coordinating Group – The ICG meets November 28th to review the status of drought in Arizona and to consider the 2018 Drought Preparedness Annual Report.
 - d. ADWR Drought Preparedness Annual Report – Zack Richards thanked Pima County for the LDIG report that will be included as an appendix in the report. USDA will be holding a workshop in March on improving drought impact reporting.
 - e. Regarding the drought contingency plan, cities' proactive approach to conservation and drought preparedness are positive actions for CAP shortages. Wally Wilson added that the agricultural pool has been based on previous five-year average orders. Recently, CAP received the 2019 orders and they were higher which means less CAP water for the agricultural pool. Additionally, entities with a non-Indian agricultural pool will receive less CAP

water during a Tier One shortage. The CAP Board is meeting November 15 to consider a proposal. The next DCP Steering Committee is November 29.

4. Pima County Green Infrastructure Plan/Low Impact Development + Trees – Marie Light, PC/DEQ reviewed the Action Plan noting the following:
 - a. Green infrastructure principles are most effective on the neighborhood scale.
 - b. Natural processes are enhanced by green infrastructure, but it's appearance differs than traditional green infrastructure in the East when evaporation is greater than precipitation, as in the West
 - c. Green infrastructure adds canopy and shade and reduces air temperature. Trees have the best impact, while asphalt has the worst.
 - d. The Pima County Board of Supervisors initiated the program to support its reaffirmation of Pima County's commitment and efforts to address climate change
 - e. Mitigating the impact of climate change also has economic consequences
 - f. The Action Plan evaluated the return on investment for the case study locations using AutoCase. It considers the social, environmental and economic costs/benefits of green infrastructure.
 - g. Extreme weather events are increasing in the US and they have cost implications. Nature has adapted over millions of years to arid conditions, but climate is changing rapidly.
 - h. Water rights for stormwater capture has not been resolved, but in Arizona, a safe assumption is that water within a property can be captured.
5. Updates
 - a. Metro Water reported it is issuing toilet rebates, but the toilet replacements must be less than 1.6 gallons per flush. Metro Water also issues rebates for rainwater harvesting
 - b. NWS reported on October's record rainfall and below normal temperatures. To date, November precipitation has been below normal and so have temperatures. Staff is attending the November 15 CBRFC workshop in Phoenix and will report on it in January
 - c. Green Valley has experienced a sulfate plume. They had expected the proposed CAP recharge facility would improve groundwater quality.
 - d. RWRD participated in the annual Construction Career Days to promote water and wastewater careers. They will also be holding the annual campaign to collect grease on the day after Thanksgiving.
 - e. USGS will be participating in a Southwest drought science workshop. They are also available to provide groundwater and surface water data or interpretation
6. The next meeting is January 9. Meeting dates for 2019 are January 9, March 13, May 8, July 10, September 11 and November 13.
7. Meeting adjourned