

PIMA COUNTY LOCAL DROUGHT IMPACT GROUP

(LDIG)

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Pima County Public Works Building

RECAP

Attendance: Kathy Chavez (OSC), Colby Bowser (OSC), Erin Boyle (NWS), Mitch Basefsky (CAP)

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Review March 8 LDIG meeting - Kathy Chavez, OSC
3. Review Short-Term and Long Term Drought Status Report
 - a. Short term - March was dry with high temperatures, western Pima County is in moderate drought while eastern portion is abnormally dry. The April drought status mirrors this drought condition. April is usually a dry month and drought concerns will continue the next two months as this is usually the driest months of the season. The rest of the state is mostly out of drought.
 - b. Long term – The January through March update reflects the winter storms through February when heavy winter precipitation helped parts of the state. Abnormally dry conditions continue in southern Arizona.
4. ADWR Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) Recap - Kathy Chavez, OSC
 - a. Detailed review of ICG presentations and continuation of state drought declaration. (See attached)
5. Drought Stage 1 – Confirm Status
 - a. LDIG in agreement to continue Stage 1 declaration.
6. Updates
 - a. Erin Boyle, NWS – March was the warmest on record with 0.5” below average rainfall; April was the 4th warmest with only a trace of rain recorded. The recent May rain event only measured 0.02”.
 - i. The current water year precipitation is 1.69” below average. Storm events have been missing southern Arizona, moving north instead.
 - ii. Outlook through 2017 is for above average temperatures; monsoon signal is not picked up in models.
 - iii. El Niño modeling has been updated showing potential El Niño developing late summer or fall.
 - iv. A “coastal El Niño” has been present in the South American Pacific, effect is limited to that area.
 - v. Fire severity was ranked low for 81% of the Sawmill fire meaning the soil hydrophobicity was low to absent and potential for flood runoff is minimal
 - vi. Above normal fire outlook for southern Arizona through June given fuel load.
 - vii. A NOAA blog on monitoring and forecasting the El Niño Southern Oscillation is available at: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso/may-2017-enso-update-mayday>
 - b. Mitch Basefsky, CAP – Colorado Basin SWE was up to 170% until the beginning of a very dry March/April. Lake Mead elevation will decline through summer as allocations taken; Lake Powell will rise. Mead should hit 1,075’ trigger this summer then recover in fall. Timing of the 9 MAF release driven by power demand and pulse environmental flows.
 - i. Ongoing discussion between CAP and ADWR; CAP considering adaptive management within the 2007 guidelines. When Mead is in situation that dictates 9

MAF release, that is more beneficial to elevation than 0.5 MAF of conservation. ADWR disagrees. However, CAP continues support of DCP and negotiations of a DCP+.

ii. Agriculture has concerns with DCP but is less opposed to DCP+ because M&I shares in burden of cuts.

c. Kathy Chavez, OSC – County Flood Control has expanded their ALERT system. RFCD project removed sediment in Rillito and will be doing so in Santa Cruz.

7. Adjournment and next meeting