

PIMA COUNTY LOCAL DROUGHT IMPACT GROUP

(LDIG)

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Pima County Public Works Building

RECAP

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

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Review July 12 LDIG meeting (KChavez, OSC)
3. ADWR Activities and Updates(EHenenson, ADWR)
 - a. Review Short-Term and Long Term Drought Status Report
 - i. August status is Abnormally Dry for most eastern Pima County and southwest Arizona including western Pima County is in moderate drought conditions; July monsoons eased drought though rainfall was localized.
 - ii. Short term drought progression March-August shows slight improvement in drought conditions.
 - iii. July long term represents the quarter from April-June and does not include July monsoon amounts, reflects decent winter rains but also accounts for past years conditions (streamflow, aquifer levels), and thus most of Arizona remains in abnormally dry conditions despite a relatively wet winter. Next long term status will account for monsoon amounts.
 - iv. Long term status over past year and past four years; July 2014 Pima County was in Severe drought.
 - v. Drought maps; some concern of MTC about drought map drawbacks- lack of spatial resolution requires averaging entire watershed, the historical period is short relative to drought period. Lack of stations to collect data in some cases. Drought conditions not same across and within watershed area.
 - vi. New maps do not follow watershed and are not gauge dependent. Gridded maps with 4 sq mile resolution. SPI, SPEI maps using PRISM data versus watershed maps. ADWR is requesting input on the use of SPI, or SPEI, or a combination of both maps to more accurately show long term drought conditions
 - b. ADWR Drought Preparedness Annual Report 2017
 - i. Draft due in mid-October. LDIG will circulate to members for comment.
 - c. Interagency Coordinating Group meets November 16th
 - i. Review of MTC and ICG meetings. Local impact information is valuable to state process.
4. 2017 Monsoon Season Review (EBoyle, NWS-Tucson)
 - a. June-August Summer; 9th hottest, 5th wettest. Up to 17" rain in mountains. 5th straight summer in top 5 warmest.
 - b. Temperature increase is evident over decadal averages, precipitation is more variable.
 - c. June was the hottest on record with no precipitation. 18 days of 105°+ temperatures.
 - d. July was the wettest on record and the second wettest of any calendar month. 6.80" at TIA, normal is 2.25". Localized amounts higher; lower temperatures. Western Pima County below normal rain.

- e. August 8th warmest, 52nd dry with 1.74" at TIA, below 2.39" normal. Calendar year and water year precipitation is on track with average so far. Above average monsoon for Tucson.
 - f. September has seen very little rain, 0.03". Pacific storm systems may bring some moisture if track is right but barring Pacific disturbance, monsoon is done and drying trend to continue.
 - g. Seasonal outlook- warm with drought persisting in western Pima County.
 - h. Colorado River basin precipitation as a whole is decent, normal.
5. CAP and Colorado River Status (MBasefsky, CAWCD)
- a. System content status; Lake Mead has been hovering around 39-42% capacity past several years.
 - b. Mead projected above 1,075' in 2018 and 2019. Minimum probable in 2019 is 1,076'.
 - c. August 24 Month Study determines operating regime, balancing or equalization.
 - d. No shortage in 2018, 15% chance in 2019 and increasing to ~40-50% into 2022. High chance for greater than 8.23 maf releases in 2018 and 2019, diminishing to ~2/3 chance into 2022.
 - e. Elevation projections do not include future system conservation and ICS.
6. Updates
- a. Tucson Water noticing an upward trend in water use; 5.3% through calendar year 2017 and 1.2% since July 1.
 - b. Outreach to Tohono O'odham Nation re: drought conditions there.
 - c. Email from Mr. Schock reports localized rains this year in Southeast Arizona causing distress for many ranchers. Other ranchers have been pleased with the rainfall amounts
7. Adjournment and next meeting
- a. November 8th