

PIMA COUNTY LOCAL DROUGHT IMPACT GROUP  
(LDIG)  
Wednesday, September 11, 2019  
Pima County Public Works Building  
RECAP

Attendance: Kathy Chavez (OSC), Erin Boyle (NWS), Mitch Basefsky (CAP), Zack Richards (ADWR), Glen Barnes (CWC Green Valley), Jeff Glickhorn (OSC), Chris Magirl (USGS), Angela Della Croce (OSC), Kris LaFleur (Tucson Water)

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Review July 10 LDIG meeting (Kathy Chavez, OSC)
3. ADWR Updates (Zack Richards, ADWR)
  - a. Short-Term and Long Term Drought Status
    - i. Short term drought was much improved until August when El Niño conditions deteriorated. July and August have been dry. Northwestern Arizona drought status may worsen to drought D3 next month. Northern Arizona has also been very dry
    - ii. Long-term drought status – The next long-term drought status map will be available in October and may show drought worsening across Arizona. The latest map expands drought D2 in north east and western Arizona
  - b. Upcoming dates
    - i. Monitoring Technical Committee meets October 3
    - ii. Interagency Coordinating Group will meet in November or December
    - iii. LDIG reports for the Annual Drought Report to the Governor are due September 30. ICG will review the report and submit it to the Governor in November. Pima County will prepare a draft for LDIG's review and submittal to ADWR by September 30
4. 2019 Summer Monsoon Season Recap (Erin Boyle, NWS)
  - a. June through August has been hot and dry throughout Pima County. Precipitation has been half of normal; the driest summer since 2009.
  - b. July was the 3<sup>rd</sup> hottest and most daytime temperatures were above normal. Most nighttime temperatures were also above normal. We received half the normal precipitation.
  - c. August was the 2<sup>nd</sup> hottest with most daytime and nighttime temperatures above normal. Precipitation was 65% of normal. Through August, total precipitation for the calendar year is about normal, but for the water year, which ends September 30, we are 85% of normal.
  - d. Lack of precipitation has been widespread across much of Arizona, except for far southwestern and northwestern Arizona, which benefitted from intense, localized storms. This monsoon season is tracking to be one of the drier ones, the 12<sup>th</sup> driest, if there is no precipitation in September
  - e. The seasonal outlook September through October, released August 15, is favorable. It anticipates above normal precipitation and warmer than normal temperatures. However, late summer Pacific storms have been drifting to the western Pacific Ocean
  - f. The Colorado Basin Forecast Center outlook is favorable for the upper Colorado watershed
5. CAP and Colorado River Update (Mitch Basefsky, CAP)
  - a. Lake Powell is 55.5% full due to the generous snowpack, which was 112% above normal this past winter/spring. As a result, Lake Powell is storing more runoff. Based on the CRBFC August 24-month report, equalization releases from Lake Powell are possible.

- b. Lake Mead is 38% full and the most probable December 31 elevation is 1089 feet which means no Tier One shortage declaration in 2020. Per the Drought Contingency Plan, a Tier Zero shortage is in effect because the elevation is below 1090 feet. Under a Tier Zero, Arizona must leave 192,000 acre-feet in Lake Mead. This will not be a hardship as Arizona has already been leaving water in the lake. Entities contributing to the Tier Zero shortage include Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation District, Gila River Indian Community and others. The Drought Contingency Plan is working as intended. CAP will consider policy changes to the Access to Excess policy that prioritizes how excess CAP water is apportioned.
- c. Participating entities will review lessons learned at the December meeting of the Colorado River Water Users Association. Renegotiation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines must begin in 2020 and be completed in 2026.

6. Updates

- a. The CAP Board will meet October 3 in Tucson. In 2020, four Pima County CAP Board members are up for election along with the Pinal CAP Board member.
- b. Tucson Water Mayor & Council approved a green infrastructure fee effective January 2020. The fee is 13 cents per Ccf and is applied only within the city limits. The fee is projected to generate \$3.1 million annually for green infrastructure projects and sunsets in three years. Mayor and Council has authorized Tucson Water to purchase its full CAP allotment. They are working an update to the master plan along with an update of the drought response plan
- c. USGS has a contract from Tucson Water to conduct micro gravity monitoring of the Heritage Project to measure aquifer level changes.
- d. Pima County OSC is working on a climate monitoring plan for the Multi Species Conservation Plan to measure changes in climate on its conservation lands and to quantify other observations. Monitoring measures precipitation and temperature
- e. Green Valley is hopeful that Project Renewals will be completed by Hudbay
- f. The LSCR Basin Study is completing the water demand/supply imbalance analysis and will begin developing adaptation strategies.

7. Adjournment and next meeting is November 13. It will include results from PAG's Cienega Creek monitoring