

PIMA COUNTY LOCAL DROUGHT IMPACT GROUP  
(LDIG)  
Wednesday, January 8, 2020  
Pima County Public Works Building  
RECAP

Attendance: Kathy Chavez (OSC), Evan Canfield (RFCD), Jeff Glickhorn (OSC), Jeanette Montañó (RWRD), Nemesis Ortiz-Declét (ADWR), Erin Boyle (NOAA/NWS), Kris LaFleur (Tucson Water), Mark Johnson (Tortolita Alliance), Shirley Johnson (Tortolita Alliance), Asia Philbin (Marana Water), Wally Wilson (Metro Water)

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Review November 13 meeting (Kathy Chavez, OSC)
3. ADWR Updates (Nemesis Ortiz-Declét, ADWR)
  - a. Short-term drought status in the past six months – drought status improved through June and July, but returned with the weak summer monsoon.
  - b. December 2019 short-term drought status report – November and December precipitation improved drought status through most of the state, except for northeast Arizona. Two-thirds of the state is drought free
  - c. Long-term drought status in the past year – drought conditions improved in the early part of the year, but July-September long-term drought worsened. Northeast Arizona continues to experience severe to extreme drought conditions.
  - d. October-December 2019 long-term drought status - Cooler temperatures reduced evaporation and snowpack is above average – While cooler weather is likely through the remainder of January, weather projection models still favor warmer and drier than average conditions for the latter parts of the winter into the spring season.
  - e. General MTC updates – Data from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center shows 2020 is on track to exceed average snow water equivalent and last year's results, forecasting good news for the basin reservoirs. Gridded 24-month maps for December 2018 and 2019 show improved conditions across most of the state, except in the northeast. The total Salt River system is 74% full, while the Verde River's reservoirs have improved from 34% to 59% full. The Salt River's reservoir have improved from 70% to 76%.
  - f. Important updates – ADWR's 2019 Drought Preparedness Annual Report is available on line. Click [here](#). The December 2019 Drought Status Report will be available in the next day or too at [ADWR's Drought Website](#). The Monitoring Technical Committee will meet in April. April is also Water Awareness Month
4. Promoting Low Impact Development in Pima County Through site Planning and Watershed Management – Evan Canfield, Regional Flood Control District
  - a. Review of Ruthrauff area pre- and post-development shows how flood prone areas have changes. Natural soils absorb 95.7% of precipitation, while impervious surfaces contribute to stormwater runoff and flooding.
  - b. The Regional Flood Control District has developed low impact development (LID) policies and guidance
  - c. One strategy is the recharge stormwater and infiltrate to the regional aquifer. Another strategy is the capture and store for use in the near term. Analysis shows harvestable water is most efficient at the neighborhood scale

- d. Tucson has sufficient precipitation to meet outside water use demand. LID can be used to minimize pre-development runoff, but maintenance is key. Eighty-five percent of precipitation events produce less than one-half inch of rain.
- e. RFCD works with developers to reduce impervious areas and minimize runoff and development costs
- f. Retrofit of existing areas needs to be voluntary, but LID can be implemented in public right of ways.
- g. AutoCase is being used to evaluate areas where water is scarce and considers economy, environment and social benefits to reduce flood risk
- h. LID/GI is being integrated into development, not for potable use, but for multi-benefit purposes including shade cooling, landscape irrigation, stormwater runoff reduction, pollutions prevention and stormwater management.

#### 5. Updates

- a. Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) held a successful grease collection event on January 4, collecting over 9,900 pounds of grease, enough to reduce our carbon footprint by 23,577 pounds when recycled into biodiesel. They are preparing for the Water Citizens Academy in March or April and working on a water district.
- b. Metro Water is working on an update of their long range plan
- c. National Weather Service (NWS) is holding an Open House January 9. The year 2019 was the 17<sup>th</sup> warmest and the 21<sup>st</sup> year consecutive year with temperatures above average. It was the 25<sup>st</sup> wettest, receiving 13.62 inches of precipitation. So far, the 2020 water year (October 1-December 31) has received 1.14 inches of precipitation, which is above normal.
- d. Tucson Water is working on its long-range plan, One Water. It will include an update of the drought response plan with drought trigger aligning with the drought contingency plan. It will also include water audits of city facilities.
- e. Office of Sustainability and Conservation (OSC) will be participating in a Drought and Human Health workshop in late February in Tucson. It is being coordinated by the National Integrated Drought Information System and the University of Nebraska Medical Center, hosted by the University of Arizona.

#### 6. Adjournment and next meeting is March 11