



PIMA COUNTY LOCAL DROUGHT IMPACT GROUP

(LDIG)

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

National Weather Service Office

RECAP

Attendance:	Kathy Chavez	RWRD	Karen Wilson	RWRD
	Chris Smith	USGS	Lilian Von Rago	RWRD
	Glen Sampson	NWS	Tom Arnold	COT
	Robert Glennon	UA Law School		
Presenters:	Claire Zucker	PAG	Mitch Basefsky	CAP
	Erin Boyle	NWS		

1. Welcome & Introductions – Introductions were made
2. Updates
 - Recap July 10, 2013 LDIG Meeting
 - Monitoring Technical Committee Meeting – August 1, 2013
 - Drought Status Maps – all of Arizona in some stage of drought
 - Annual Drought Report to the Governor – PC LDIG will submit its report in October
3. Cienega Creek Update – Claire Zucker, PAG
 - Record breaking drought conditions in the summer of 2013
 - Completed annual walk through in June – 25% less flow than same time last year
 - Perennial flow reduced to 0.93 mile, lowest flow on record and 0.31 mile shorter than June 2012
4. Colorado River Outlook – Mitch Basefsky, CAP
 - Current in flow to Lake Powell for water year 2013 is 4.3 million acre-feet (MAF) – 40% of average (1981-2010)
 - Lake Mead's shortage trigger is 1,075 foot elevation
 - Lake Mead is currently 33 feet above the shortage declaration trigger of 1,075 foot elevation
 - 2012 was the 3rd driest year observed since 1906
 - Based on the BOR Colorado River Study, the earliest likelihood of a Shortage Declaration is 2016
 - Arizona has junior rights – Excess CAP, Excess AG Pool and Water Banking would be first to feel shortage declaration
 - Several Conservation and Loss Reduction mechanisms in place to ease a shortage
 - Yuma Desalting Plant (could deliver contracted water to Mexico)
 - Brock Reservoir – temporary storage for water that was ordered but not used, could be delivered at a later date
 - Vegetation Management – reestablishment of low water using native vegetation and non-native plant reduction/eradication
5. Summer Monsoon – Erin Boyle, NWS
 - Hottest June on record – everyday at least 100°.
 - Tucson Airport (TIA) measured 0.03" rainfall (0.24" is normal)
 - July – precipitation above average, widespread rain (2.63" at TIA/normal is 2.45")
 - Douglas/Cochise Counties had record rainfall in July
 - Douglas Airport recorded 10.12" well above normal of 2.95"

- August – hot and dry, 13 consecutive days of 100° temperatures or hotter
 - Precipitation measured at TIA was 0.48" (normal is 2.39")
 - Rainlog.org, CoCoRaHs¹ and County ALERT gages recorded 0.30" – 2.00" rainfall
 - Precipitation through first half of September is normal
 - Tucson Airport readings below normal –0.63" rainfall through first part of September (1.29" is normal)
 - Douglas received 17.11" (9.58 normal)
 - 17.74" precipitation through September (9.58" normal)
 - In Douglas Airport rainfall: Calendar Year = 17.11" (9.58" normal) and Water Year = 17.74" (12.13" normal)
 - 2013 Monsoon has provided some relief from drought especially south of Pima County
 - NWS is monitoring high flow in the Gila River
6. Tour of Weather Service
- Participated in Daily Afternoon Weather Balloon launch (4:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.)
7. Adjournment

NEXT LDIG MEETING – WEDNESDAY, November 13, 2013, Public Works Building 3rd Floor
Pima County Drought Management Plan Review

- Pima County Drought Ordinance
- Review of Drought Management Plan

¹ Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow (CoCoRaHs) Network