

PIMA COUNTY LOCAL DROUGHT IMPACT GROUP
(LDIG)
Wednesday, September 12, 2018
Pima County Public Works Building
RECAP

Attendance: Kathy Chavez (OSC), Erin Boyle (NWS), Mitch Basefsky (CAP), Wally Wilson (Metro Water), Glen Barnes (Community Water of Green Valley), Julia Fonseca (Pima County/OSC), Jeannette Montañó (Pima County/RWRD), Caroline Vargas (Pima County/RWRD) Candice Rupprecht (Tucson Water), Colby Bowser (Pima County/OSC)

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Review July 11 LDIG meeting Kathy Chavez, OSC
3. ADWR Activities and Updates Kathy Chavez, OSC
 - a. Review Short-Term and Long Term Drought Status
 - i. Mostly severe drought in Pima County with moderate drought in northeast corner for the short term. Majority extreme drought with exceptional in western Pima County for the long term.
 - b. Recap July 30 ADWR Monitoring Technical Group
 - c. ADWR Annual Report
 - i. Pima County's draft report to ADWR for inclusion in Annual Drought Report is due in October. A draft will be forwarded to LDIG for review and comments are expected by mid October.
4. 2018 Summer Monsoon Review Erin Boyle, NWS
 - a. Summer was 7th hottest and 10th straight ranking in top ten. Above normal rainfall with localized amounts ranging from 3"-11". Flooding caused a train derailment.
 - b. June ranked 14th hot, 11th wet with above normal rain. Widespread precipitation in Pima County.
 - c. July ranked 8th hot, 51st wet with just above normal rain but below normal in Tucson and La Cienegas area.
 - d. August ranked 15th hot, 35th wet with above normal rain the first time since 12 years. August was the 23rd month with above normal average monthly temperature and September is tracking to be warm as well, possible two straight years of above normal temperature. Western Pima County and Tucson area received below normal rain as higher rain totals were mostly limited to Tucson Airport. Flooding damaged Nogales Wash but the sewer pipeline stayed intact.
 - e. Monsoon season is above normal with most of southern Arizona above normal as well except for Safford. The Water Year total is running below average.
 - f. Drought has improved with some limited removal likely. Forecasters are seeing conditions that indicate a wetter three months ahead with warm temperatures.
 - g. With a 60% chance of El Nino in fall and 70% chance in winter, could have more precipitation but hasn't always proven in the past.
 - h. The Colorado Basin is in drought with only the Green River area receiving average precipitation.
 - i. CRBFC stakeholder meeting in November and water provider input would be appreciated.

5. CAP Status Mitch Basefsky, CAP

- a. Lake Powell is 20' below last year's elevation at same time. Even with maximum probable inflow and release, Lake Mead likely to be below current elevation. Lake Powell at 46.6% Lake Mead at 38.3%.
- b. Lake Powell inflow at 44% of average for the Water Year, August was at 2%.
- c. The Bureau of Reclamation's August 24-month study shows Lake Mead is projected to end 2019 at 1070 feet and that only 7.48 maf will be released from Lake Powell in Water Year 2020.
- d. Probability of shortage is increasing making DCP of significant importance. Probabilities do not include any conservation efforts. 57% chance of shortage in 2020. Probabilities have increased since March of this year.
- e. Review of DCP and steering committee. A joint resolution must be approved by the State Legislature. The issue with DCP is the disparate impact to Arizona farmers with the Ag Pool eliminated at a Tier 1 shortage.
- f. Discussion of Ag Pool. Diminishes and goes away in 2030 as ag converts to groundwater.
- g. NIA water would be impacted by DCP at other tiers. NIA is 2/3 tribal and 1/3 municipal allocations.
- h. Most of TAMA does not have Ag Pool or NIA allocations but GSF's so it would not be converting to groundwater.
- i. DCP steering committee meeting tomorrow, southern Arizona caucus next week. Plan to complete work in November with proposal to legislature in 2019.

6. Updates

- a. Tucson Water is working on a low income water harvesting program.
- b. RWRD is developing a water cycle, drought education curriculum.
- c. OSC is close to establishing baseline plots and methods of the ecological monitoring program for county conservation lands. In the future it could document drought impacts. Data will be shared across departments and agencies.
- d. Community Water Company of Green Valley is experiencing an uptick in water consumption.
- e. Metro Water is progressing in AVRPP permit and NWRRDS improvements and closer to getting drill permits for recovery wells.
- f. CAP meeting in Tucson in October at the Convention Center.

7. Adjournment and next meeting is November 14