

PIMA COUNTY LOCAL DROUGHT IMPACT GROUP  
Wednesday, January 13, 2021  
Via Microsoft TEAMS  
RECAP

Attendance: Kathy Chavez (Pima County Office of Sustainability and Conservation), Némesis Ortiz-Declét (Arizona Department of Water Resources), Erin Boyle (National Weather Service), Mitch Basefsky (Central Arizona Project), Jeff Glickhorn (Pima County Office of Sustainability and Conservation), Arturo Gabaldon and Glen Barnes (Community Water Company of Green Valley), Heidi Lasham (Town of Sahuarita), Erin Boyle (National Weather Service), Lee Comrie and Melanie Alvarez (Pima Association of Governments), Jaime Galayda and Candice Rupprecht (Tucson Water), Mark Johnson (Tortolita Alliance), Colby Bowser (Pima County Office of Sustainability and Conservation), Fatima Luna (City of Tucson), Jessica Rodriguez (Tucson Water), Marie Light (Pima County Department of Environmental Quality), Matt Bingham (Hudbay Minerals), Melodee Loyer (Farmers Water Company), Nick Spinelli (Arizona Serve), Sharon Browning (Pima County Health Department), Wally Wilson (Metro DWID), William Schock (Schock Ranch)

1. Welcome & Introductions – Kathy Chavez, OSC, welcomed attendees and announced them.
2. Review November 10 LDIG meeting - Kathy Chavez, OSC
  - a. ADWR Updated the Short Term and Long Term Drought Status, Recap of ICG meeting and 2020 Annual report
  - b. RFCDD presented on Bighorn Fire Flood Preparedness Plan
3. Arizona Department of Water Resources Updates - Némesis Ortiz-Declét, ADWR
  - a. Review of Short Term and Long Term status: No improvement in short term drought status. 77% of Arizona is in D4-Exceptional drought. Long term drought for October through December 2020 worsened due to minimal summer monsoon and continued dry conditions in the fall. Drought stages D2-Severe, D3-Extreme and D4-Exceptional have expanded across the state.
  - b. The Monitoring Technical Committee met January 7 to discuss short term and long term status. Next meeting is April 6
  - c. Review of upcoming Fifth Management Plan meetings
4. Tucson Water Drought Preparedness and Response Plan, Jaime Galayda, Tucson Water
  - a. Required by ADWR and ARS45-342. Originally approved in 2006 and updated in 2012 and 2017. Updated to align with the drought contingency plan's four tiered CAP shortage levels defined by elevation in Lake Mead. The Plan is data driven rather than focusing on short term restrictions emergency restrictions for which water conservation improvements are difficult to measure. The plan will target customers using large water volumes and work to help them improve conservation.
  - b. Tier Zero is currently in effect and corresponds to Lake Mead elevation between 1090 and 1075 feet. Its focus is on proving service during summer peak high demand
  - c. Tier One is implemented when Lake Mead's elevation falls below 1075 feet and targets customers whose water consumption exceeds their specific water use guidelines
  - d. Tier Two is implemented when Lake Mead's elevation is below 1045 feet and suspends new requests for water service through pre-annexation development agreements
  - e. Tier Three is implemented when Lake Mead's elevation is below 1025 feet or when the volume of water delivered by CAP to Tucson Water is less than the annual potable demand.

Mayor & Council may consider water use restrictions for customers whose consumption continues to exceed their water use guidelines

- f. Tucson Water will continuously monitor the Bureau of Reclamation's 24-month studies of projected lake levels. Tucson Water is working on water use guidelines and on a review of the Water Service Area Policy.
- g. Outreach and education will involve Tucson Water social media platforms and billing insert communications. Water consumption has trended downward since 2000; residential gpcd is 76.2, potable gpcd is 111.2 and potable and reclaimed water use is 125.2 gpcd.
- h. Tucson Water is leading by example by conducting water audits for all city facilities and conducting desktop audits in lieu of site visits. Emphasis on green infrastructure and storm/rainwater harvesting
- i. Discussion:
  - i. Water use guidelines are based on an average baseline for similar customer types to identify customers who are using more than they should
  - ii. Of the total water demand, Tucson Water has stored water to meet 4.5 years of water demand
  - iii. Drought stages will be reviewed twice yearly, coinciding with Reclamation's projections in April and August
  - iv. The drought responses will apply to isolated systems using groundwater
  - v. Other water providers are considering updated drought response plans to be consistent with Tucson Water's plan; Metro Water has updated its plan to match the drought contingency plan and is based on precipitation and reservoir levels. The Town of Marana is reviewing Tucson Water's plan, but has a water resource portfolio dependent on CAP as well as sources affected by local conditions. Tucson Water considered local impacts, but most of its supply is from CAP.
  - vi. Metro Water's plan will be reviewed after the Arizona Reconsultation Committee renegotiates the 2007 interim guidelines. Community Water of Green Valley will follow Tucson's and Metro's format. Farmers Water Company will be reviewing its plan and focus on local drought conditions

## 5. Updates

- a. Community Water Company of Green Valley is drafting a letter to its members on drought
- b. Town of Marana announced a water security workshop will be held next week
- c. National Weather Service reported 2020 was the driest year on record, only 4.19 inches of precipitation and it was the warmest. To date, there has been no rain in January; normal is 0.94 inches. Each decade, NWS recalculates normal temperature and precipitation based on the previous 30-year averages. The new (1990 through 2020) normal temperature, 70.5°F, increased by one degree Fahrenheit and the new normal precipitation, 10.59 inches, decreased by one inch.
- d. Pima County of Environmental Quality announced EPA has issued final MS4 permit. It is effective July 2021 and refers to retrofit guidance for green infrastructure/low impact development
- e. Pima Association of Governments continues quarterly monitoring of Cienega Creek noting lower stream flow in September and December
- f. Central Arizona Project held its first CAP University with participation of over 300 citizens. The next session, in March, will target CAP stakeholders, but the public is welcomed to attend
- g. Metro Water is drilling two production wells as part of the Northwest Recharge, Recovery and Delivery System.

6. Adjournment and next meeting March 10 with recap of the winter season and Colorado River update. Notes and presentation materials will be posted on the [LDIG Website](#).
7. Meetings 2021: March 10, May 12, July 14, September 8, November 10