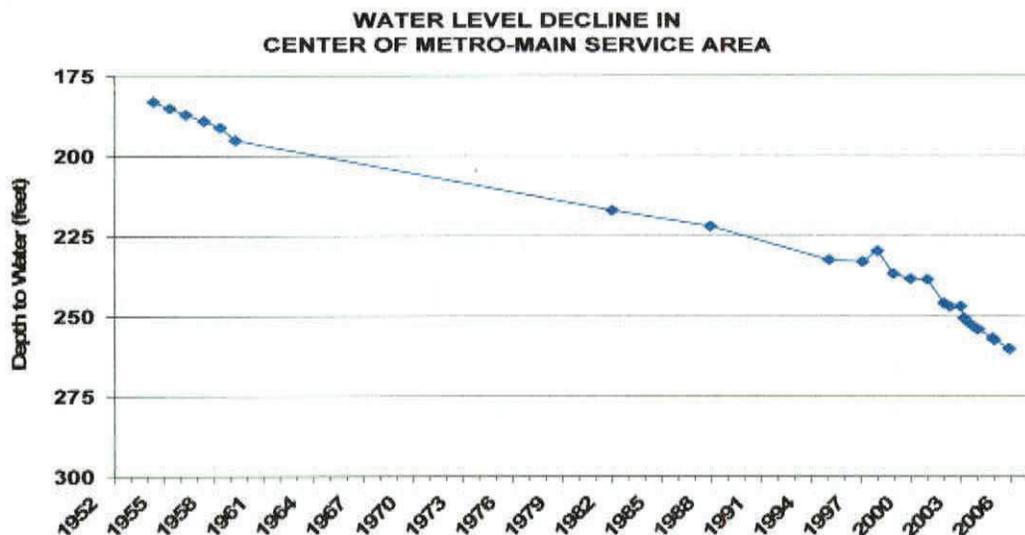


## Metro Water District Drought Preparedness Plan

Arizona is in the midst of a prolonged drought that has various impacts on our environment. Specifically regarding water supplies in Southern Arizona, the drought does not immediately equate to water shortage. We are not running out of water. In fact, Metro Water District has a 100-year assured water supply designation from the State of Arizona. Additionally, Metro has been steadily working toward the use of renewable supplies rather than relying solely on our groundwater.

During the last ten years, Metro Water District has seen the decline in water levels at its wells intensified in large part to the drought. Rather than the historic average of one foot per year, wells have been declining on average almost three feet per year over the last ten years. Without natural recharge occurring due to lack of precipitation and overall water demand staying the same, the cumulative decline in well levels becomes more distinct.



The Arizona Department of Water Resources requires that all water providers are to have a Drought Response Plan by January 2007. While no water shortage exists, no one knows how long the current drought might last. Some climatologists are predicting that we are in a 20- to 30-year drought cycle; therefore, Metro Water feels it is important to have a Drought Response Plan in place that can respond to a reduction of our available water supply due to a drought.

Metro Water's Drought Response Plan includes measures initiated based on the severity of the drought response. Since the District is not a municipality with enforcement capabilities, it must rely on its customers to voluntarily comply with requests for water reduction. The District can also implement a drought surcharge to its rates, limit potable water for construction uses, and in the most severe drought response stage not approve water service agreements for new construction projects. The main focus of Metro Water's Drought Response Plan is to continue its overall objective of sound water management. A primary tool is the current cooperation with Oro Valley, Marana, and Flowing Wells Irrigation District to develop a Northwest Area Renewable Supply Treatment and Distribution System. By directly using Central Arizona Project water, our

groundwater well levels will be able to recover and then our wells can serve as a backup to the renewable supplies.

Metro Water's Drought Response Plan includes four stages in response to the impacts of a drought on our available water supply, which currently is primarily groundwater. The stage then determines which measures are initiated. The stages are determined on the simple combination of the amount of precipitation during the last twelve months and the annual decline of the overall groundwater levels.

Stage One (Alert) is initiated when the precipitation of the last 12 months is 70% to 90% of normal precipitation and the annual decline of the overall groundwater level is between 1.0 feet to 2.4 feet. In Stage One, Metro Water will increase customer awareness about the drought and water resources through education. Additionally, the District will work with Pima County to put in place ordinances that strengthen Southern Arizona's conservation ethic. Metro will work with its neighboring water providers to look at cooperative efforts that include providing emergency backup as well as joint conservation efforts. Most importantly, Metro Water will continue its overall water management efforts to use renewable water supplies. In effect, Metro Water has been doing all of Stage One measures the last few years.

Stage Two (Warning) is initiated when the precipitation of the last 12 months is 50% to 70% of normal precipitation combined with the decline of the overall groundwater level reaches 2.5 feet to 4.0 feet annually. In Stage Two, Metro Water requests customers to limit landscape irrigation to two days per week between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. as well as avoid other outdoor water uses; for example, hosing down walkways and washing vehicles without a bucket and hose with a positive cutoff nozzle. Hotels and restaurants will be asked to initiate industry green measures for conserving water, such as providing water only on request and washing sheets and towels only if requested. Under Stage Two, all of the measures of Stage One will also continue.

Stage Three (Emergency) is initiated when the precipitation of the last 12 months is 25% to 50% of normal and the annual decline of the overall groundwater level reaches 4.0 feet to 4.9 feet. In Stage Three, Metro Water will not permit the use of potable water for construction including dust control; reclaimed water will need to be used instead. Metro's Board will consider instituting a drought surcharge to Tier 4 of the rate structure. Additional voluntary water reduction measures will be requested from customers including the limiting of landscape irrigation to one day per week between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. In addition to avoiding outdoor water uses, customers will be asked not to empty or fill their pools. The other measures of Stage One and Stage Two will continue to be in place.

Stage Four (Crisis) is initiated when the precipitation of the last 12 months is less than 25% of normal and the annual decline of the overall groundwater level reaches 5.0 feet or more. Under Stage Four, Metro Water will not approve water service agreements. Metro's Board will consider instituting a drought surcharge to Tier 2 and Tier 3 of the rate structure in addition to the one for Tier 4. No potable water will be used for construction. Customers will be requested to limit landscape irrigation ONLY to trees and shrubs one day per week between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. and no irrigation of turf or ground covers. Other previous measures will continue to be in place.

**Metro Water District (Metro-Main)  
Drought Preparedness Plan**

<b>Drought Responses</b>	<b>Measures</b>
<p>Stage 1 - Alert Precipitation Last 12 months 70% - 90% AND Overall Groundwater Levels 1.0' – 2.4' annual decline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase Customers Awareness through Education</li> <li>▪ Work with County to put Ordinances in place</li> <li>▪ Continue Overall Water Management Efforts to Use Renewable Water Supplies</li> <li>▪ Work with Neighboring Water Providers</li> </ul>
<p>Stage 2 - Warning Precipitation Last 12 months 50% - 70% AND Overall Groundwater Levels 2.5' – 3.9' annual decline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Request Voluntary Water Reduction Measures               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limit Landscape Irrigation to 2 days per week between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.</li> <li>- Hotels and Restaurants will be asked to conserve water.</li> <li>- Avoid other outdoor water uses including misters and car washes</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Continue to work with County to put Ordinances in place</li> <li>▪ Continue Overall Water Management Efforts to Use Renewable Water Supplies</li> <li>▪ Work with Neighboring Water Providers</li> </ul>
<p>Stage 3 - Emergency Precipitation Last 12 months 25% - 50% AND Overall Groundwater Levels 4.0' – 4.9' annual decline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No Potable Water for Construction</li> <li>▪ Institute Drought Surcharge to Tier 4 of the Rate Structure</li> <li>▪ Request Additional Voluntary Water Reduction Measures               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limit Landscape Irrigation to 1 day per week between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.</li> <li>- Pools not be filled</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Continue to work with County to put Ordinances in place</li> <li>▪ Continue Overall Water Management Efforts to Use Renewable Water Supplies</li> <li>▪ Work with Neighboring Water Providers</li> </ul>
<p>Stage 4 – Crisis Precipitation Last 12 months &lt;25% AND Overall Groundwater Levels 5.0' and more annual decline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No Approval for Water Service Agreements</li> <li>▪ Institute Drought Surcharge to Tier 2 and 3 of the Rate Structure in addition to Tier 4</li> <li>▪ No Potable Water for Construction</li> <li>▪ Request Additional Voluntary Water Reduction Measures               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limit Landscape Irrigation ONLY to trees and shrubs 1 day per week between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.</li> <li>- No irrigation of turf or ground covers</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Continue to work with County to put Ordinances in place</li> <li>▪ Continue Overall Water Management Efforts to Use Renewable Water Supplies</li> <li>▪ Work with Neighboring Water Providers</li> </ul>

## Metro Water District (Metro-Hub) Drought Preparedness Plan

Drought Responses	Measures
<p>Stage 1 - Alert Precipitation Last 12 months 70% - 90% AND Overall Groundwater Levels 1.0' – 2.4' five-year average decline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase Customers Awareness through Education</li> <li>▪ Work with County to put Ordinances in place</li> <li>▪ Continue Overall Water Management Efforts to Use Renewable Water Supplies</li> <li>▪ Work with Neighboring Water Providers</li> </ul>
<p>Stage 2 - Warning Precipitation Last 12 months 50% - 70% AND Overall Groundwater Levels 2.5' – 3.9' five-year average decline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Request Voluntary Water Reduction Measures               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limit Landscape Irrigation to 2 days per week between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.</li> <li>- Hotels and Restaurants will be asked to conserve water.</li> <li>- Avoid other outdoor water uses including misters and car washes</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Continue to work with County to put Ordinances in place</li> <li>▪ Continue Overall Water Management Efforts to Use Renewable Water Supplies</li> <li>▪ Work with Neighboring Water Providers</li> </ul>
<p>Stage 3 – Emergency Precipitation Last 12 months 25% - 50% AND Overall Groundwater Levels 4.0' – 4.9' five-year average decline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No Potable Water for Construction</li> <li>▪ Institute Drought Surcharge to Tier 4 of the Rate Structure</li> <li>▪ Request Additional Voluntary Water Reduction Measures               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limit Landscape Irrigation to 1 day per week between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.</li> <li>- Pools not be filled</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Continue to work with County to put Ordinances in place</li> <li>▪ Continue Overall Water Management Efforts to Use Renewable Water Supplies</li> <li>▪ Work with Neighboring Water Providers</li> </ul>
<p>Stage 4 – Crisis Precipitation Last 12 months &lt;25% AND Overall Groundwater Levels 5.0' and more five-year average decline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No Approval for Water Service Agreements</li> <li>▪ Institute Drought Surcharge to Tier 2 and 3 of the Rate Structure in addition to Tier 4</li> <li>▪ No Potable Water for Construction</li> <li>▪ Request Additional Voluntary Water Reduction Measures               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limit Landscape Irrigation ONLY to trees and shrubs 1 day per week between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.</li> <li>- No irrigation of turf or ground covers</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Continue to work with County to put Ordinances in place</li> <li>▪ Continue Overall Water Management Efforts to Use Renewable Water Supplies</li> <li>▪ Work with Neighboring Water Providers</li> </ul>