

Pima County Local Drought Impact Group
(Drought Monitoring Committee)
Wednesday, November 4, 2009
2:30 p.m.
Public Works Building-3rd Floor Conference Room

Attendance:	Kathy Chavez	RWRD	Fernando Molina	Tucson Water
	Chris Smith	USGS	Linda Smith	Tucson Water
	Bill Petroustson	PDEQ	Mead Mier	PAG
	Lilian von Rago	RWRD	Emily Wunder	ADWR
			(via telecom)	

1. Introductions were made and K Chavez reviewed the summary of the September 9, 2009 meeting. There were no corrections or additions.
2. ADWR Activities
 - Emily Wunder reviewed the September Drought Monitor Report noting that the Santa Cruz watershed had moved to drought-extreme due to exceptionally low monsoon season precipitation. Chris Smith shared maps of drought levels based on monthly streamflow discharge that showed extreme drought in the Santa Cruz watershed in August improving to severe drought in September. The USGS maps can be found at: <http://az.water.usgs.gov/drought/index.html>. The October Drought Monitoring Report will include an update to the long term status.
 - The Governor's Drought Interagency Coordinating Group met recently in Phoenix. No update was available. [Note: subsequent to the meeting, E Wunder reported the group's recommendation to the Governor was to keep both drought declarations active. ADWR Director Guenther suggested a third separate drought-related declaration be suggested for Gov. Brewer.]
 - E Wunder reported that the status of the proposed ADWR budget reductions will be resolved by the state legislature and that impact would not be determined until January 2010 at the earliest. Proposed budget reductions included impacts to the statewide drought program. C Smith also noted a 40 percent cut to USGS stream gauges as a result of state and local budget impacts resulting in the loss of monitoring of some stream gauges.
3. LDIG 2009 Annual Report
 - Kathy Chavez noted that the Pima County LDIG 2009 Annual Report had been submitted to ADWR for inclusion in the Annual Drought Report to the Governor and she thanked those that had submitted comments. The report is due on November 15 to the governor's office. The Pima County LDIG report will also be posted on the County Drought web page. E Wunder reported that other LDIGs across the state report ecology and wildlife impacts in Mohave County, low reservoir levels in San Carlos Lake and ranchers selling cattle due to the lack of grazing grasses and stock ponds. C Smith explained that El Niño conditions forming in the Pacific indicate more moisture this winter.
4. Status of Drought Declarations and Recommendation
 - K Chavez referred to a memorandum prepared by the County detailing continued drought conditions and impacts to natural ecosystems and parks. Drought impacts have been reported for ranching, the environment and parks. L Smith noted that the Bureau of Reclamation's assessment for the 2009 water year is expected soon. The major water providers and Pima County are at Drought Stage One. The group's consensus was to remain at Stage One. In response to a question from Mead Mier, it was noted that drought declarations are typically reviewed every six months; after the winter rains and after the summer monsoon season. In light of the impacts to Cienega Creek, there was discussion about impacts to water providers in the Vail area. K Chavez will contact the water providers to see if they would be willing to discuss drought impacts at the next meeting. It was also suggested to contact Oro Valley since they are located in the CDO basin.
5. Review and Input on Pima County Drought Page
 - K Chavez conducted an on-line tour of the Pima County Drought Web Page and described related links, ordinance information, water conservation information and links to other water

providers' drought information. ADWR's statewide drought webpage and AzDrought Watch are also easily accessible. A page for the LDIG meeting information, agendas and meeting summaries is available as well. It was recommended the following be added:

- Link to AZ USGS
- Link to ADEQ's Climate Change
- Link to a pdf of Pima County Drought Ordinance
- The Pima County LDIG 2009 Annual Report

6. Next Meetings

- Coming meetings in the winter/spring 2010 will be January 13, March 10 and May 12
- Meetings will be held at the Public Works Building - 3rd Floor at 2:30 p.m.
- The smaller water utilities will be invited to discuss drought impacts
- It was noted that Fernando Molina has been appointed Tucson Water's Public Affairs Officer and the group congratulated him.

7. Adjournment