

## Pima County Local Drought Impact Group Annual Report 2008

**Introduction.** This report summarizes the Local Drought Impact Group Activities conducted in Pima County during 2008. Pima County's LDIG includes representatives from the major water providers and local, state and federal agencies. During the year, the Pima County LDIG met regularly to monitor local drought conditions, conduct regional coordination on drought declaration and to begin establishing a drought impact reporting system.

**Status of Drought.** Drought conditions in Pima County persist. Although winter rains were generous, there was no indication the drought has subsided. Summer rains were also plentiful; however, intensity varied throughout Pima County. The long term drought status ranges from abnormally dry to severe drought. For most of Eastern Pima County the long term drought status is for moderate drought.

**Drought Impacts.** The impacts of the sustained drought can be seen in several sectors. One irrigation company observed that groundwater wells had to be turned on earlier in the season. Low valley areas did not receive as much precipitation as higher elevations. Stream gauges near the Sabino/Pantano area indicated drought conditions. This year's storms tended to be fast-moving, resulting in shorter duration rainfall events with smaller stream flows.

**Drought-Related Actions.** Water providers in Pima County have drought response plans in place and have declared drought stage levels. As of September 2008 the following is the status of regional drought declarations:

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Drought Declaration</b>
Pima County	Stage One Alert
City of Tucson	Stage One
Town of Oro Valley	Stage One
Town of Marana	Stage One Alert
Metropolitan DWID	Stage One Alert
Community Water of Green Valley	Stage One Alert

The response action for these declarations is voluntary water reductions. Increased public awareness was promoted through summer conservation programs, education materials and community activities. Pima County LDIG is also implementing a drought reporting system using AzDrought Watch to report on observed drought impacts on various sectors. This information will be used to supplement data used by the Statewide Monitoring Technical Committee and to assess the regional drought status. Participation from the Tohono O'odham Nation has been most welcome and valuable. The Pima County LDIG could benefit from increased communication with and participation from stakeholders in Western Pima County and rural interests.