

Pima County Local Drought Impact Group  
(Drought Monitoring Committee)  
Wednesday, March 11, 2009  
2:30 p.m.  
Public Works Building-3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Attendance:	Kathy Chavez	RWRD	Dan Hartley	TON
	Bill Petroustson	PC DEQ	Linda Smith	Tucson Water
	Lilian VonRago	RWRD	Melanie Ford	ADWR (via telecom)
	Patti Woodcock	PC Health (via videocom)		

1. Review of January 14, 2009 meeting
2. ADWR Activities
  - M Ford reviewed the January Drought Monitoring Report (DMR). She noted the February report is being finalized and will show moderate drought in Southeastern Arizona, as January precipitation has been low. Melting snowpack in the northern portion of the state and warmer spring temperatures mean lower stream flows in late spring and early summer.
  - M Ford noted upcoming changes to the DMR format including a quarterly update of the long-term drought status, instead of monthly and asked for input. In response, it was recommended there be information about the data sources used. The monthly DMR will be issued on line, while a printable version will be available quarterly when the long-term drought status is provided. It was also noted that larger maps would be helpful.
  - In response to a question about the state budget, there are no specifics yet about how the statewide drought program may be affected.
3. Regional Drought Issues
  - K Chavez reviewed the status of Phase II of the City/County Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Study which includes an adaptive management focus. One of the topics will look into whether a consolidated drought management plan could be developed with the City of Tucson to improve drought preparedness. She mentioned a draft report has been developed, it is available on the web page and the Study Oversight Committee (SOC) will discuss the draft at the March 19 meeting. K Chavez distributed the SOC schedule and the link to the draft study. LDIG is welcome to comment on the draft and attend the March 19 meeting.
  - Drought issues in California and Nevada were discussed. At this time, there is no adverse impact to Tucson or Southern Arizona from California and Nevada's drought impact, as our CAP allocation is still available to us. It was agreed these events should be monitored.
4. Discussion of Drought Declaration Updates
  - There is interest in a joint drought declaration or affirmation of drought status in early summer. Tucson Water is conducting their annual assessment to be completed in late April. K Chavez will contact the area water providers to see if there is interest in a joint declaration. M Ford noted the Statewide Drought Task Force Interagency Coordinating Group will be holding a semi-annual meeting in April and an ADWR press release is expected shortly after. It was noted there may be public confusion over drought because the community's water use has actually declined.
  - L VonRago noted the spring event season is beginning. Water conservation and drought information will be provided to the public, including school-age children. The first event is Be Safe Saturday in March.
5. Next Meeting
  - Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.
  - 201 N Stone-3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room
  - Suggested items are: drought declaration, update on city/county study and drought white paper and update on DroughtWatch
6. Adjournment