

Pima County Local Drought Impact Group  
(Drought Monitoring Committee)  
Wednesday, May 13, 2009  
2:30 p.m.  
Public Works Building-3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Attendance:	Kathy Chavez	RWRD	Fernando Molina	Tucson Water
	Bill Petroustson	PCDEQ	Linda Smith	Tucson Water
	Chris Smith	USGS	Melanie Ford	ADWR (via telecom)

1. Review of March 11, 2009 meeting
2. ADWR Activities
  - M Ford reviewed the March Drought Monitoring Report (DMR) noting the new abbreviated format. The short term status for the Santa Cruz Watershed worsened to *drought moderate*, but the long term status remains at *abnormally dry*. The long term status is now being updated quarterly.
  - M Ford provided an update of the Governor's Statewide Interagency Coordinating Group meeting held on April 21, 2009. The group heard reports on the status of the Salt and Verde watersheds and the Colorado River Basin. The State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee expects a bonus monsoon outlook. The Interagency Group recommended to the Governor that the Emergency Drought Declaration remain in place. An update on DroughtWatch was provided at the meeting. LDIGs are encouraged to view the website and consider reporting drought impacts.
3. Discussion of Drought Declaration Updates
  - K Chavez noted with summer approaching, there should be consideration that drought stage declaration be increased, decreased or remain in place. Water providers and Pima County are at Stage 1. Based on the March DMR, there was general agreement that the Drought Stage 1 remain in place. Input from the water providers would be desirable and K Chavez will contact them.
  - L Smith provided an overview of Tucson Water's Annual Drought Monitoring Report. The report recommends to the City Manager that the Drought Stage 1 remain in place for the Tucson Water service area. She indicated there is interest in a joint press release with the other water providers and Pima County. No date had been set. Tucson Water will be initiating their annual summer water conservation campaign.
  - C Smith noted that since drought conditions have lasted several years, there is a tendency to be complacent about drought responses.
4. Update on City/County Water/Wastewater Study
  - K Chavez reported that the drought white paper was discussed at the April Study Oversight Committee meeting and was well received. There were questions about the relationship of drought declarations and shortages on the Colorado River and the need for coordinated public education on drought and climate change.
  - Also mentioned was the Tucson Spotlight Conversation on Climate Change sponsored by the City of Tucson, Pima County and the University of Arizona on Earth Day. Group discussions including one on climate change and drought were held.
5. Next Meeting
  - Wednesday, July 8, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.
  - 201 N Stone-3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room
  - Suggested items for July are: CAP presentation on climate change impact on the Colorado River Basin and USGS Stream Statistics
6. Adjournment