

**City/County Water & Wastewater Study Oversight Committee  
Technical Report Follow Up from April 23, 2009 Committee Meeting  
DROUGHT PLANNING WHITE PAPER**

**Follow-up Items**

- Describe the relationship between the Secretary of Interior declaring a shortage on the Colorado River and Tucson Water and Pima County's drought plan responses.

*Response:* Under Pima County's Drought Response Plan, a declaration by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior of either a shortage on the Colorado River or a curtailment of water delivered through the Central Arizona Project canal to any local water provider may increase the drought level by one stage. Under Tucson Water's Drought Preparedness and Response Plan, regional indicators and local system indicators are considered in declaring drought stages. Regional indicators include severe or sustained drought in the Colorado River watershed as well as declared shortages on the river and any associated CAP water delivery reductions.

- Define Drought.

*Response:* According to the Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan: A sustained, natural reduction in precipitation that results in negative impacts to the environment and human activities.

- Need to determine how can we include the rural water users in the drought discussion. (Public comment)

*Response:* All water users are welcome to participate in the Local Drought Impact Group. Public meetings are held bimonthly and information can be found at <http://www.pima.gov/drought/>

**Comments/Recommendations/Themes**

1. Drought in this community seems normal. We need to become a drought resistant community.
2. The main drought indicator for the region should be the health of the Colorado River. While currently Tucson Water is the only local water provider to deliver Central Arizona Project (CAP) water, all water providers that rely on the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishing District (CAGRD) for recharge are dependent on CAP water supplies and should be monitoring drought indicators for the Colorado River Basin.
3. Local indicators are also important since local drought conditions can impact water demand. Local indicators for all water providers should include vegetation stress.
4. Resources need to be identified for the City and County to undertake scenario planning to improve drought preparedness in the face of the uncertainties surrounding climate change and global warming.
5. There is a need for consistent public messages regarding drought stages and responses of different water providers and jurisdictions. The Local Drought Indicator Group serves as a coordinator for such messages. The Local Drought Indicator Group should be commended for the work they have done so far to coordinate plans and messages.
6. All drought management plans should include a goal at the beginning of the plan. The goal could be as simple as referencing the regulation mandating the plan.