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Implementing the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan in Arizona: 4 Essential Elements

8/15/2018

The
AZDCP Steering Committee

met for the first time on July 26, 2018. At that meeting, ADWR and CAWCD identified the mission of the Steering Committee, which is to “discuss and recommend how to adopt and implement the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan (LBDCP) in a way that is acceptable to Arizona water users.”

During the meeting, ADWR and CAWCD also identified four essential elements to consider as tools to implement the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan (LBDCP) in Arizona:

- CAP Agriculture Mitigation
- Tribal Intentionally Created Surplus
- CAP Excess Water Plan
- Arizona Conservation Plan

These tools are focused on mitigating the differential impacts of LBDCP and on sustaining collaborative processes within Arizona – keeping in mind the technical analysis of impacts and the political realities of getting to a joint resolution through the Arizona Legislature in 2019.



Here's a bit more information about these four essential elements that will frame the Steering Committee discussions over the next several weeks:

CAP Agriculture Mitigation

-- The CAP Agriculture Pool faces reductions under the LBDCP, but receives limited benefits, so part of the Arizona plan development is to see how we can mitigate the impact to the agricultural sector.

Tribal Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS)

– Currently, the Non-Indian Agriculture (NIA) Pool is largely held by CAP Tribes with settlements. The Tribal ICS tool provides some flexibility for management of supplies provided from settlements and on-River entitlements.

CAP Excess Water Plan

– Over the past few years and this year, the CAP Excess Water supply has been the major contributor to “tier zero” reductions (Lake Mead elevation above 1075'). Discussions about this tool will explore how to continue the collaborative approach that has been in place so that Arizona can continue to achieve multiple benefits from the CAP Excess Water supply when it is available.

Arizona Conservation Plan

– Discussion about this concept will explore a new collaborative process to foster broader participation to help meet Arizona's LBDCP reductions by allowing for broader participation in contributions to Lake Mead.

Several of these topics have been discussed in previous drought contingency planning efforts.

Visit CAP's

AZDCP web page

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PowerPoint presentation

and

videoss

from the previous Steering Committee meetings. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 23 at the CAWCD headquarters, 23636 N. 7 Street, Phoenix.

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