

**JANICE K. BREWER**  
Governor



**SANDRA A. FABRITZ-WHITNEY**  
Director

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

3550 North Central Avenue, Second Floor  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85012-2105  
(602) 771-8426

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer  
Governor of the Great State of Arizona  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**RE: Recommendation to maintain Drought Emergency Declaration (PCA 99006) and the Drought Declaration issued by Executive Order 2007-10**

Dear Governor Brewer,

The Governor's Drought Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG) met on November 10, 2011 to discuss drought conditions throughout Arizona and determine if the state's Drought Emergency Declaration (PCA 99006) and Drought Declaration for the State of Arizona (Executive Order 2007-10) should be continued. Based on the reports summarized below, the ICG unanimously recommends that both drought declarations be kept in place.

The State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee's annual update indicated that the overall condition for the 2011 water year is moderate drought, with significant degradation from a year ago both in northern Arizona and the southeastern watersheds. Cumulative precipitation was below normal in all of the state's major river basins, ranging from 65 to 95 percent of the 30-year average. Winter snowpack was well below normal and summer precipitation was very localized. Streamflow decreased in 14 of the 26 basins and stayed the same in 12 basins. Currently, only the Lower Colorado and Lower Gila River watersheds have no drought, while the remaining 80% of the state is either abnormally dry or in moderate or severe drought.

After a strong La Niña event last winter, the meteorological outlook for the 2012 water year indicates that La Niña conditions will emerge again this coming winter favoring a drier than normal winter and a warmer than normal spring. This will likely result in worsening drought conditions. While there are equal chances for summer precipitation to be above or below normal, it should be noted that most of the widespread precipitation beneficial to the watersheds occurs from late fall through spring.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Arizona State Forestry Division and Arizona Game and Fish Department provided their annual updates on range and forage health, forest health, and impacts of drought on wildlife. The University of Arizona presented on

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drought impacts reported through Arizona DroughtWatch. The reports showed that many parts of the state are still suffering from long-term precipitation deficits that affect vegetation health and water supplies as described below:

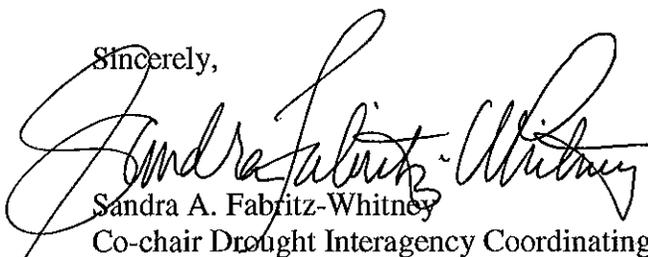
- The average forage production across Arizona was approximately 56 percent of normal, and the outlook for 2012 is 57 percent of normal or less.
- Wildfires had the largest impact on forest health in 2011, with more than 1,000,000 acres burned. Bark beetles did not present a problem as anticipated, possibly due to a few cold snaps in spring.
- Livestock water shortages occurred throughout the state, and in many cases livestock operators relied on water hauling or reductions in herds.
- Several NRCS field offices reported irrigation water shortages and expected crop production losses ranging from 10 to 90 percent, with serious impacts in the northeastern part of the state where dry-farming practices are prevalent.
- Wildlife habitat is still in poor condition after many years of drought, resulting in diminished wildlife populations.

Finally, it should be noted that in August 2011 the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a Secretarial disaster designation for five primary counties (Apache, Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz) and 4 contiguous counties (Gila, Navajo, Pima and Pinal) due to losses caused by drought, wildfires and high winds.

The meeting summary and presentations are online at:  
<http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/StatewidePlanning/Drought/ICG.htm>.

Thank you for considering the Interagency Coordinating Group recommendation to maintain both drought declarations, Drought Emergency Declaration (PCA 99006) and Drought Declaration for the State of Arizona issued May 2007 (Executive Order 2007-10).

Sincerely,



Sandra A. Fabritz-Whitney  
Co-chair Drought Interagency Coordinating Group  
Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources

CC:  
Mr. Kevin Kinsall, Natural Resources Policy Advisor

Enclosures:  
PCA 99006  
Executive Order 2007-10

**Executive Order 2007-10**  
**Drought Declaration For The State of Arizona**

**WHEREAS**, Arizona is entering its second decade of a statewide drought due to long-term precipitation deficits and increased demand for water; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 23, 1999, Governor Hull declared a drought emergency (PCA 99006), which remains in effect today; and

**WHEREAS**, drought conditions continue to stress Arizona's resources and have had significant impacts on the citizens and commerce of the state, including increases in wild land fires, water supply shortages, vegetation and wildlife mortality, and economic losses in the ranching, agriculture and tourism sectors; and

**WHEREAS**, climate research has shown that although droughts lasting multiple decades are common in Arizona, they may be intensified by the effects of global climate change;

**NOW, THEREFORE I**, Governor Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the state, do hereby determine that a continued declaration of drought is justified, and I hereby:

- A. Order continued implementation of the *Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan* and *State of Arizona Emergency Response and Recovery Plan*;
- B. Order the continued invocation of A.R.S. § 26-309 to provide mutual aid assistance to stricken areas of the state;
- C. Request assistance from the federal government for the appropriate federal disaster programs;
- D. Order state agencies to implement their water use reduction plans and assist in drought planning efforts across the state;
- E. Urge water facilities to develop and implement more aggressive drought and conservation plans and monitor water use; and
- F. Call upon citizens, businesses, schools, institutions of higher learning, local governments and federal agencies to increase water conservation efforts.

**THIS ORDER** supplements the directives in PCA 99006, which remains in effect. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the Governor rescinds it.

June 23, 1999

**\*IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED EMERGENCY PROCEDURES\***

**WHEREAS**, precipitation throughout the State of Arizona during the past several months has been significantly below normal; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of precipitation has significantly reduced stream flows in the State's Interior basins and reduced surface and groundwater supplies upon which citizens and commerce of the State are dependent; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of precipitation has created drought conditions throughout rural areas of the State with no near-term relief; and

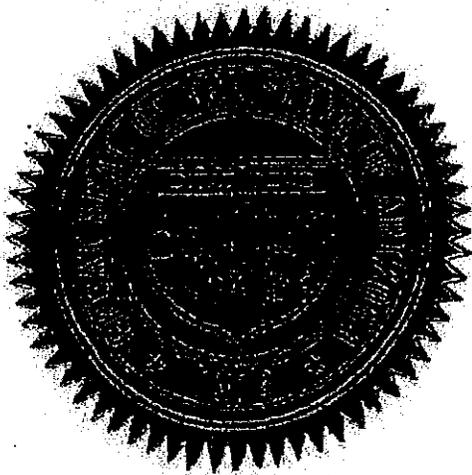
**WHEREAS**, the drought endangers the crops, property, and livestock of a considerable number of the citizens throughout the State of Arizona; and

**NOW, THEREFORE** I, Jane Dee Hull, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State, do hereby determine that the lack of precipitation has and will continue to have an adverse impact on the citizens of the State and that a declaration of drought emergency is justified, and I hereby:

- a. Activate the State of Arizona Emergency Response and Recovery Plan
- b. Invoke A.R.S. § 26-309 to provide mutual aid assistance to stricken areas of the State

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

*Jane Dee Hull*  
GOVERNOR



DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this twenty-third day of June in the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-nine and of the independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Twenty-third.

ATTEST:

*Henry Bayless*  
Secretary of State