**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

May 22, 2011

Mr. Kevin Kinsall, Natural Resources Policy Advisor
Office of Governor Jan Brewer
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**Re: Recommendation to Maintain Drought Emergency Declaration and the Drought Declaration Issued by Executive Order 2007-10**

Dear Mr. Kinsall:

I am writing to provide the update and recommendations of the Drought Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG). The ICG is an advisory body to the Governor on Arizona drought issues and is comprised of state, federal, tribal and non-governmental organizations. This group meets in the spring and fall to evaluate drought conditions and consider recommendations to the Governor. The ICG is an important part of the state's overall drought preparedness strategy, as described in the *Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan* and the progress reports prepared annually. The ICG met on May 10, 2012 and recommends that the state's Drought Emergency Declaration (PCA 99006) and Drought Declaration for the State of Arizona (Executive Order 2007-10) be continued.

During the May 10th meeting, reports were provided by the Salt River Project (SRP) on the Salt and Verde River watersheds, the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) on the Colorado River Basin, and the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee on drought status, climate conditions, impacts and outlook. The main points described below form the basis of the ICG's recommendation:

- The entire state is now in some level of drought, with six watersheds in severe drought and one (San Simon) in extreme drought. The driest conditions occur in the central and southern parts of the state. Drought levels have intensified in all but five of Arizona's fifteen watersheds by at least one drought category, compared with this time last year.
- Of the previous four years, only 2010 was a wetter than average year although it was not enough to reverse the effects of the previous dry years. In fact, long-term drought status is worse than one year ago for most watersheds. The temperature outlook for this summer is above normal, and the U.S. Drought Monitor Seasonal Drought Outlook predicts that drought in Arizona is likely to persist or intensify through July 2012. There is no significant indicator for what the monsoon conditions will be this year, although the

current outlook for the upcoming winter is a fifty-fifty chance of normal or wetter than normal conditions. Based on these indicators, it is likely that conditions may continue to deteriorate until the monsoon begins, with little opportunity for notable improvement until at least the upcoming winter.

- The Salt and Verde River reservoir systems are currently at 64% of capacity, compared to 85% at this time last year (as of 5/17/12).
- Colorado River inflow into Lake Powell was 33% of normal, the third lowest on record since 1909 for April through June, and is projected to be 51% of normal for the water year (October 2011 through September 2012). The current Colorado River reservoir system storage stands at 62%. It is projected that Lake Powell and Lake Mead storage will generally decline through 2013. Although the water year runoff will be below normal, Arizona will receive its full apportionment of 2.8 million acre-feet (a "normal" delivery condition).
- The continuing drought conditions have increased the state's vulnerability to wildfires statewide, and fire restrictions are currently in effect for all counties. Other factors that contribute to the increased wildfire threat are the predicted warmer than normal temperatures, windy periods as upper level systems pass through the state, and the "dry" thunderstorms (lightening with little rain) that are typical in the early part of the monsoon.
- The impact of drought, high winds, and wildfires on range and farmland have resulted in U.S. Department of Agriculture disaster designations for all counties except for two (Greenlee and Apache). Forage production is reduced and there are shortages in livestock water around the state.

The updates confirmed that Arizona remains in long term drought, with 69% of the state experiencing severe to extreme drought conditions compared to 31% a year ago. Projections include warmer temperatures, increased wildfire risk, and persisting or intensifying drought. Based on this information, the ICG unanimously recommends that both drought declarations be kept in place:

If you need additional information or would like a briefing, please contact me at (602) 771-8589 or by email at safabritz@azwater.gov.

Sincerely,

Sandra Fabritz-Whitney

CC: Chuck McHugh, Co-Chair

Enclosures:
PCA 99006
Executive Order 2003-12
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.

PCA 99006
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:

Betsey Bayless
Secretary of State