

TONTO HILLS DOMESTIC WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

MAILING ADDRESS

11228 E. Hohokam Lane
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

PHONE: (480) 595-0128 office

EMAIL: THDWID.board@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.tontohillsdwid.org

WATER EMERGENCIES

(480) 745-1427

Conservation Newsletter

Winter 2017

Climatologists are scratching their heads. The 2015 - 2016 El Niño event had a small impact on the continuing southwest drought conditions. Typically an El Niño brings more precipitation to our region than average. Now here we are in 2017, with a strong La Niña building, and our region has had a record precipitation total for January. Rainfall totals so far in Tonto Hills for January were over 3". This weather pattern has made a significant difference in the snowpack forecast for the Colorado River Basin and the expected runoff of snowmelt water collected in the reservoirs which provide our water supply.

In spite of this good news, the government agencies that manage the southwest's water supply remain concerned about the long term sustainability of water needed if the region continues to grow at the pace of the last 10 years. As we reported to you last summer, the states using water from the Colorado River are closing in on steps to reduce the amount of water taken from Lake Mead. This reduction would help the planners to provide the users of Colorado River water more consistent forecast concerning the available water supply. If you are interested in more information on this plan, you can find it at the web url listed below;

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-water/2017/01/23/arizon-seeks-ways-prop-up-lake-mead-pending-federal-cash/96838360/>

This Drought Contingency Plan, if implemented would hold enough water in Lake Mead to keep the water level above the 1075 foot elevation line for 2018 and perhaps out to 2020. As you may know, if the water level of the lake falls below the 1075' line, an automatic 20% reduction in water from the lake is required by law. The initial impact would be felt by farming and other industries. Water to municipalities would not be affected by these initial cuts. As part of the THDWID's efforts to protect our water recourse, we are banking the unused portion of our allocation for use in the future should it become necessary.

Water conservation is the responsibility of both water providers and water users. The THDWID is required by Arizona state statute to have a water conservation plan and implement a conservation program. One aspect of the conservation effort is to provide you, our customers, with information to consider your own conservation efforts. During the 2016 calendar year the total water used by Tonto Hills customers averaged 67,445 gallons for an average of 5,620 gallons per month. Where do these averages compare to your usage numbers?

The THDWID web page has a number of conservation links and tips on how you can reduce your water use with little impact to your daily routines.