



Judicial Council of California

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

JUDICIAL AND COURT OPERATIONS SERVICES DIVISION

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688

Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

STEVEN JAHR
Administrative Director of the Courts

CURTIS L. CHILD
Chief Operating Officer

DIANE NUNN
Director, Center for Families, Children & the Courts

February 5, 2014

Cheryl A. Schmit
Director
Stand Up For California
P.O. Box 355
Penryn, California 95663

Re: Judicial Council Tribal Courts Directory Web Page

Dear Ms. Schmit:

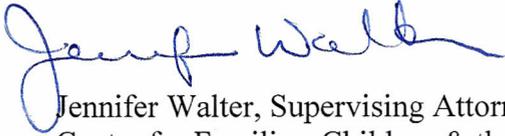
Justice Dennis M. Perluss forwarded your letter, dated January 29, 2014, to me for response. Thank you for taking the time to share information on the pending litigation concerning the Colorado River Indian Tribes and raising your concern about the description of these tribes on the Administrative Office of the Courts' (AOC) website. The tribal information contained in the directory is taken verbatim from the Tiller's Guide to Indian Country (see excerpt from source document attached).

We appreciate the concern you raise in your letter that the information the AOC posts about tribes could be cited in litigation, and as a result, we have updated the webpage that contains the directory online to include a reference to the Tiller sourcebook. Please see link to tribal courts directory: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/14400.htm>.

Cheryl A. Schmit
February 5, 2014
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Thank you again for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Walter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jennifer Walter, Supervising Attorney
Center for Families, Children & the Courts

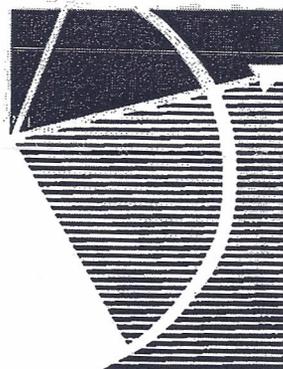
cc Hon. Dennis M. Perluss, Second Appellate District, Court of Appeal
Olin Jones, Director, Attorney General's Office of Native American Affairs

Tiller's Guide to
INDIAN COUNTRY

ECONOMIC PROFILES OF
AMERICAN INDIAN RESERVATIONS

Edited and Compiled by
VERONICA E. VELARDE TILLER

Featuring Honoring Nations from Harvard University's Project on
American Indian Economic Development



BowArrow
PUBLISHING COMPANY

BowArrow Publishing Company
Albuquerque, New Mexico USA

Cocopah

Public Safety. Police protection is offered by the tribe under a contract with the BIA, while tribal volunteers provide fire protection.

Education. Cocopah students attend elementary school in Yuma and Somerton, then middle school and high school in Yuma. There is a Head Start program operating in its own building.

Health Care. The Fort Yuma Indian Hospital in Winterhaven, California, approximately 20 miles away on the Fort Yuma Reservation, has 19 beds. The Fort Yuma Service Unit provides community health nursing, project sanitation engineering, environmental health technicians, medical health services, community health education, and a dental health program.

Colorado River

Colorado River Indian Tribes
Reservation
Federal reservation
Chemehuevi, Hopi, Mohave,
and Navajo
La Paz County, Arizona;
San Bernardino and Riverside
counties, California

Colorado River Indian Tribes
Reservation
Route 1, Box 23-B
Parker, AZ 85344
928-669-9211
928-669-1216 Fax
itcaonline.com

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Colorado River Indian Reservation Tribe (CRIT) was established on March 3, 1865. Reservation lands include almost 270,000 acres along both sides of the Colorado River between Parker, Arizona, and Blythe, California. The largest portion of land, consisting of 225,996 acres, is located in La Paz County, Arizona, and 42,696 acres are in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, California.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Most of the territory is characterized as low, arid desert land; however, the 45-mile corridor adjacent to the Colorado River is rich, loamy, fertile river-bottom land. Parker, Arizona, sits at 425 feet above sea level; the median elevation for the reservation is 413 feet.

CLIMATE

The climate for most of the entire region encompassing the CRIT reservation is that of extremely hot, dry desert. The year-round temperature averages 70°F, with summertime highs averaging well above 100°F, and winter lows seldom dropping below 35°F. The highest recorded temperature at Parker, Arizona is 127°F, while the lowest ever recorded is 9°F. The area receives approximately five inches precipitation per year.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The CRIT Reservation is home to four tribes. The original inhabitants were the Mohaves and the Chemehuevis, who have farmed on the lower Colorado River since recorded history. They were later joined by relocated Navajos and Hopis after World War II. The Chemehuevis traditionally lived between the Mohaves and the Quechans, who lived farther to the south.

Major traditional crops were corn, melons, pumpkins, native beans, roots, and mesquite beans. (See *Hopi and Navajo Nation entries for more information.*) The Colorado River peoples lived in scattered groups, in homes made of brush placed between upright mesquite logs or in houses made of mud and wood, and they traveled the river in reed rafts.

The Mohaves welcomed initial Spanish explorers, then changed their position when a new life-style was imposed on them. The first Spaniard known to have contacted Mohaves was Juan de Oñate, who met them near the junction of the Colorado and Bill Williams rivers in 1604. Later, Father Francisco Garces arrived in the Mohave Valley in 1776 and estimated the population to be 3,000 souls. However, no missions or Spanish settlements were established in Mohave territory, and the people maintained their independence until the advent of the Americans. The Mohaves obtained wheat and horses from the Quechans. They probably also obtained some horses from raids on Spanish mission communities in California. During the 1820s, the first Anglo-American trappers and fur traders came to Mohave country. Some white American parties passing through in subsequent years had

trouble with the Mohaves, such as the Lorenzo Sitgreaves Expedition, which the Mohaves attacked in 1851. In 1857, the Quechan-Mohave allies suffered a great defeat at the hands of an alliance of Pima and Maricopa warriors. In 1858, the Mohaves attacked a wagon train bound for California, leading to the establishment of Fort Mohave in the Mohave Valley. In 1859, the resistance of the Mohaves ended after they lost a battle with U.S. forces.

The reservation was formed in 1865. In an effort to "civilize" and educate the Indians of the CRIT, the U.S. government opened the first boarding school in the area, at the northern end of the reservation, adjacent to the town of Parker, in 1879. The first Presbyterian Church was organized on March 15, 1914.

The development of a reliable irrigation system has played an important role in the history of the CRIT. In 1867, Congress appropriated funds to develop the Grant-Dent Canal, named after President Ulysses S. Grant and Superintendent of Indian Affairs George W. Dent. Although it was built to divert river water to irrigate crops on the reservation, a reliable irrigation supply was not developed until the early twentieth century. It was the intent of the U.S. government to teach Mohaves and Chemehuevis modern farming techniques.

The Allotment Act of April 21, 1904, brought legal allotments to the Colorado River Reservation members, beginning with 5 acres and changing to 10 acres per member in 1911. This process remained in effect until 1940, when the tribal council adopted a land code, making it possible for tribal members with allotments to exchange them for 40-acre assignments. In 1945, the CRIT passed a change in the assignment program to increase the size of the farm unit from 40 to 80 acres, the same year that the Navajos and Hopis were relocated from their homes in northeastern Arizona to the CRIT reservation. Present day tribal members may lease their lands, and many have developed home sites on their allotted or assigned lands. Soon after the powers of the tribal council were established, the department of the interior and the war relocation authority made an agreement to place a Japanese internment camp on Colorado River Indian lands. The Poston Relocation Center, which was one of ten wartime camps established to house some 20,000 internees, opened May 8, 1942, and closed November 28, 1945. Accepting the decision meant not losing land permanently to the war department. Compensation came in the form of improvements to the land and development of irrigation facilities.

After World War II, the U.S. government developed a theory of a surplus Indian population, such that where the land base was considered insufficient to support the total number of tribal members, the "surplus" would be moved off the land. In the case of the Colorado River Reservation, people from the Navajo and Hopi reservations were offered farms on the reservation; the