



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

March 7, 2011

The Honorable Mary Bono Mack
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Mack:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated August 9, 2010, regarding the location of the western boundary of the Colorado River Indian Reservation ("Reservation"). We apologize for our delay in responding to your letter.

As stated in the Department's letter to you dated June 16, 2008, the long-standing position of the United States, as set forth in a Department of the Interior ("Interior") Order of Secretary Udall to the Bureau of Land Management and in filings before the Supreme Court, is that the Reservation extends past the west bank of the Colorado River and into the State of California. In that letter we also indicated that the United States has consistently argued in court that "the lands described in [Secretary Udall's] 1969 Secretarial Order, are included within the Reservation set aside by the Executive Order of May 15, 1876 and are held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Tribes." Correspondence of June 16, 2008. The Supreme Court ultimately affirmed a settlement of the water rights of Colorado River Indian Tribes ("CRIT") and did not adjudicate the Reservation boundaries. See *Arizona v. California*, 530 U.S. 390, 419 (2000).

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this, or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Ronald Weich
Assistant Attorney General