

The Lower Colorado River Land Use Plan
United State Department of the Interior
Stewart Udall, Secretary
January 1964

This Lower Colorado River Land Use Plan was a program designed for conservation and recreation development along 265 miles of the Lower Colorado River. Two years of dedicated study were put into this plan in hopes to provide a harmonious solution to the long-standing trespass problem, while generating revenue. This plan was approved by agencies on all levels of Government in a three-State area. This Plan states that no major congressional authorizations or appropriations would be required since the bulk of the land involved was presently under the United States Department of the Interior's jurisdiction. Their plan was to lease these lands to the States, counties and cities for development. In California, it would involve some lands in San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial Counties.

The original withdrawals of these public lands were made by the Bureau of Reclamation along the Colorado River from Hoover Dam to the international boundary and extended for an average of about 6 miles back on either side of the river and exceeded 2 million acres. These withdrawals were made to assure adequate rights-of-way to construct water resource projects and facilities, river regulation, power lines, borrow areas and for related resource development uses. These withdrawals were made under the authority of the **Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902**. Jurisdiction of withdrawn lands can be transferred to another Federal Agency. The Bureau of Reclamation can also lease withdrawn lands to other agencies.

Illegal occupancy and trespassing had been occurring along this area for some time, involving over 800 cases. First, the Secretary of the Interior moved to solve this issue by setting up the Lower Colorado River Land Use Office in Yuma, Az in May 1961 (via a **Secretarial Order of April 1961**), to place illegal occupants under 4 year permits. These permits required acknowledgement by the occupants of Federal ownership and the payment of reasonable fees for past and future use. Secondly, the Secretary of the Interior established the Lower Colorado River Land Use Advisory Committee on June 7, 1961. This committee was to advise and counsel the Secretary on the best uses of these federal lands along the river.

The Riverside County Planning Commission proposed development of five areas along the Colorado River in Riverside County for public access and recreation facility development. Quien Sabe Point Wildlife area, being the largest area for development (see map). At the time this was written, their only concern seemed to be whether this land in mention was Federal or State owned.

After two years of research of multiple government agencies and their desire to develop the land we all live on, there was no reference or mention that our land in question is on Indian Reservation.