

West Bank Homeowners Association

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January 26, 2004

Supervisor Roy Wilson, Fourth District
Riverside County Supervisor
4080 Lemon St. 5th Floor
Riverside, California 92501

RE: Colorado River Disputed Area
Request for Assistance

Dear Supervisor Wilson:

On December 2, 2003 you sent a letter to Sheriff Bob Doyle on our behalf. We wish to thank you for your efforts. Unfortunately, we have not received a response from the Sheriff.

Our case before the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the jurisdiction of tribal council members in the Disputed Area is currently being reviewed. A decision on whether the court hears our case is expected on February 20, 2004. We are very concerned that if the Supreme Court does not hear our case (the Supreme Court only hears about 10% of cases submitted), CRIT will immediately attempt evictions and confiscation of personal property. We expect this reaction due to the actions taken by the Chemehuevi at Lake Havasu last year where the day after a decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on an eviction dispute with the Havasu Colony, the tribe took possession of residences and confiscated all personal property.

Without a clear statement of policy from the Riverside County Sheriff, residents in the Disputed Area are fearful that the Sheriff will allow CRIT to confiscate their personal property, destroy personal property, and/or bulldoze roads in the area. Residents are still not sure whether the Sheriff understands that attempted evictions by CRIT require a federal court order; that the Sheriff understands that effectuating a citizen's arrest (as was done at Red Rooster in 2000) is inappropriate because no crime has been committed (the issue is a civil matter); that the Sheriff understands that residents cannot be considered in criminal trespass; that tribal ordinances have no effect on non-Indians due to PL280 and the California Attorney General Opinion of 1997 (involving the Chemehuevi); and that the Sheriff understands that suspension of permits by CRIT does not change the nature of the any claims by CRIT of criminal trespass.

In addition to our request to the Sheriff of October 8, 2003, West Bank Homeowners Assn made a similar request to Riverside County Counsel William Katzenstein in a letter sent on October 28, 2003 (copy attached). We have yet to receive a response from County Counsel.

Due to the time frame at hand, we are in desperate need of your assistance again. The West Bank Homeowners Association is again asking you to intervene on our behalf. We would very much appreciate any effort on your part to implore the Sheriff and County Counsel to respond to our requests for a statement of policy. **Time is of the essence.**

As always, we appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Roger L. French
President