

# West Bank Homeowners Association

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February 19, 2004

Congresswoman Mary Bono  
44<sup>th</sup> District, California  
707 Tahquitz Canyon Way Ste 9  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

RE: Colorado River Indian Tribes  
Request for Facilitator

Dear Congresswoman Bono:

As you are aware, there has been a continual struggle in the disputed area along the Colorado River between residents and the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT). The West Bank Homeowners Association (WBHA) represents residents in the area who were issued permits to occupy property in this 17 mile stretch of land along the river.

Due to several legal challenges over the past 15 years as to the proper location of the boundary of the reservation, WBHA has been at odds with CRIT over the conditions of permits. The most recent legal challenge is currently being reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court. Independent of the court's actions for the current case, WBHA would like to take steps to again attempt to enter into discussions with CRIT to hopefully restore stability in the disputed area.

In the past, CRIT has rejected our proposal to enter into discussions. Since WBHA has been unable to persuade the tribes to meet with us directly, we now respectfully request that your office facilitate a meeting between the parties. I understand that your office performed a similar service for commercial operators in the disputed area, Rio Loco and Water Wheel Resort, and personnel from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

We propose that the meeting be informal and without legal representatives. We would prefer to base the meeting only on discussions of setting up a framework for a subsequent meeting. If a second subsequent meeting can be agreed upon, it would be at that time where discussions could include possible terms and solutions. We very much hope that representatives from the tribal council would be willing to attend.

We would very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Roger L. French  
President