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July 19, 2010

Via E-mail and UPS Overnight

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Lt. Ray Wood, Tribal Liaison  
Riverside County Sheriff's Department  
4095 Lemon Street  
Riverside, California 92501

Re: Ronald A. Jones adv. Colorado River Indian Tribes

Dear Lt. Wood:

Our office represents Ron Jones who has been advised that the Colorado River Indian Tribes ("CRIT") now claim that a mobile home that belongs to Mr. Jones that has been on Lot 20 of the West Bank Lands for numerous years is somehow claimed by CRIT to be abandoned. That statement is false. Our office has so advised CRIT by my letter to Eric Shepard, CRIT Attorney General, of July 14, 2010, a copy of which is enclosed, along with the referenced attachment. We have received no response from Mr. Shepard.

Please note also that the mobile home is located behind a locked entry controlled by Mr. Jones which obviously demonstrates it is not abandoned. The fact of non-abandonment is further evidenced by the letter of Chairman Enas to Mr. Jones which is attached to my letter. The claim of abandonment by CRIT is pretextual. On behalf of Mr. Jones we request that the Riverside County Sheriff's Department prevent CRIT from taking the property of Mr. Jones, unless a valid order of the Riverside County Superior Court is presented to the Sheriff's Department.

Clearly the Sheriff's Department has authority to prevent crimes on the subject land, whether or not the land is or is not actually reservation land. In our opinion, the only legitimate position for CRIT, in the context of the present dispute, is to not breach the peace. This requires

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Riverside County Sheriff's Department  
RE: Ronald A. Jones adv. Colorado River Indian Tribes  
Page 2  
July 19, 2010

CRIT, as a party seeking to take property of another and trespass in so doing, to obtain a valid court order. If the Sheriff's Department allows the taking of Mr. Jones' private property, it effectively is authorizing and assisting in CRIT's unauthorized actions which are contrary to California criminal law. This is not "keeping the peace." Rather, it is affirmative action that is inconsistent with and repugnant to California public policy. For decades California has taken and continues to take the position that the subject West Bank land is not "in the reservation" of CRIT, no matter what CRIT claims. Thus, the present position of the Sheriff's Department effectively takes a position on this issue when stating it is the policy of the Department and Riverside County to not take a position.

We respectfully submit that citizens of the United States of America, and residents of Riverside County, California, are entitled to due process and equal protection of the law. Mr. Jones is entitled to be protected from theft and physical trespass and threats of physical abuse if he stands in the way of CRIT's agents in their taking of Mr. Jones' mobile home. Please reconsider what the Sheriff's Department is allowing to happen, as it violates every standard of fairness upon which our systems of justice are based.

Very truly yours,

SLOVAK, BARON & EMPEY LLP



Thomas S. Slovak

TSS:sue

Enclosure

CC: Stanley Sniff, Riverside County Sheriff

Rod Pacheco, Riverside County District Attorney

Ron Jones

*Via Facsimile 951-955-2428*

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