

West Bank Homeowners Association

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November 5, 2010

Bryan Bowker, Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Western Regional Office
2600 N. Central Avenue
4th Floor Mailroom Mailstop 100
Phoenix, AZ 85004-3050

RE: Colorado River Indian Tribes

Dear Director Bowker:

I am writing you per suggestion from Elizabeth Mortenson of Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack's staff. Ms. Mortenson spoke with you on my behalf and relayed that you suggested that I prepare a letter to you in lieu of a telephone call.

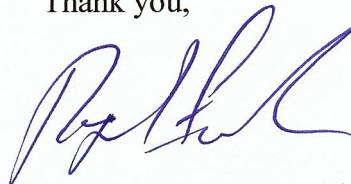
As you may be aware, the West Bank Homeowners Association (WBHA) represents California residents who have properties in what the U.S. Supreme Court has termed the "disputed lands" or "disputed area". The dispute centers on the simple phrase "west bank" contained in the 1876 Executive Order that defined the location of a portion of the Colorado River Indian Reservation western boundary. The courts resolved part of the boundary dispute in *U.S. v Aranson* in 1986 (southern 1/3). The U.S. Supreme court considered the boundary location in *AZ v CA* (for the northern 2/3), but the parties settled the primary matter in the case (water rights) in 2000, and the court agreed to defer the boundary dispute.

Since the court did not rule on the boundary location, WBHA has attempted to resolve issues directly with the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) (see letters to the BIA attached). However, CRIT has refused to discuss anything with us. Undeterred, we have attempted to seek congressional assistance for a possible legislative solution (letter to Congresswoman Mack 9/5/2010). That legislative solution (copy attached) is the nature of this request to your office.

The solution would provide CRIT the potential for tremendous financial gain by allowing them to have an on-reservation casino in a very lucrative location. Yet when the Tribes were presented the concept by legislators, they rejected the plan, apparently without much consideration. I am perplexed at the reaction by the Tribes. Since CRIT refuses to speak with us, I am asking for assistance from your office to merely determine why the Tribes would not be interested in a federal law that would allow them to become certainly the richest and most powerful tribe in the state of Arizona.

I am hopeful that you would be willing to speak with the tribes to determine why the apparent lack of interest in the proposal and report back to me. Please call me when you have time.

Thank you,



Roger L French, President
(949) 697-3246 (c)