

# West Bank Homeowners Association

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## **United States Attorney General and Dept. of Justice sets its sights on residents in the Disputed Area subdivisions. West Bank gears up for another Court Battle.**

After losing in *French v. Starr*, the United States again is using its same arguments before the United States District Court for the Central District of California (Riverside) to convince the Court that CRIT is authorized to lease lands in the disputed area. But as previously recognized by the courts, PL88-302 denies the Secretary of the Interior leasing authority in the disputed area.

The United States again makes the claim that the 1969 Secretarial Order resolved the boundary dispute, but that claim was rejected by the Supreme Court in *Arizona v. California*, 460 U.S. 605, 636-37 (1983). The 1969 Secretarial Order was also again rejected by the courts in *Turley v. Eddy* (Paradise Point) and *French v. Starr*, where the State of California filed an amicus brief telling the Court “*While the dispute has lasted for many years, it is not resolved.*”. The United States itself admitted that the Secretarial Order did not resolve the boundary dispute in its execution of the stipulated settlement in *Arizona v. California III*, 530 U.S. 392 (2000).

From these debunked arguments dismissed by the courts, the U.S. still claims the disputed area is tribal trust land and therefore residents require authorization from the Tribes to occupy the land.

The current lawsuit against residents in Ranchos Not So Grande requests ejectment, restoration of the property to its natural state, and unspecified damages. The residents have elected to fight for their property that has been in their family for 4 decades and 4 generations.

The good news is that within this forced eviction attempt, West Bank residents will not have to undergo the CRIT tribal courts, nor the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This means that the weapon of sovereign immunity cannot be used as was done in the past against disputed area residents at Paradise Point, Water Wheel, and against Roger French.

So far, we are aware of 2 residents that have been targeted. We expect more in the near future. Those who care to volunteer their efforts for the defense of our properties are encouraged to contact West Bank.

For further information, please see our website: [www.westbankmembers.com](http://www.westbankmembers.com)