

West Bank Homeowners Association

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PRESS RELEASE – August 6, 2013

CRIT to Build Indian Police Station at the Blythe Boat Club

In one of the most provocationist actions by an Indian tribe in this century, the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) have announced plans to build a CRIT police station in a state where there are no tribal members, and for the sole purpose of establishing jurisdiction over non-Indians. The Riverside County Sheriff has corroborated the news and added that CRIT police will be patrolling the disputed area and issuing traffic citations on Highway 95. It is not clear whether the CRIT police will be enforcing state law or tribal law.

All residents need to understand that the Riverside County Sheriff has chosen to side with CRIT rather than the State of California by openly claiming that the disputed area is tribal land. The Sheriff has also stated that CRIT has the right to exclude anyone from “their land”, and residents desiring their constitutional rights need to discuss such with CRIT. We expect that the Riverside County Sheriff will continue to assist CRIT police where they assert jurisdiction, or assist CRIT employees claiming property rights over non-Indians.

West Bank has been in contact with the California Attorney General and informed that office of this new outrageous action by CRIT and the Riverside County Sheriff. We are also working with Stand Up For California to pressure the politicians to enforce California law.

Meanwhile, the Riverside County District Attorney has been successful in impeding a legal challenge to CRIT’s tribal court ruling in the Blythe Boat Club eviction matter. Unfortunately, no challenge to CRIT within a federal court is allowed until the municipal court issues a ruling.

CRIT has been attempting to populate the disputed area with tribal members by offering them properties confiscated from non-Indians. We have heard rumors that Indians have been seen along the west bank, but as yet we have no confirmation that any have taken up permanent residence. It is possible that the CRIT long term strategy is to use the new police station to clear the way for tribal members who choose to relocate to California on the west bank. Since the allocation of water rights from the Colorado River may very well be adjusted in the next few years, CRIT may be attempting to populate the disputed area to force recognition of water rights which were denied by the courts in *AZ v CA*.

We encourage all residents to issue protests to the Riverside County Sheriff and to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. Contact information for them is provided below:

Attn: Capt Lyndon “Ray” Wood
Riverside County Sheriff
Colorado River Station
260 N. Spring Street
Blythe, CA 92225
Phone: (760) 921-7900

Supervisor John J. Benoit
Riverside County Board of Supervisors
District 4
PO Box 1647
Riverside, CA 92502-1647
Phone: (951) 955-1040

We also encourage all residents to contact Governor Jerry Brown and California Attorney General Kamala Harris to express outrage at this denial of our civil rights.

For further information, please see our website: www.westbankmembers.com