

West Bank Homeowners Association

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April 15, 2015

Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor of California
c/o Joe Dhillon
State Capitol, Office of the Governor
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Riverside County Sheriff
Refusal to Enforce California Law
Colorado River Disputed Area**

Dear Governor Brown:

In the spirit of the Attorney General's letter of June 17, 2013, regarding monitoring the difficulties being experienced by residents in the disputed area with Riverside County officials, we wish to update you on the continuing refusal of the Riverside County Sheriff to enforce California law. This in spite of California Attorney General's Amicus Brief filed in *French v. Starr*, and the ensuing Order by the Federal District Court, District of Arizona, effectively affirming California's position that the western boundary of the Colorado River Indian Reservation has not been finally determined by conceding that the disputed area "may not be within the boundaries of the [CRIT] reservation".

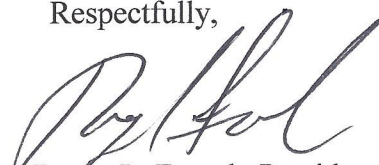
On Friday, April 10, a contractor was performing localized grading on a property held by a West Bank member. The work involved restoration caused by a flash flood last September. The work was interrupted by the CRIT law clerk who after entering the property demanded that the contractor cease work because "the lot did not have a current lease with the Tribe". The law clerk intimated that if the contractor refused, CRIT would confiscate his tractor and associated equipment. Work was halted per the CRIT demand. The contractor called me to report the incident, fearful of losing his livelihood if he resumed work.

I immediately called Riverside Sheriff Colorado River Station Capt. Roy Grace and left a voice message. When Capt. Grace returned my call Monday, April 13, I relayed the information from the contractor and asked if the Sheriff would allow CRIT jurisdiction in this manner after the recent Federal Court ruling. Capt. Grace explained that the County's position remains unchanged; that CRIT has jurisdiction because the disputed area is tribal land, and the Sheriff considers any CRIT action a civil matter, including self-help evictions. He explained that the California Attorney General's brief merely represents an opinion and until a judge rules that the land is outside the reservation, the Sheriff when called, will only "keep the peace".

I reminded the Sheriff that PL280 requires that any action taken by CRIT must be consistent with California law, especially now that the land cannot be considered tribal trust land.

The West Bank Homeowners are again deeply disturbed that the Riverside County Sheriff continues to ignore state law, the state's position, and instead allows continued unlawful harassment against California citizens.

Respectfully,



Roger L. French, President

cc: Attorney General Kamala D. Harris