



January 5, 2020

Arizona Department of Water Resources
Attn: Sharon Scantlebury
P.O. Box 36020
Phoenix, AZ 85067-6020

Subject: Central Arizona Water Conservation District comments on the Colorado River Indian Tribes' proposed federal legislation and related agreements

Dear Ms. Scantlebury,

The Central Arizona Water Conservation District appreciates this opportunity to provide comments on the Colorado River Indian Tribes' (CRIT) proposed federal legislation and related agreements. CAWCD is supportive of the new flexibilities the proposed legislation provides within Arizona to lease, exchange or store underground a portion of CRIT's consumptively used, Colorado River allocation.

CAWCD and CRIT have an established relationship working collaboratively on numerous projects over the last five years including the Pilot System Conservation Program, Arizona System Conservation, Intentionally Created Surplus and most recently the joint pilot study on irrigation efficiency. We see great promise with many more years of partnerships and collaboration ahead.

This proposed legislation is a significant and historic change for CRIT. While the CAWCD Board of Directors has not taken a formal position on the draft legislation and related agreements, they recognized the CRIT vision in December 2019 through the adoption of a statement in our federal legislative agenda that reads we "support opportunities to provide Arizona Tribes with Colorado River decreed water rights greater flexibility to manage their resources." The CRIT proposal is consistent with this item in our 2021 federal legislative agenda.

We appreciate the process outlined by the State and CRIT to ensure all Arizona stakeholders are provided an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed legislation and corresponding agreements. It is our understanding some clarifications are proposed to the three party agreement between the CRIT, Reclamation and ADWR that provide greater clarity relative to the lease exchange or storage of unused entitlement. With these considerations CAWCD looks forward to working with the CRIT in their effort to move forward with the proposed legislative language and related agreements.

Ms. Sharon Scantlebury

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Once again, we appreciate the opportunity to work together, not only with CRIT but also our longstanding partners, the US Bureau of Reclamation and the Arizona Department of Water Resources. Thank you Director Buschatzke for the transparency these hearings provide and the opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Cooke', written in a cursive style.

Theodore C. Cooke, D.B.A.
General Manager

Cc:

Amelia Flores

Margaret Vick

Leslie Meyers