



MAYOR

SCOTT ANDERSON



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

Re: Proposed Federal legislation and associated agreements authorizing the Colorado River Indian Tribes, to market a portion of its consumptively used Colorado River water within Arizona.

Director Buschatzke,

Like all desert communities, Gilbert understands and appreciates the vital purpose that water serves for economic development, food production and cultural connection. The recent history of the American West can be traced to the movement of water for these purposes. As subcontractors for CAP water as well as beneficiaries of the foresight of the SRP system, Gilbert is keen to the value of water and the agricultural heritage to which our community owes its vibrancy.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) has illustrated its own, longer history with water at the December 7 and 10, 2020 public meetings regarding their legislation proposal. The 'Ahakhav Habitat Preserve, the 'Ahakhav Native Plant Nursery, Achii Hanyo Native Fish Hatchery, the robust agricultural economy and CRIT's participation in the Pilot System Conservation Plan as well as Arizona's Drought Contingency Plan are ample evidence that CRIT is a steward of this vital resource as well as empathetic to the needs of Arizonans. For many reasons, we, believe it is time for Arizonans to put the CRIT on equal footing with other Arizona Tribes and water users and support the legislation authorizing the lease of water off reservation, should it choose to do so.

Gilbert believes that the proposed legislation and associated agreements will allow for a predictable change in the consumptive use of CRIT water, as well as the associated impacts to other, lower priority water users such as the CAP subcontractors and is a judicious path forward for Arizona. The history of CRIT participating in solutions to the State's water issues adds comfort that CRIT will continue to be a beneficial partner for Arizonans. Most importantly however, we believe that the ability for CRIT to use all its resources in the manner it believes best meets its needs is the most prominent matter solved by the legislation. We support the proposal as presented in December 2020.

Sincerely,

Scott Anderson

Mayor, Town of Gilbert