



City of Peoria

**HONORABLE CATHY CARLAT
MAYOR**

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January 7, 2021

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

Re: Written Comments Supporting Federal Legislation Authorizing the Colorado River Indian Tribes to Use its Colorado River Water Entitlement off Reservation

Director Buschatzke:

The City of Peoria ("Peoria") supports federal legislation and related agreements authorizing the Colorado River Indian Tribes ("CRIT") to lease, exchange, and store underground any Consumptively Used portion of its Decreed Allocation outside its Reservation within the State of Arizona.

Peoria recognizes the challenge CRIT faces under current law by not being able to maximize the value of its water rights for the benefit of its members. This legislation and related agreements represent a tangible step toward improving the lives and opportunities for current and future CRIT members. Peoria supports CRIT in this effort.

From a water supply perspective, it is well known that Central Arizona Project ("CAP") faces the prospect of long-term reductions due to the pressures of continued drought conditions and over allocation. Therefore, some of Peoria's existing allocation of CAP water is at risk. High priority Colorado River water like CRIT's could be an essential component to helping Peoria address this long-term risk.

For these reasons, Peoria looks forward to working with all stakeholders to ensure the success of this legislation and related agreements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Carlat".

Cathy Carlat
Mayor, City of Peoria