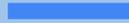


# **Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT)**

## ***Water Overview & Tools To Address Drought***



August 9, 2023

# Who are the Colorado River Indian Tribes?

- Somewhat unique; made up of indigenous Mojave and Chemehuevi people, and relocated Navajo and Hopi people.
- Reservation stretches along both sides of the Colorado River, from north of Blythe, CA to north of Parker, AZ.
- History of farming along the banks of the Colorado River since time immemorial.

# CRIT Water Rights

- CRIT Water Rights were quantified and perfected in the *AZ v. CA* Decree along with the other tribal nations along the river.
- Based on historic and likely use on the reservation, CRIT has rights to
  - More than 56,000 A/F in California
  - More than 662,000 A/F in Arizona
- CRIT water is among the highest priority on the river, dating back to 1865.

# Water Use Today

- CRIT has always been a farming community; vast majority of water is used for crops on the reservation.
- Agriculture is the biggest source of revenue and employment for the tribe and its citizens.
- Up to 99,000 acres of farmland on the Reservation

# Legislation Required To Lease Water

## Indian Non-Intercourse Act

- General prohibition on use of trust asset off trust land

## CRIT Water Resiliency Act

- Waiver of Indian Non-Intercourse Act
- Framework for Lease, Storage and Conservation of CRIT water

# Collaboration With Basin Stakeholders

- Open dialogue with water users, State of AZ, Federal Government
- CRIT Referendum
- Voluntary participation in ADWR Public Meetings
- Joint drafting and advocacy
- Ongoing participation in water advisory meetings

# Implementing the Act

- Agreement text under review
- Internal regulatory structure
- Proposals pending approval of internal and external processes

# Contact Information

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