



Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plan: A Tribal Perspective

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Kamathu!



OUR HOMELANDS



AHAMAKAV

► AhaMakav “People of the River” is our traditional name. We are federally recognized and designated as the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe. We have managed the natural resources of our desert homelands and water in the Lower Colorado River Basin since time immemorial. The Mojave depended on the Colorado River’s cyclical spring floodwaters to deposit rich silt and to saturate the valley bottoms with moisture to sustain crops of corn, beans and other native crops. The Mojave Valley, with its valley floor cut by sharp mountains is home to the Mojave’s, the place of their history their life and our origins. “Avi Kwa Ame,” Spirit Mountain is the place of our creation. Several clans and regions existed, One in the North, one in the central and one in the South. Today we occupy the Central portion.



TO THE MOJAVE, THE WATER IS
SACRED, WE COME FROM WATER,
OUR NAME AHAMAKAV, MEANS
"PEOPLE OF THE RIVER"

This land and water, this ancestral homeland, all of who we are, was given to us by our Creator Matavilya, to protect the land, water, people, our traditions, values, our Cultural and Spiritual ways. That is why we fight to protect our Lands and Water, for Land without water is nothing. This is what the Elders have told us for generations.

The Colorado River is necessary for tribal subsistence, culture and ceremonial practices.

The River must be viewed holistically, spiritually and with reverence.

There is an important responsibility to our stewardship of the river, and we need the next generation to understand this so that they will become caretakers of the river as our ancestors have been. It is our responsibility to look out for our future generations of AhaMakav.

Venerable Indian Sent Down Colorado on Burning Raft

spread Among Desert Tribes
When Ancient Sage Is Called by Death

(By Associated Press)
NEEDLES, May 15.—La Hoh, venerable head of the Mohave Indian tribe, is dead and today his body, lashed to a burning raft, started its last journey alone down the Colorado river.

The ancient sage, whose actual age seems to have been unknown even to himself, was a familiar figure in almost every Indian encampment in Southern California, Western Arizona and Nevada.

Four days ago he died and grief was widespread. Messages went out to the Indians of the Southwest that the man who had healed them for scores of years by mystic passes of the hands and gusts of breath from his pursed lips was no more.

From far and near the mourners came. Four days and nights 22 of his faithful followers stood guard over his body, eight of them facing to the north, eight to the south, eight to the east, and eight to the west. The thirty-third man stood at the feet of the beaver who had tramped desert sands for decades ministering to his people, and prayed almost continually during the 96 hours of the lying in state.

The body lay on a blanket under a canopy covered with brush and desert flowers. It was dressed in warrior's attire, with the long feather turban and stringers trailing to the ground. Bow and arrow lay by La Hoh's nerveless hand, around the neck was a circlet of beads and animals' teeth, and on the arms were bracelets of gold and silver.

At the end of the four days La Hoh started on his last journey. The body was carried to the river bank and placed on a raft-bier, which also bore every conceivable article owned by the Indian. Then all was covered with dry grass and wood, a torch was touched to it, the raft pushed out into the stream and the Colorado bore La Hoh away in a pillar of fire.

La Hoh's office was wherever he stood or sat. He prescribed no medicines and used no surgical instruments. His ability to heal, he said, lay in a strong belief in the power of his God.

Often he told his brothers and sisters of the Mohave tribe that they were at liberty to shoot him if they wished, but that the bullet, instead of harming him, would dissolve and only make his blood purer.

He never permitted a third person to witness his ministrations over a sick Indian, but those whom he had healed said the cure was wrought by a species of hypnotism. La Hoh waved his hands, blew his breath over the patient and the cure came well.

NON-STOP TRIP ON COAST WIN

Flier Covering Mail Route
Goes From Portland to
L. A. in Nine Hours

(By United Press)
LOS ANGELES, May 15.—La Schoenhair, pilot of the Pacific Air transport, arrived here at 4:20 p. m. today on a non-stop flight from Portland.

Schoenhair was nine hours and 20 minutes in the air, completely successfully the first non-stop flight along the Pacific coast.

He flew a Ryan M-1 plane, equipped with a Wright whirlingwind motor.

Schoenhair is one of several pilots of the Pacific Air transport who will make regular mail-carrier flights along the new coast air-line starting next month.

He carried 900 pounds extra weight, equivalent of a load of mail, in the test flight today.

German Cruiser to Get U. S. Welcome

(By Associated Press)
LOS ANGELES, May 15.—Arrival

Rock Again Sets New Century Record

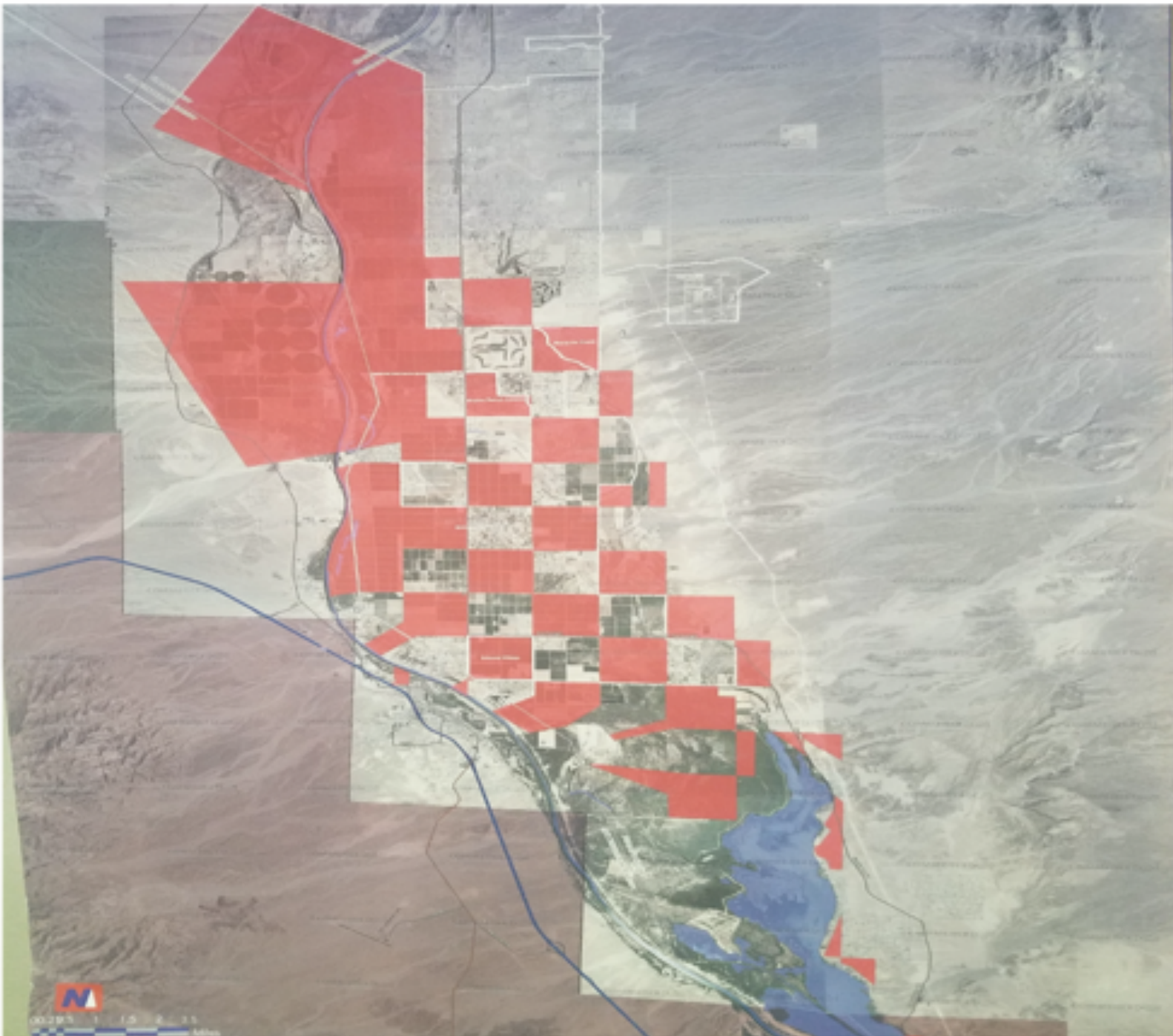
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KANSAS TO BEACH IN 17 HOURS

SANTA MONICA, May 15.—Unusually fast time for a commercial airplane was made by Fred Hoyt, Santa Monica aviator, when he arrived at Clover Field last night after flying from Wichita, Kan., in 17 hours and 15 minutes. It was landed at the field today.

Hoyt travelled to Wichita, where he obtained a new Travel airplane and won first prize for commerce racing at the opening of the air race field of the Chicago-Dallas route.

His "angular scout flyer" was a beautiful silver



Fort Mojave Lands California, Arizona and Nevada

FMIT Reservation –
Total 32,252 acres

California – 3,787
acres

Arizona – 23,037
acres

Nevada – 6,428
acres

Lands in Arizona
are checker
boarded

Fort Mojave Water Rights

► The AhaMakav has fought many battles in the field, in the courts, and in the halls of Congress to protect its homeland and assert its sovereign powers. The Mojave's took the route through the legal system to prevent dissolution of Reservation lands and to secure rights to the Colorado River. Through those efforts which took over 30 years to resolve, the tribe has a water supply rivaled by none in its desert environment. Because western water law recognizes the principle "first in use, first in right," the Mojave Tribe, with its long occupancy of the Mojave Valley, has a "first call," or earliest priority on its water allocation. The Tribe has a diversion right to 132,537 acre feet of Colorado River water for its reservation lands in the States of California, Arizona and Nevada. During those early times 1960, 1970 and 1980, the relationship with those States and other entities such as Metropolitan Water District were adversarial and contentious.



Ten Tribes Partnership

Back in the 1980's, tribes had come together to discuss issues especially concerning water and our right to harvest fish and establish a basic right to a rightful portion of the Rivers. Efforts were made by Tribal Governments from Indian Country and with Congressional support by the late Senator Daniel Inouye and others on the Select Committee on Indian Affairs and other tribal organizations as American Indian Resource Institute (Dick Trudell), Council of Energy Resource Tribes (late David Lester) and Indian Justice Center (Joe Meyers), Native American Rights Fund (John Echohawk) and Professors, Water Attorneys, and Indian Law Attorneys who were representing Tribal Governments, sponsored a series of tribal meetings on Water. The Tribes from the upper/lower basins of the Colorado River were introduced and found that we all had common issues and had a wealth of knowledge to share with one another including the Colorado River. At some of those meetings state water representatives and staff were invited to these water meetings, which provided us with the opportunity to have discussions with them on issues affecting our reservation lands. The Lower Colorado River Tribes, Fort Mojave, CRIT, Quechan and Cocopah decided to meet and discuss ways we could become a part of the then Colorado River Water Users Association, they also discussed an alliance of the upper/lower basin tribes, and although it was a lengthy process, we all felt it had merit and was much needed to get our foot in the door and thus the Ten Tribes Partnership was formed. Today, Fort Mojave Chairman Timothy Williams is the President of the Ten Tribes Partnership and the visions of the originators still carries on the work of the Ten Tribes.



The Future of AhaMakav

Depends on the efforts we make now to continue to have a seat at the Table, from the decision makers at the top to the Local, State and Federal levels. We need to unify our collective voices and be heard and demand accountability and Water Justice. With spiritual guidance we will persevere and continue the stewardship of our Ancestral Lands and Resources, now and for future generations of our people.