

# GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

*Executive Office of the Governor & Lieutenant Governor*

“Gila River Strong”

*Stephen Roe Lewis*  
Governor



*Monica Lynn Antone*  
Lieutenant Governor

October 20, 2021

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
Water, Oceans & Wildlife Subcommittee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cliff Bentz  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee  
Water, Oceans & Wildlife Subcommittee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Huffman and Ranking Member Bentz,

I am writing on behalf of the Gila River Indian Community to commend you for holding important oversight hearings on Colorado River drought conditions and engaging with stakeholders to present the tribal, state, and federal actions around this crisis.

As a result of our 2004 water settlement, which at the time was the largest water settlement reached between the United States and a tribal nation, the Gila River Indian Community has the largest entitlement to Colorado River water delivered through the Central Arizona Project canal system. As such, the Community is keenly aware of the need for immediate action as a result of the drought crisis impacting states and tribes along the Colorado River.

The Community was a key stakeholder in the negotiations of the Drought Contingency Plan that was enacted in 2019, and we recently brought together a key group of stakeholders to coordinate a plan to bolster the supplies of water available in Lake Mead (see attached letter). Those discussions have been ongoing for the past several weeks so we have watched the subcommittee hearings with interest.

The Community will be providing a statement for the record that I hope will provide relevant information as the subcommittee considers next steps in addressing the drought. The Community would also be willing to provide a briefing for the subcommittee to understand the current state of discussions that are occurring with the key tribal, federal, state, and other stakeholders as this may be instructive as you move forward on any congressional recommendations or actions.



Thank you again for the attention on drought conditions along the Colorado River and I look forward to discussing this important issue with you soon.

Sincerely,



Stephen Roe Lewis  
Governor

