



JANUARY 8, 2015

STATEMENT FROM COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

Note: The statement below can be quoted in full or in part.

On January 6, 2014, the Havasu News published an article, "CRIT members propose highway, river restrictions" which reported on an ordinance submitted to the Colorado River Indian Tribes' tribal council by tribal member Michael Tsosie.

Below is a response from Chairman Dennis Patch.

"The proposed ordinance reflects the opinions of tribal member Michael Tsosie and was a surprise to the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT). Tribal council is currently unaware of other tribal members who support this ordinance. While every tribal member is entitled to express his or her concerns, those opinions should not be confused with the official position of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. The tribal council, as the governing body of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, still makes the decisions for and leads the tribe. Before CRIT can adopt a proposed ordinance, we must make sure that it complies with tribal and federal law. Some of the items in Mr. Tsosie's proposed ordinance clearly do not. While CRIT shares Mr. Tsosie's frustration with trespassers—and will continue to focus on removing them from our lands—we have no intention of taking action against the many tenants in good standing and our business partners on the California side of CRIT's reservation.

CRIT has fostered good relations with its compliant tenants and intends to continue to do so. The CRIT tribal council will discuss this proposal in the coming weeks and determine how to move forward, and we will continue to work with the entire community—tribal and nontribal—to resolve issues on our reservation lands."