

And how the April 26, 2024, signing of the Agreement between CRIT and the Arizona Department of Water Resources would allow CRIT the authority to lease, exchange or store a portion of its Colorado River entitlement. “It would provide CRIT legal authority to accomplish the above”.

However, it should be noted, in my first term on Tribal Council, in 2007-2010, we discovered that one of the Tribal farm leases on the California Western Boundary had entered into a “water fallowing” agreement with Metropolitan Water District. So, fallowing our Tribal lands have occurred years before the Water Resiliency Act of 2022.

Plus, add the fact we entered into leased Water Agreement with Arizona and BOR prior to the signing of the Water Resiliency Act of 2022. Which will expire in 2025 and will have an evaluation component to determine the feasibility and effectiveness of this completed agreement. So “Tribal Water Allocation” have been sold or leased prior to the Act of 2022.

Before opening up the meeting to the audience, Chairperson stated, “lawyers are dividing Tribes to work against each other”, on the use of their water allocations. That CRIT needs to start using our allocated water for farming and that the membership needs to help develop and establish a WATER CODE.

In response, membership was quick to recognize and respond that current Tribal Council had no apparent direction or vision what was to be accomplished or gained by entering into the Water Resiliency Act of 2022. One elder member stated, “So your telling us we need to use or lose our water”!

In retrospect of the above information provided, I can only conclude our Tribal Council Leadership and Chairperson have no understanding on the legal application in the leasing of our Decreed Water Allocation, nor Tribal Sovereignty. As evident by the Agreement Between CRIT and Arizona Department of Water Resources. If you have not read the Agreement, I would encourage you to do so!