

ORDINANCE
COLORADO RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL

An Ordinance to Enact the Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Water Code

Be it enacted by the Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes of the Colorado River Indian Reservation, in *special* meeting assembled on December 12, 2025.

WHEREAS, the Colorado River Indian Tribes (hereinafter "CRIT" or "Tribes") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, duly organized with a tribal governing body known as the Tribal Council according to the provisions contained in the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 1 (e) of the Constitution of the Colorado River Indian Tribes authorizes the Tribal Council to negotiate and enter into business contracts; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 1(h) of the Constitution authorizes Tribal Council to administer any funds or property within the control of the Tribes; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 1(v) of the Constitution authorizes Tribal Council to promulgate ordinance and resolutions to provide for administration of the health, education, and welfare of members of the Tribes; and

WHEREAS the purposes of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Water Code is as follows:

- (1) recognize the cultural significance of the River, and the inalienable connection that the Colorado River Indian Tribes ("CRIT") have with its waters;
- (2) provide for and define the manner in which the CRIT's water shall be allocated, used, leased and preserved, and to provide an orderly system for the sustainable use and development of the water resources of the Colorado River Indian Reservation ("Reservation" defined herein);
- (3) protect the water resources of the Reservation from over-Division, pollution, contamination, degradation, or other acts injurious to the quantity, quality, or integrity of Tribal Water Resources;
- (4) contribute to the social and economic advancement of the CRIT and its members;
- (5) develop, manage, protect, and preserve the waters, wildlife, the lands, and other cultural, spiritual, and natural resources of the Reservation, for current and future generations of the CRIT;
- (6) to ensure that the CRIT's water rights are protected and developed to the greatest extent possible for the benefit of current and future generations of tribal members of the CRIT, and that the CRIT retains full management authority over all Tribal Water Rights and Tribal Water Resources to provide for the members of the CRIT;

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- (7) ensure due process and decision-making procedures for Persons seeking to use, withdraw, Divert or take other actions that may affect Tribal Water Resources;
- (8) provide for the development of education and training opportunities for tribal members in water and related land resources management that are essential to protect the economic well-being and self-governance of the CRIT; and

WHEREAS, three (3) formal public hearings were held on October 23, 2025, October 31, 2025, and November 1, 2025 for public comments; and

WHEREAS, the draft Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Water Code was made available online at critmanatabamessenger.com and copies were available at the Tribal Administrative Building and CRIT Library and written comments could be submitted until November 21, 2025;

WHEREAS, CRIT Tribal Council has considered feedback received regarding the Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Water Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED that the Tribal Council approves and adopts the Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Water Code; and

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Water Code shall be effective upon approval; and

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY ENACTED that the Tribal Council Chairwoman and Secretary, or their designated representatives, are hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents necessary to implement this action.

Certification

The foregoing Ordinance was enacted on December 12, 2025 duly approved by a vote of 5 for, 0 against and 0 abstaining, by the Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article VI of the Constitution of the Tribes, ratified by the Tribes on March 1, 1975 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1975, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934, (48 Stat. 984). This ordinance is effective on the date of its adoption.

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

COLORADO RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL

Amelia Flores
Amelia Flores
Chairwoman, ~~Tribal Council~~
Josephine Tahbo
Josephine Tahbo
Secretary, Tribal Council