

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9633

To authorize Arizona Tribes to enter into lease or exchange agreements and storage agreements relating to their decreed water entitlements as a long-term source of water supply, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 20, 2022

Mr. O'HALLERAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize Arizona Tribes to enter into lease or exchange agreements and storage agreements relating to their decreed water entitlements as a long-term source of water supply, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*

2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Arizona Tribes Water

5       Marketing Act of 2022”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds as follows:

1                         (1) The entire American West and Southwest  
2                         are facing forecasts of prolonged droughts that will  
3                         leave States and Tribes facing major water short-  
4                         ages.

5                         (2) Recent periods of drought in the American  
6                         West have also occurred with higher temperatures  
7                         and reduced snowpack and led to what climate sci-  
8                         entists recently concluded was possibly the most se-  
9                         vere drought in over 1,200 years.

10                         (3) The Colorado River has been under drought  
11                         conditions since 2000, most recently denoted as the  
12                         most endangered river in the United States, and the  
13                         State of Arizona is in a “mega-drought” according  
14                         to climate scientists.

15                         (4) The Secretary manages the lower Colorado  
16                         River system in accordance with Federal law includ-  
17                         ing—

18                                 (A) the Boulder Canyon Project Act of  
19                                 1928;

20                                 (B) the 1963 Decision of the U.S. Su-  
21                                 preme Court in *Arizona v. California*;

22                                 (C) the 2006 Consolidated Decree of the  
23                                 U.S. Supreme Court in *Arizona v. California*;

24                                 (D) the Colorado River Basin Project Act  
25                                 of 1968;

(F) the Grand Canyon Protection Act of  
1992;

7 (G) the 2007 Interim Guidelines; and

(H) other applicable provisions of Federal law.

10                                 (5) The 2007 Interim Guidelines will expire in  
11                                 2026. The 7 States that are within the Colorado  
12                                 River basin are re-negotiating these guidelines with  
13                                 the Federal Government to take account of current  
14                                 forecasts of available supply from the Colorado  
15                                 River, which is dramatically reduced from what it  
16                                 had been when the guidelines were adopted in 2007.

(7) While conservation is the current focus to address the “mega-drought” in the State of Arizona, additional efforts should be made now to identify fu-

1       ture long-term water supplies to offset the reduced  
2       supplies available from the Colorado River and other  
3       natural rivers and streams flowing in the State.

4                     (8) Congress recognizes that there are 22  
5       Tribes in the State of Arizona. Of those Tribes,  
6       some have judicially decreed water entitlements de-  
7       creed to them through various State and Federal  
8       court decrees. Other Arizona Tribes have claims  
9       pending for additional water entitlements, many of  
10      which will also result in judicially decreed Tribal en-  
11      titlements. These judicially decreed Tribal entitle-  
12      ments to water are currently not available as a po-  
13      tential water supply to offset the reduced supplies  
14      available from the Colorado River and other natural  
15      rivers and streams flowing in the State.

16                    (9) Congress further recognizes that Arizona  
17       Tribes that hold judicially decreed rights to water  
18       from the Colorado River or other rivers and streams  
19       flowing in Arizona should be able to enter into lease  
20       or exchange agreements and storage agreements to  
21       make such decreed entitlements potentially available  
22       to other water users in the State as part of a long-  
23       term alternative supply.

24                   (10) Making such judicially decreed Tribal  
25       water supplies available as a long-term water supply

1 should be considered and implemented as part of a  
2 long-term strategy for addressing the mega-drought  
3 in the Southwest, and should be considered as part  
4 of the ongoing basin State re-negotiation of the  
5 2007 Interim Guidelines.

6 (11) In the meantime, to address the current  
7 crisis, all parties with excess supplies of water  
8 should consider ways of conserving those supplies  
9 through existing Federal and State programs that  
10 provide for the conservation of such supplies for the  
11 benefit of both Lake Mead and Lake Powell.

12 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

13 The purposes of this Act are—

14 (1) to authorize Arizona Tribes to enter into  
15 Lease or Exchange Agreements and Storage Agree-  
16 ments to make their judicially decreed Tribal water  
17 entitlements available for use off of their respective  
18 Reservations for their economic well-being and for  
19 the benefit of their surrounding jurisdictions as  
20 water supplies in Arizona become more scarce; and

21 (2) to authorize the Secretary to approve any  
22 Lease or Exchange Agreements or Storage Agree-  
23 ments entered into by Arizona Tribes pursuant to  
24 paragraph (1).

1 SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

2 In this Act:

3 (1) 2007 INTERIM GUIDELINES.—The term  
4 “2007 Interim Guidelines” means The Final Envi-  
5 ronmental Impact Statement—Colorado River In-  
6 terim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Co-  
7 ordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake  
8 Mead, dated October 2007, prepared pursuant to the  
9 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the  
10 Council on Environmental Quality’s Regulations for  
11 Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA  
12 (40 C.F.R. Parts 1500 through 1508), Department  
13 of the Interior Policies, and the Bureau of Reclama-  
14 tion’s NEPA Handbook.

15 (2) ALLOTTEE.—The term “allottee” means an  
16 individual who holds a beneficial real property inter-  
17 est in an allotment of Indian land that is—

18 (A) located within the exterior boundaries  
19 of a Reservation; and  
20 (B) held in trust by the United States.

21 (3) ARIZONA INDIAN WATER SETTLEMENT.—  
22 The term “Arizona Indian Water Settlement” means  
23 an Indian water settlement for an Indian Tribe lo-  
24 cated within the State that—

25 (A) has been approved and authorized by  
26 Congress; and

(B) includes as part of the Indian Tribe's  
approved and authorized entitlement a judicially  
decreed entitlement to water for lands located  
within the boundaries of the State.

8                             (5) DECREED WATER RIGHT.—The term “de-  
9                             creed water right” means an entitlement to water in-  
10                          cluded in any final decree entered by a Federal court  
11                          on behalf of an Arizona Tribe that is appurtenant  
12                          to lands located within such Arizona Tribe’s Res-  
13                          ervation.

14                             (6) CONSUMPTIVE USE.—The term “Consump-  
15                             tive Use” means—

24 (B) any verified reduction in Consumptive  
25 Use pursuant to a System Conservation Agree-

1           ment, a Lease or Exchange Agreement, or Stor-  
2           age Agreement, or from the creation of Inten-  
3           tionally Created Surplus, shall be deemed to be  
4           a Consumptive Use in the year in which the re-  
5           duction occurred, if the reduction is reflected in  
6           the Water Accounting Report.

7           (7) INTENTIONALLY CREATED SURPLUS OR  
8           ICS.—The term “Intentionally Created Surplus” or  
9           “ICS” means water that is conserved to Lake Mead  
10          for future use by a water user pursuant to the 2007  
11          Interim Guidelines.

12          (8) LEASE OR EXCHANGE AGREEMENT.—The  
13          term “Lease or Exchange Agreement” means an  
14          agreement to lease or exchange, or an option to lease  
15          or exchange, a portion of the Consumptive Use off  
16          of a Reservation.

17          (9) LOWER BASIN.—The term “Lower Basin”  
18          has the meaning given the term in article II(g) of  
19          the Colorado River Compact of 1922, as approved by  
20          Congress in section 13 of the Boulder Canyon  
21          Project Act (43 U.S.C. 617l), and by the Presi-  
22          dential Proclamation of June 25, 1929 (46 Stat.  
23          3000).

24          (10) PERSON.—The term “person” means an  
25          individual, a public or private corporation, a com-

1       pany, a partnership, a joint venture, a firm, an asso-  
2       ciation, a society, an estate or trust, a private orga-  
3       nization or enterprise, the United States, any Indian  
4       Tribe, a governmental entity, or a political subdivi-  
5       sion or municipal corporation organized under, or  
6       subject to, the constitution and laws of the State.

7                 (11) RESERVATION.—The term “Reservation”  
8       means the reservation established for each Arizona  
9       Tribe but only as to those reservation lands that are  
10      located in the State.

11                 (12) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
12      means the Secretary of the Interior.

13                 (13) STATE.—The term “State” means the  
14      State of Arizona.

15                 (14) STORAGE.—The term “storage” means the  
16       underground storage, in accordance with State law,  
17       of a portion of the Consumptive Use off of the Res-  
18       ervation within the Lower Basin in the State.

19                 (15) STORAGE AGREEMENT.—The term “Stor-  
20       age Agreement” means an agreement, including with  
21       the Arizona Water Banking Authority (or successor  
22       agency or entity), for the storage of a portion of the  
23       Consumptive Use, or the water received under an ex-  
24       change pursuant to an Lease or Exchange Agree-

1       ment, or more underground storage facilities or  
2       groundwater savings facilities located in the State.

3                     (16) WATER ACCOUNTING REPORT.—The term  
4       “Water Accounting Report” means the annual re-  
5       port of the Bureau of Reclamation entitled the “Col-  
6       orado River Accounting and Water Use Report: Ari-  
7       zona, California, and Nevada”.

8       **SEC. 5. LEASE OR EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS.**

9                     (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding section 2116  
10      of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the “Indian  
11      Trade and Intercourse Act”; 25 U.S.C. 177) or any other  
12      provision of law, beginning on January 1, 2026, each Ari-  
13      zona Tribe is authorized to, subject to the approval of the  
14      Secretary under section 7(a), and has the sole authority  
15      to, enter into, with any person, a Lease or Exchange  
16      Agreement, on the condition that the use off of the Res-  
17      ervation is located in the Lower Basin in the State and  
18      is not in Navajo, Apache, or Cochise counties.

19                     (b) TERM OF LEASE OR EXCHANGE AGREEMENT.—  
20      The term of any Lease or Exchange Agreement entered  
21      into under subsection (a) shall be mutually agreed, except  
22      that the term shall not exceed 100 years.

23                     (c) MODIFICATIONS.—Any Lease or Exchange Agree-  
24      ment entered into under subsection (a) may be renegoti-  
25      ated or modified at any time during the term of the Lease

1 or Exchange Agreement, subject to the approval of the  
2 Secretary under section 7(a), on the condition that the  
3 term of the renegotiated Lease or Exchange Agreement  
4 and the term of the original Lease or Exchange Agree-  
5 ment, in the aggregate, does not exceed 100 years.

6 (d) APPLICABLE LAW.—Any person entering into a  
7 Lease or Exchange Agreement with an Arizona Tribe  
8 under this section shall use the water received under the  
9 Lease or Exchange Agreement in accordance with applica-  
10 ble Federal and State law.

11 (e) EFFECT ON ARIZONA INDIAN WATER SETTLE-  
12 MENTS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—This Act shall not be con-  
14 strued to amend any Arizona Indian Water Settle-  
15 ment that prohibits off-Reservation Lease and Ex-  
16 change Agreements. Before entering into a Lease or  
17 Exchange Agreement pursuant to the authority set  
18 forth in this Act, an Arizona Tribe with a restriction  
19 on its authority to lease or exchange its decreed  
20 water rights outside the exterior boundaries of its  
21 Reservation set forth in its Arizona Indian Water  
22 Settlement must first amend the settlement agree-  
23 ment to modify such restrictions in a manner in ac-  
24 cordance with its terms.

1                             (2) AUTHORIZATION, RATIFICATION AND CON-  
2                             FIRMATION OF AMENDMENTS.—An amendment to  
3                             an Arizona Indian Water Settlement to allow a  
4                             Lease and Exchange Agreement is hereby deemed to  
5                             be authorized, ratified, and confirmed in accordance  
6                             with its terms without further need for congressional  
7                             action.

8                             **SEC. 6. STORAGE AGREEMENTS.**

9                             (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding section 2116  
10                             of the Revised Statutes (commonly known as the “Indian  
11                             Trade and Intercourse Act”; 25 U.S.C. 177) or any other  
12                             provision of law, each Arizona Tribe is authorized to, sub-  
13                             ject to the approval of the Secretary under section 7(a),  
14                             and has the sole authority to, enter into a Storage Agree-  
15                             ment, on the condition that the facility shall be located  
16                             in the Lower Basin in the State and is not in Navajo,  
17                             Apache, or Cochise counties.

18                             (b) APPLICABLE LAW.—Any Storage Agreement en-  
19                             tered into under this section shall be in accordance with  
20                             applicable Federal and State law.

21                             (c) DELEGATION OF RIGHTS.—An Arizona Tribe  
22                             may assign or sell any long-term storage credits accrued  
23                             as a result of a Storage Agreement, on the condition that  
24                             the assignment or sale is in accordance with applicable  
25                             State law.

1       (d) EFFECT ON ARIZONA INDIAN WATER SETTLE-  
2 MENTS.—

3                 (1) IN GENERAL.—This Act shall not be con-  
4 strued to amend any Arizona Indian Water Settle-  
5 ment that prohibits off-Reservation Storage Agree-  
6 ments. Before entering into a Storage Agreement  
7 pursuant to the authority set forth in this Act, an  
8 Arizona Tribe with a restriction on its authority to  
9 store its decreed water rights outside the exterior  
10 boundaries of its Reservation set forth in its Arizona  
11 Indian Water Settlement must first amend the set-  
12 tlement agreement to modify such restrictions in a  
13 manner in accordance with its terms.

14                 (2) AUTHORIZATION, RATIFICATION AND CON-  
15 FIRMATION OF AMENDMENTS.—An amendment to  
16 an Arizona Indian Water Settlement Agreement to  
17 allow Storage Agreements, is hereby deemed to be  
18 authorized, ratified and confirmed in accordance  
19 with its terms without need for further congressional  
20 action.

21 **SEC. 7. APPROVAL BY THE SECRETARY.**

22       (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall approve  
23 or disapprove any—  
24                 (1) Lease or Exchange Agreement;

1                   (2) modification to a Lease or Exchange Agree-  
2                   ment;

3                   (3) Storage Agreement; or

4                   (4) modification to a Storage Agreement.

5                   (b) SECRETARIAL AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary is  
6 authorized to enter Lease or Exchange Agreements or  
7 Storage Agreements with an Arizona Tribe, provided the  
8 Secretary pays the fair market value for the Arizona  
9 Tribe's reduced consumptive use.

10                  (c) REQUIREMENTS.—

11                  (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not ap-  
12 prove any Lease or Exchange Agreement, or any  
13 modification to a Lease or Exchange Agreement,  
14 any Storage Agreement, or any modification to a  
15 Storage Agreement that is not in compliance with—

16                  (A) this Act; and

17                  (B) the agreement entered into between  
18 the Arizona Tribe, the State, and the Secretary  
19 under section 10(a).

20                  (2) PERMANENT ALIENATION.—The Secretary  
21 shall not approve any Lease or Exchange Agree-  
22 ment, any modification to a Lease or Exchange  
23 Agreement, or any Storage Agreement that perma-  
24 nently alienates any portion of any Arizona Tribe  
25 decreed water right.

1       (d) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The requirement for  
2 Secretarial approval under subsection (a) shall satisfy the  
3 requirements of section 2116 of the Revised Statutes  
4 (commonly known as the “Indian Trade and Intercourse  
5 Act”; 25 U.S.C. 177).

6       (e) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—Nothing in  
7 this Act, or any agreement entered into or approved by  
8 the Secretary under this Act, including any Lease or Ex-  
9 change Agreement or Storage Agreement, shall diminish  
10 or abrogate the authority of the Secretary to act under  
11 applicable Federal law or regulation.

12 **SEC. 8. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

13       (a) COMPLIANCE.—The Secretary, when approving a  
14 Lease or Exchange Agreement or a Storage Agreement  
15 under this Act, shall ensure such agreement complies  
16 with—

17               (1) the National Environmental Policy Act of  
18 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

19               (2) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
20 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

21               (3) all other applicable Federal environmental  
22 laws.

23       (b) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary shall docu-  
24 ment any Lease or Exchange Agreement or Storage  
25 Agreement in the Water Accounting Report.

1   **SEC. 9. AGREEMENT BETWEEN AN ARIZONA TRIBE AND**  
2                   **THE STATE.**

3       (a) IN GENERAL.—Before entering into the first  
4   Lease or Exchange Agreement or Storage Agreement, an  
5   Arizona Tribe shall enter into an agreement with the State  
6   that outlines all notice, information sharing, and collabora-  
7   tion requirements that shall apply to any potential  
8   Lease or Exchange Agreement or Storage Agreement into  
9   which the Arizona Tribe may enter.

10     (b) REQUIREMENT.—The agreement under sub-  
11 section (a) shall include a provision that requires the Ari-  
12 zona Tribe to submit to the State all documents regarding  
13 a proposed Lease or Exchange Agreement or Storage  
14 Agreement.

15   **SEC. 10. AGREEMENT BETWEEN AN ARIZONA TRIBE, THE**  
16                   **STATE, AND THE SECRETARY.**

17     (a) IN GENERAL.—Before approving the first Lease  
18 or Exchange Agreement or Storage Agreement under sec-  
19 tion 7, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with  
20 the State and the Arizona Tribe that describes the proce-  
21 dural, technical, and accounting methodologies for any  
22 Lease or Exchange Agreement or Storage Agreement into  
23 which the Arizona Tribe may enter, including quantifica-  
24 tion of the reduction in Consumptive Use and water ac-  
25 counting.

1       (b) NEPA.—The execution of the agreement under  
2 subsection (a) shall not constitute a major Federal action  
3 for purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act of  
4 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

5       (c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act shall prohibit the  
6 Secretary from agreeing with the Arizona Tribe and the  
7 State to a modification to an agreement entered into  
8 under subsection (a) (including an appendix or exhibit to  
9 the agreement) on the condition that the modification—  
10           (1) is in compliance with this Act; and  
11           (2) does not otherwise require congressional ap-  
12 proval under section 2116 of the Revised Statutes  
13 (commonly known as the “Indian Trade and Inter-  
14 course Act”) (25 U.S.C. 177) or any other provision  
15 of law.

16 **SEC. 11. NO EFFECT ON ARIZONA TRIBE DECREED WATER  
17           RIGHTS.**

18       (a) TEMPORARY USE.—A Lease or Exchange Agree-  
19 ment or Storage Agreement—

20           (1) shall provide for the temporary use or stor-  
21 age of a portion of the Consumptive Use off of the  
22 Arizona Tribe’s Reservation; and

23           (2) shall not permanently alienate the decreed  
24 water right.

25       (b) PRIORITY STATUS.—

1                   (1) IN GENERAL.—The lease or exchange of a  
2                   portion of the Consumptive Use shall not cause that  
3                   portion to lose or change its priority under the rel-  
4                   evant decree.

5                   (2) NON-USE.—Any non-use by a person who is  
6                   a party to any Lease or Exchange Agreement or  
7                   Storage Agreement with the Arizona Tribe shall not  
8                   result in forfeiture, abandonment, relinquishment, or  
9                   other loss by the Arizona Tribe of all or any portion  
10                  of the decreed water right.

11                  (c) RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.—The lease, exchange,  
12                  or storage of a portion of the Consumptive Use shall not  
13                  reduce or limit the right of the Arizona Tribe to use the  
14                  remaining portion of the decreed water right on its Res-  
15                  ervation.

16                  (d) STORAGE AGREEMENTS.—Any Storage Agree-  
17                  ment shall account for the quantity of water in storage  
18                  off of an Arizona Tribe's Reservation in accordance with  
19                  applicable State law.

20 **SEC. 12. ALLOTTEE USE OF WATER.**

21                  (a) INTERFERENCE.—The lease, exchange, or storage  
22                  of a portion of the Consumptive Use shall not directly or  
23                  indirectly interfere with, or diminish, any entitlement to  
24                  water for an allottee under Federal or Tribal law.

1       (b) WATER RIGHTS OF ALLOTTEES.—The Secretary  
2 shall protect the rights of the allottees to a just and equi-  
3 table distribution of water for irrigation purposes, pursu-  
4 ant to section 7 of the Act of February 8, 1887 (commonly  
5 known as the “Indian General Allotment Act”) (24 Stat.  
6 390, chapter 119; 25 U.S.C. 381) (referred to in this sec-  
7 tion as the “Act”).

8       (c) RELIEF UNDER TRIBAL LAW.—Prior to asserting  
9 any claim against the United States pursuant to the Act,  
10 or any other applicable law, an allottee shall exhaust all  
11 remedies available under applicable Tribal law.

12       (d) RELIEF UNDER THE INDIAN GENERAL ALLOT-  
13 MENT ACT.—Following an exhaustion of remedies avail-  
14 able under applicable Tribal law, an allottee may seek re-  
15 lief under the Act, or any other applicable law.

16       (e) RELIEF FROM THE SECRETARY.—Following ex-  
17 haustion of remedies available under the Act, or any other  
18 applicable law, an allottee may petition the Secretary for  
19 relief.

20 **SEC. 13. CONSIDERATION PAID TO ARIZONA TRIBES.**

21       An Arizona Tribe, and not the United States in any  
22 capacity, shall be entitled to all consideration due to an  
23 Arizona Tribe under any Lease or Exchange Agreement  
24 or Storage Agreement.

1     **SEC. 14. LIABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES.**

2         (a) LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.—The United States  
3     shall not be liable to an Arizona Tribe or to any party  
4     to a Lease or Exchange Agreement or Storage Agreement  
5     in any claim relating to the negotiation, execution, or ap-  
6     proval of any Lease or Exchange Agreement or Storage  
7     Agreement, including any claim relating to the terms in-  
8     cluded in such an agreement, except for claims related to  
9     section 8(a).

10         (b) OBLIGATIONS.—The United States shall have no  
11     trust obligation or other obligation to monitor, administer,  
12     or account for—

13             (1) any funds received by an Arizona Tribe as  
14     consideration under any Lease or Exchange Agree-  
15     ment or Storage Agreement; or  
16             (2) the expenditure of such funds.

17     **SEC. 15. APPLICATION.**

18         (a) IN GENERAL.—This Act shall apply only to the  
19     portion of the decreed water right that is available for use  
20     in the State.

21         (b) REQUIREMENT.—The portion of the decreed  
22     water right described in subsection (a) shall not be used,  
23     directly or indirectly, outside the Lower Basin in the State  
24     or in Navajo, Apache, or Cochise Counties, unless such  
25     use is otherwise authorized pursuant to a congressionally  
26     approved Indian water rights settlement.

1       (c) NO EFFECT ON NAVAJO-UTAH WATER RIGHTS  
2 SETTLEMENT.—This Act shall not affect any provisions  
3 in the Navajo-Utah Water Rights Settlement Act, Consoli-  
4 dated Appropriations Act, section 1102 (Public Law 116–  
5 260, December 27, 2020), that authorize the Navajo Na-  
6 tion to allocate, distribute, and lease the Navajo water  
7 rights for any use on the Reservation in accordance with  
8 the Navajo-Utah settlement agreement, and applicable  
9 Tribal and Federal law or allocate, distribute, and lease  
10 the Navajo water rights for off-Reservation use in accord-  
11 ance with the Navajo-Utah settlement agreement, subject  
12 to the approval of the Secretary.

13 **SEC. 16. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

14       (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act establishes,  
15 or shall be considered to establish, a precedent in any litiga-  
16 tion involving, or alters, affects, or quantifies, any water  
17 right with respect to—  
18              (1) the United States;  
19              (2) any other Indian Tribe, band, or commu-  
20 nity;  
21              (3) any State or political subdivision or district  
22 of a State; or  
23              (4) any person.

24       (b) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act exempts the imple-  
25 mentation of a Lease or Exchange Agreement, or a Stor-

1 age Agreement and the operation of applicable Colorado  
2 River System reservoirs from any requirements of applica-  
3 ble Federal environmental laws.

