



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO

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MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Director, PN, MP, LC, UC, GP
Attention: Native American Program Managers
Director, Reclamation Service Center
Attention: Director, MSO

From: Eluid L. Martinez 
Commissioner

Subject: Reclamation Action Plan For Implementing Government-to-Government
Relationship With Indian Tribes

The United States has a unique legal relationship with federally recognized American Indian tribes, based on tribal powers of self-government. Reclamation has a responsibility to uphold this special relationship and to implement its activities in a manner consistent with it. To insure this is done, Reclamation has developed the attached government-to-government action plan. (Attachment 1). The principles and actions described in this plan should be applied to all Reclamation activities with federally recognized American Indian tribes.

This plan is consistent with the April 29, 1994, Presidential memorandum directing Federal departments and agencies to respect the rights of sovereign tribal governments and to work with them in a manner consistent with the Federal-Tribal government-to-government relationship (Attachment 2). It is also consistent with the February 24, 1995, memorandum from the Assistant Secretary -- Indian Affairs to all Interior bureaus concerning the development of government-to-government implementation plans (Attachment 3).

At times it will be appropriate to formalize the government-to-government relationship in memoranda-of-agreement. Attachment 4 provides one example as to how this might be done.

Copies of this document should be distributed to all Reclamation staff who have contact with Indian tribal members, and to all who participate in the decisionmaking process for activities potentially affecting Indian tribes. Additional information on this plan is available from Chris Kenney or Adrienne Marks at telephone number 202-208-5000, fax number 202-208-6688 or via E-Mail.

Attachments

cc: Assistant Secretary--Water and Science
Assistant Secretary--Indian Affairs
Office of American Indian Trust
SOL (Oglander)