

Arizona Water Resources Research Center
***“Forced to Abandon Our Fields:” The 1914 Charles
Southworth Gila River Pima Interviews***



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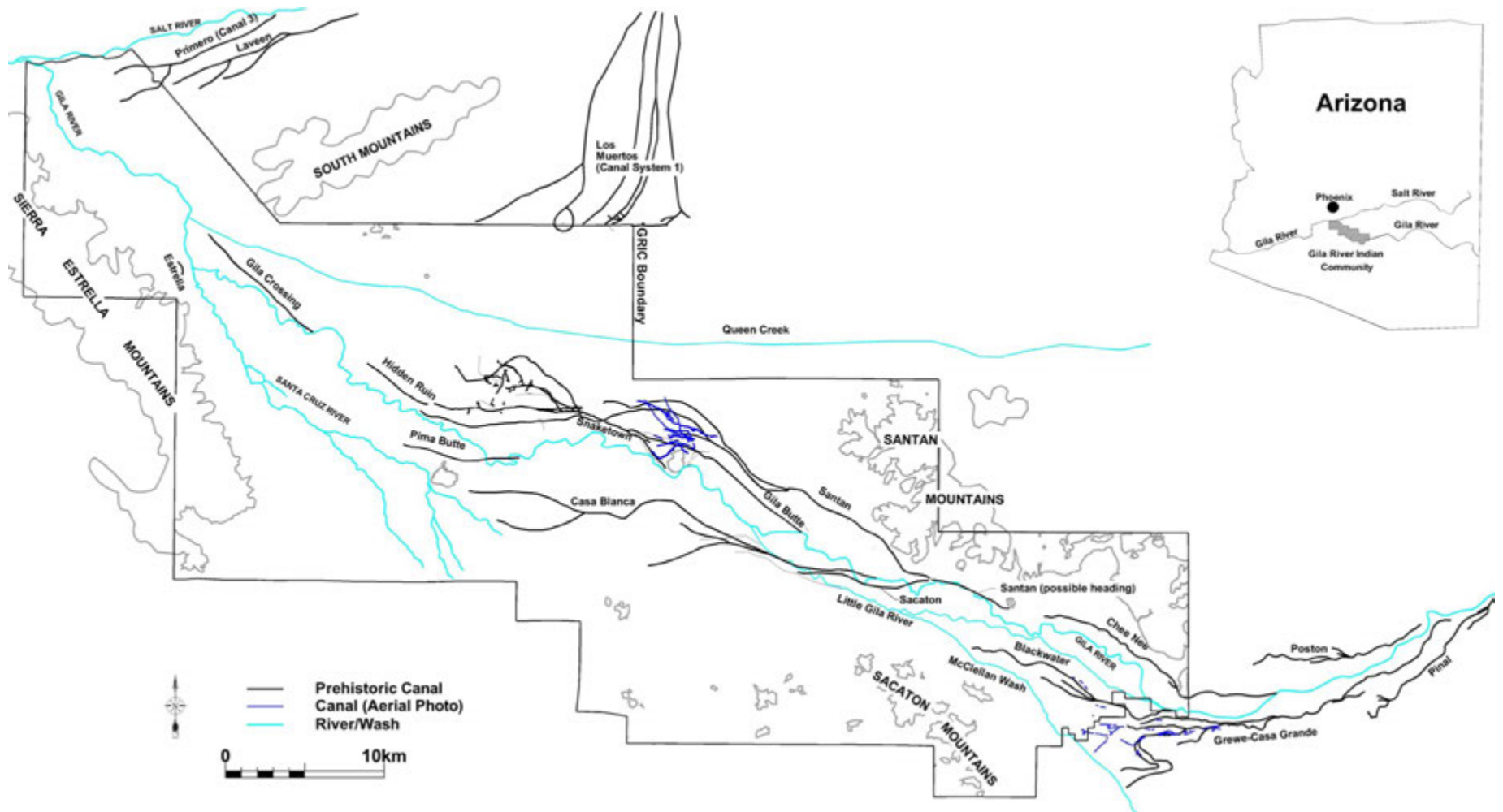
The Akimel O'otham and Pee Posh



Akimel O'odham or "River
People" (Pima)

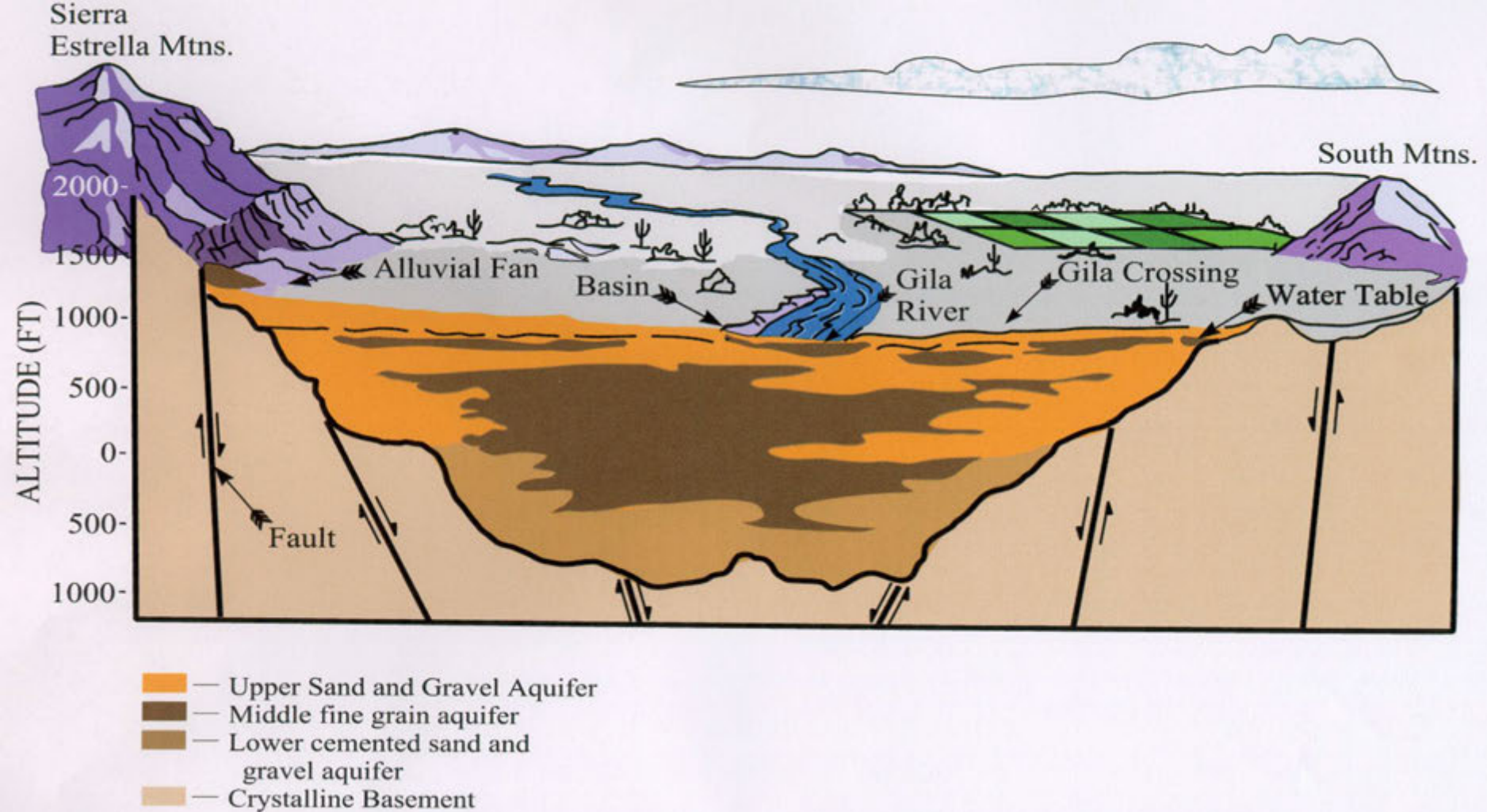


Pee Posh or "the People" (Maricopa)



“There was plenty of water in the river all the year round; we ... had a constant flow in our ditches (and) irrigated our land.”

64 year-old John Hayes of Sweetwater (1914)



“(We) owned all of the Gila River Valley (and) lived by agricultural pursuits. (We) were not a war-like people nor led nomadic lives.”

90 year-old Cos-Chin of Sweetwater (1914)



“(We raised) two crops a year; sowing wheat during the winter, melons, corn, pumpkins and other (crops) in the spring.”

60 year-old John Makil of Casa Blanca (1914)



“(We) used it continuously and were self-supporting and independent.”

81 year-old William Wallace of Blackwater (1914)

“I can remember very well the time when water in the river was plentiful and the Pima irrigated their lands and were a self-supporting people. Because there being sufficient water for irrigation, we raised (crops) in abundance.”

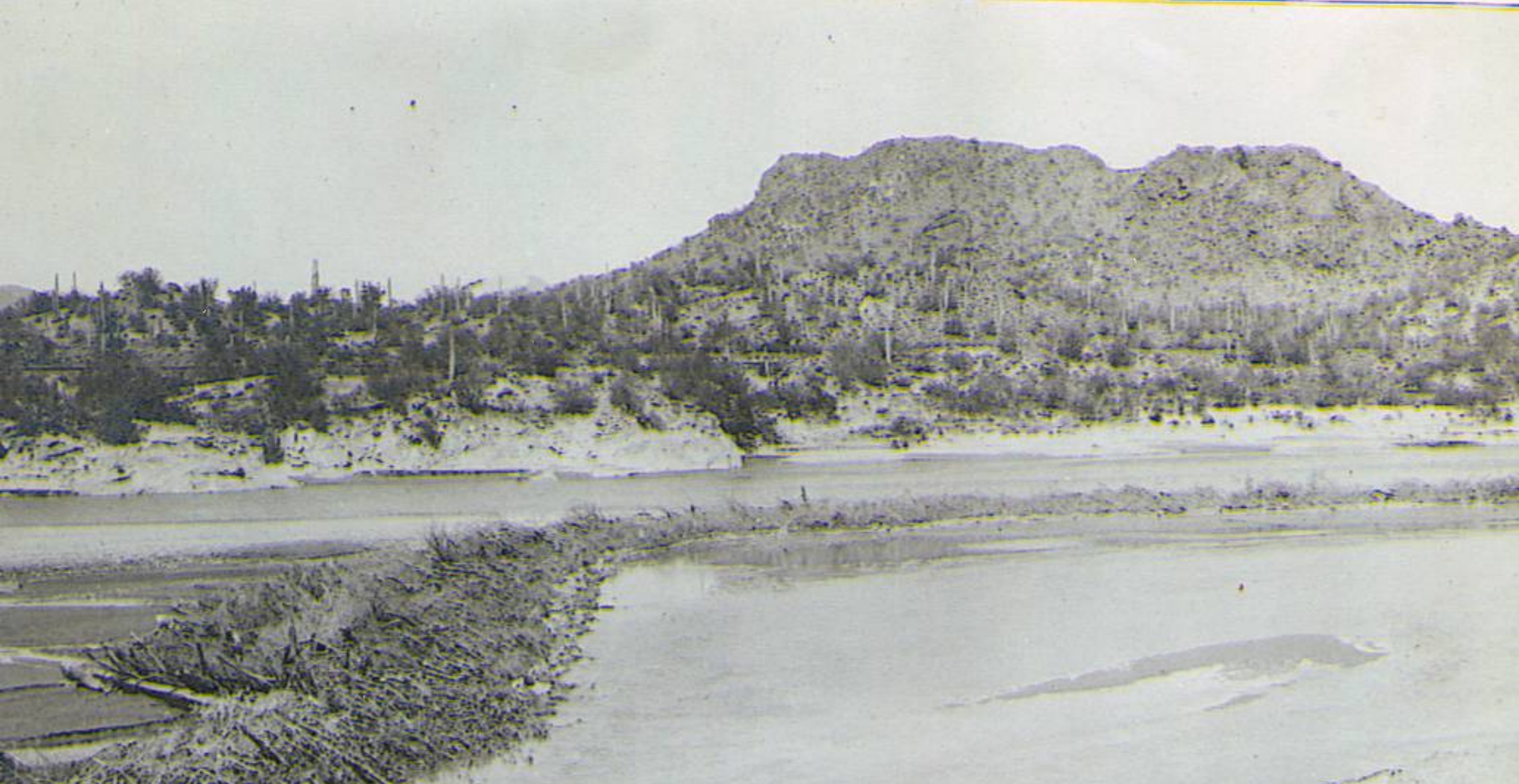
65 year-old George Pablo of Cottonwood District (1914)





“(We) had bountiful crops that (we) gathered the best for (our)selves and left the poorest ones for ... horses and other animals”

67 year-old Antonito Azul of Sacaton Flats (1914)



“We (were) poor in horses and plows (but) rich in harvests.”

86 year-old Meguel of Bapchil



“Land was divided up to families no matter how small a family a man had. It was the idea of a Pima father to encourage his children in farming. When they got older, they were given land to work.”

65 year-old Tor White of Sweetwater (1914)

“We raised lots of wheat, corn, melons, (and) pumpkins, and never depended on the government.”

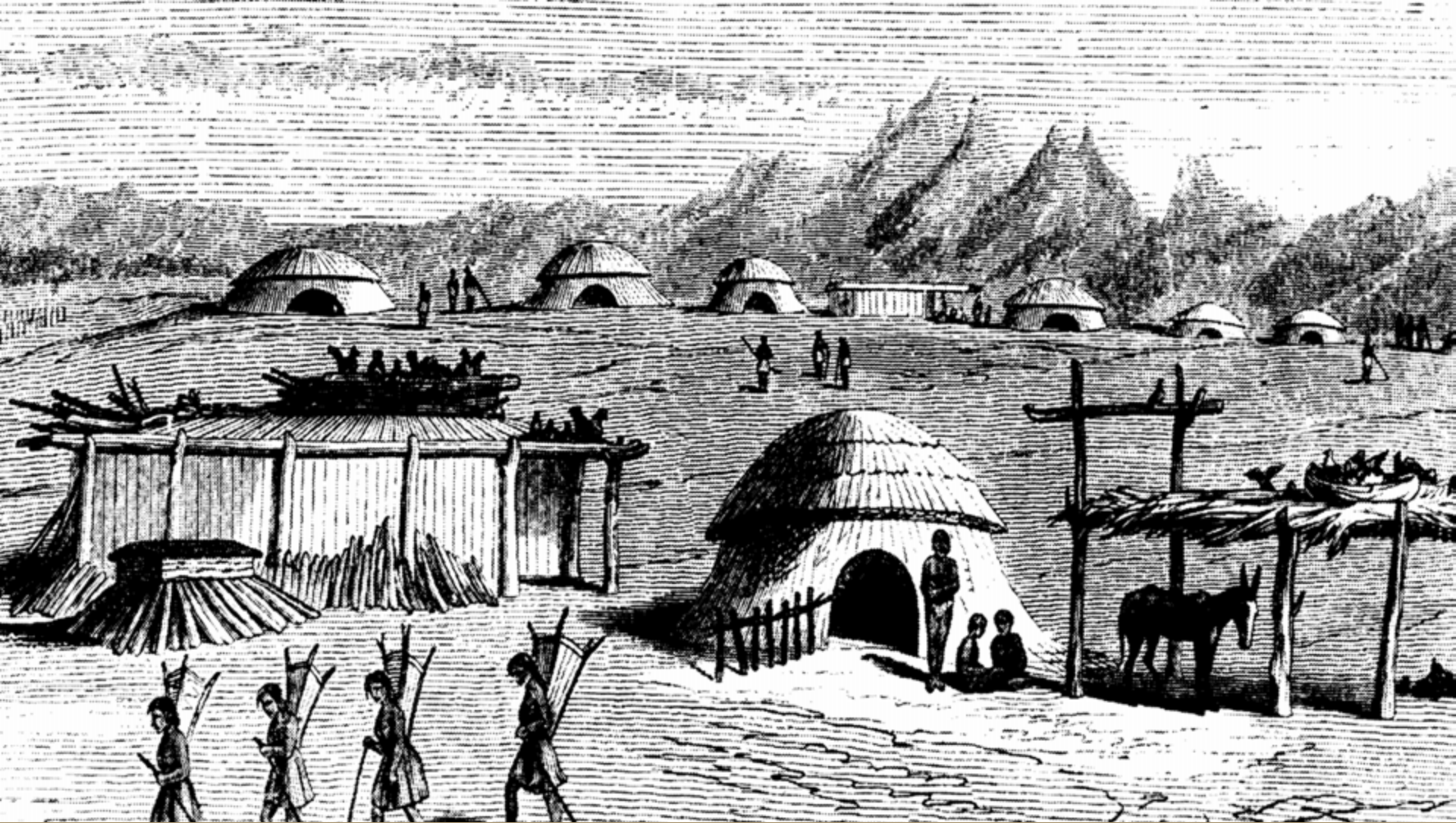
65 year-old George Pablo of Cottonwood District (1914)





“We (were) on both sides of the river getting all the water we wanted for irrigation and were self-supporting.”

80 year-old Havelena of Casa Blanca (1914)



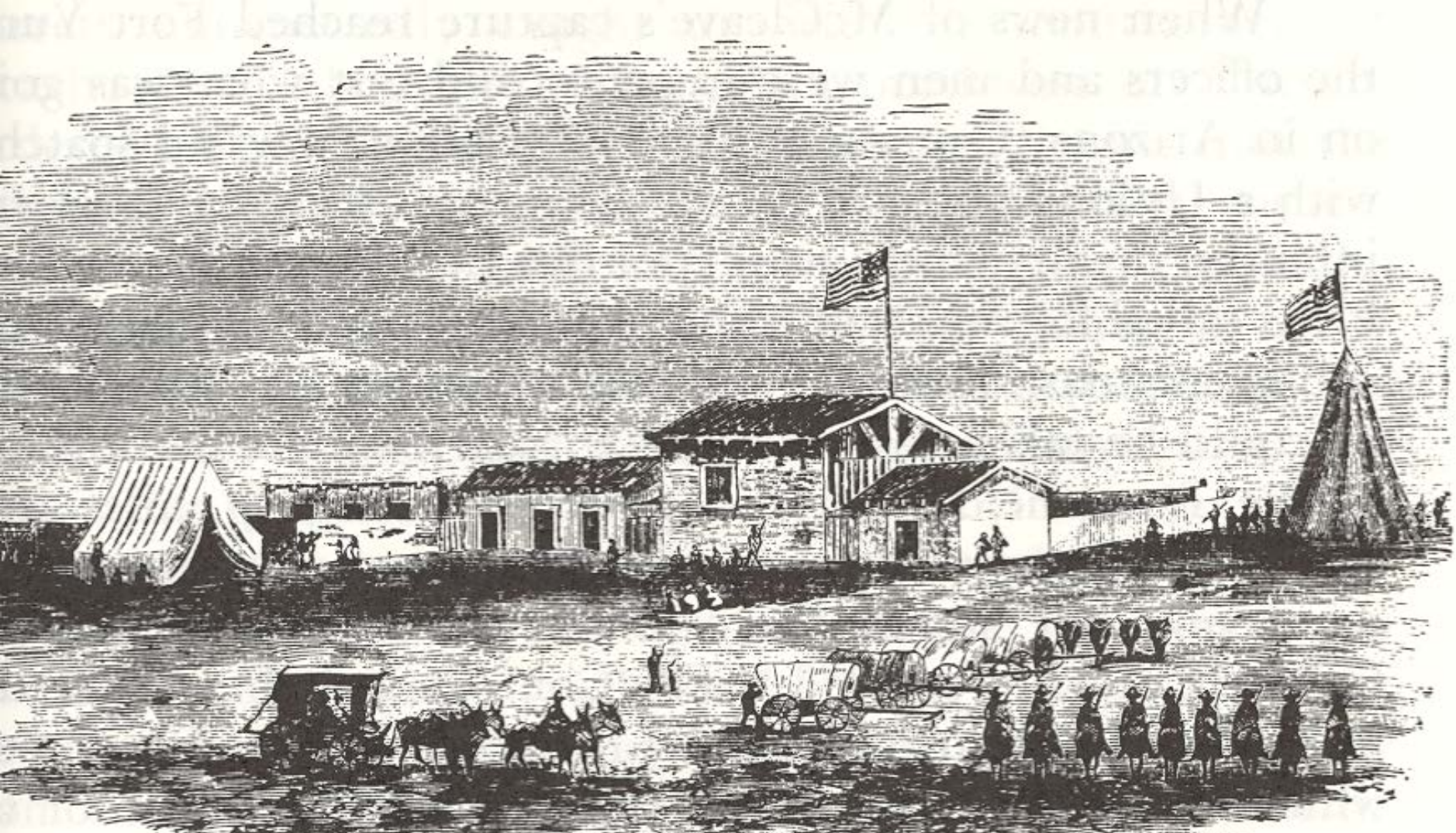
“Time afterwards white people immigrated through Pima land going West. They generally stopped with the Pimas who were always willing to share their food and shelter.”

90 year-old Cos-chin of Sweetwater (1914)



“We considered them the Good Samaritans of the Desert.”

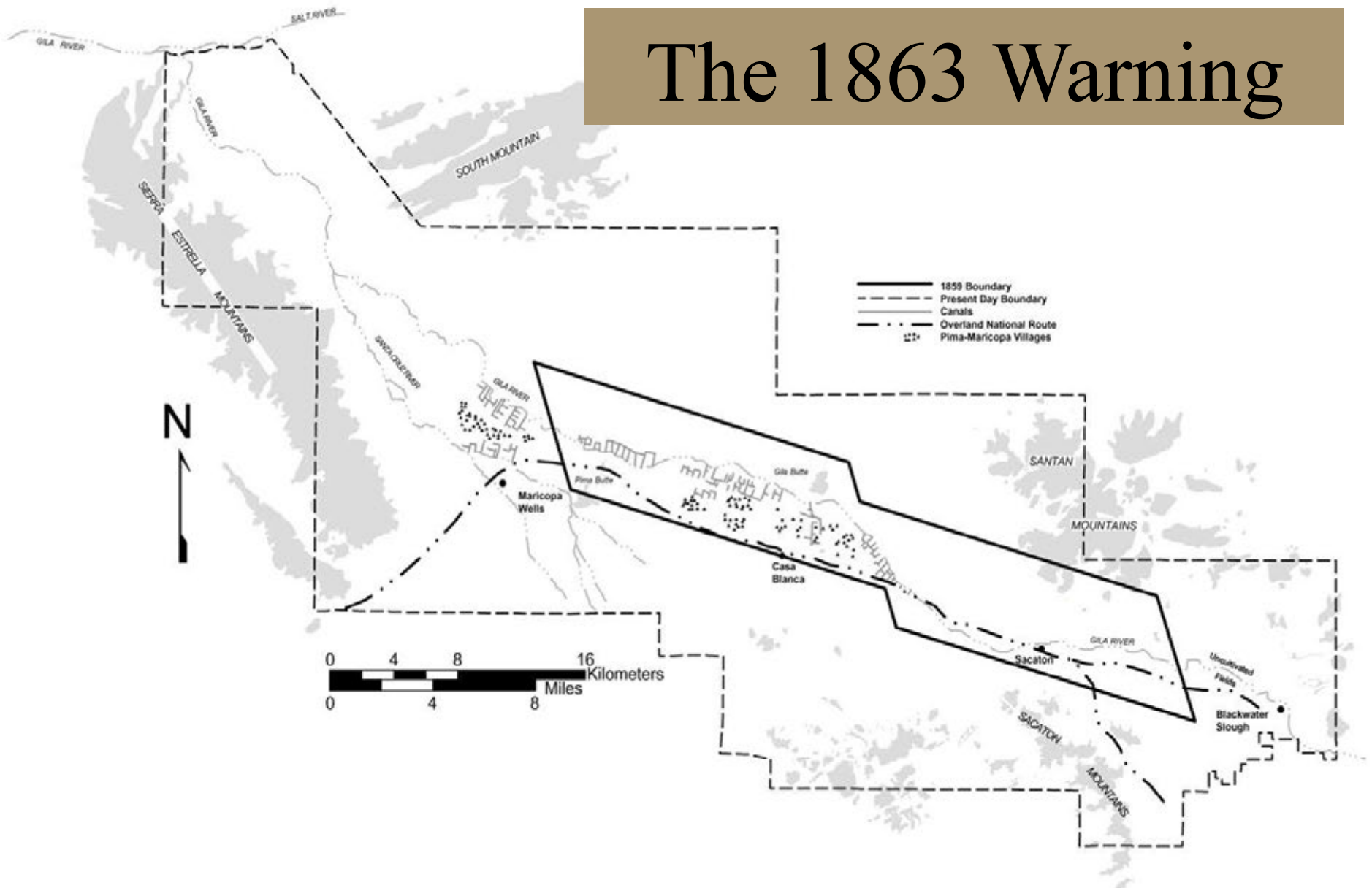
Benjamin Butler Harris, June 1849



“(He) used to fill up all his store houses with wheat bought from the Indians. People now have no idea how much wheat Indians used to raise in times gone by.”

81 year-old Henry Austin of Casa Blanca (1914)

The 1863 Warning





“The first diversion being so small we hardly noticed it, but (settlers) gradually took out more each year till we noticed our loss by not being able to irrigate all our fields, until some 20 years when we were left high and dry.”

67 year-old Chir-purtke of Alkali Village (1914)



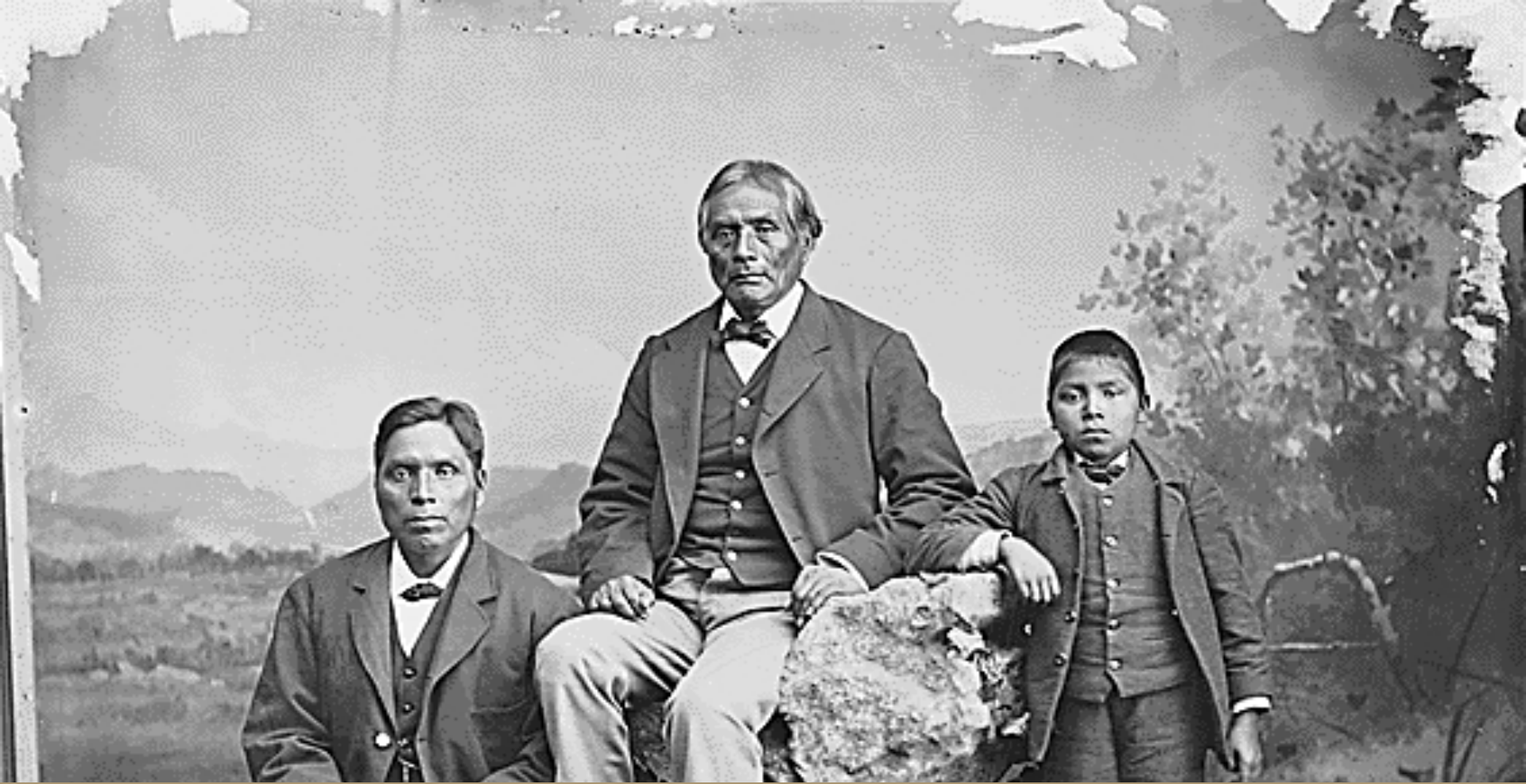
“This district (Blackwater) began to catch the envious eye of the white land invader. Consequently, the waters of the Gila River ... gradually decreased ... until finally when the Florence Canal was constructed, we were left high and dry.”

71 year-old Frank Hayes of Blackwater (1914)



“When water was first taken out ... above the reservation, we felt it and suffered first, as were the last to take our water from the river.”

48 year-old Juan Lagons of Gila Crossing (1914)



“As for my father and myself, we abandoned about 123 acres. The claims which we were clearing at the time the water went down had to be abandoned and now remains under brush ... because there is no water to irrigate with.”

67 year-old Antonito Azul of Sacaton Flats (1914)

“Although the water supply is small, we manage to distribute it equally thereby getting a crop each year.”

53 year-old James Hollen of Gila Crossing (1914)





“In order to keep alive we had to cut and sell wood in Phoenix and other towns. White people have no idea how the Pima Indian has suffered by the diversions of their water.”

70 year-old Joseph Head of Gila Crossing (1914)

INDIANS STARVING TO DEATH.

Six Thousand Perishing on the Gila
Reservation in Arizona Because
of Failure of Crops.

“That 6,000 Pima Indians, always the consistent and active friends of the white man, should be reduced from a condition of wealth and great prosperity to actual starvation through neglect of the federal government ... seems a ... killing of friends.”

Chicago Tribune, June 19, 1900



“(Water loss) caused us to abandon our old farms and homes, which we loved so dearly.”

70 year-old Joseph Head of Gila Crossing (1914)



“Of 586 families visited ... 432 families of industrious Indians eager for work have not been able to raise any crop at all for lack of water.”

Reverends Sheldon Jackson and George Spinning, Presbyterian Church (1900)



“Quite a number of our ditches are now lying idle and covered with brush.”

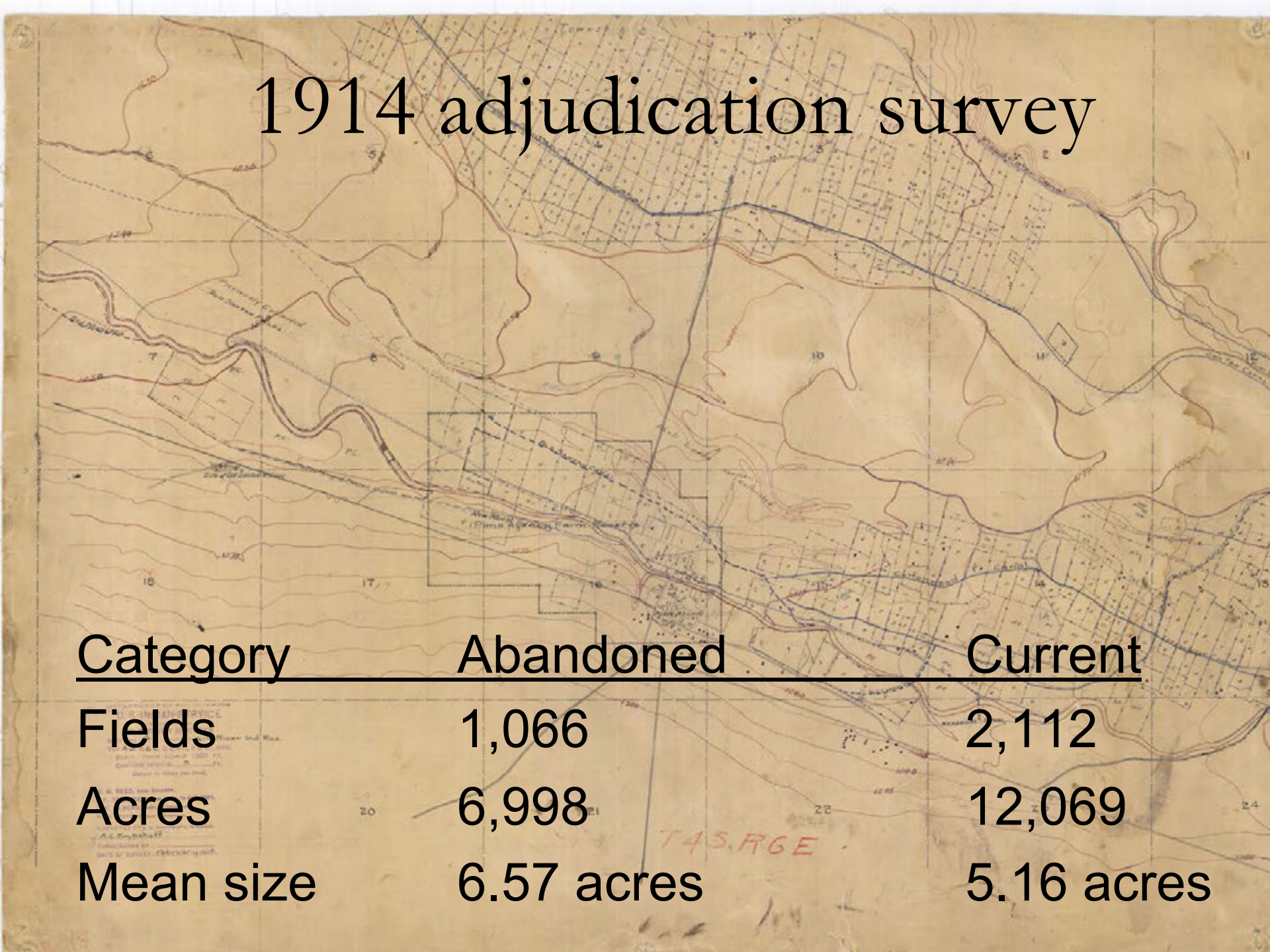
53 year-old James Hollen of Gila Crossing (1914)



“We have suffered much loss, our cultivated land was reduced and what fields we do cultivate, do not bring us as much as they did when irrigated by river water.”

**49 year-old John Rhodes of Sranuka
(1914)**

1914 adjudication survey



<u>Category</u>	<u>Abandoned</u>	<u>Current</u>
Fields	1,066	2,112
Acres	6,998	12,069
Mean size	6.57 acres	5.16 acres



“Since there is not enough water ... I left my old home in Mt. Top village (and) lived (in Cottonwood District).”

65 year-old George Pablo of Cottonwood District (1914)



“If we had as much water now as we did then, our young people would be prosperous.”

70 year-old Ho-ke Wilson of Cottonwood District (1914)



“Our pride as self-supporting and independent people
was ... taken from us.”

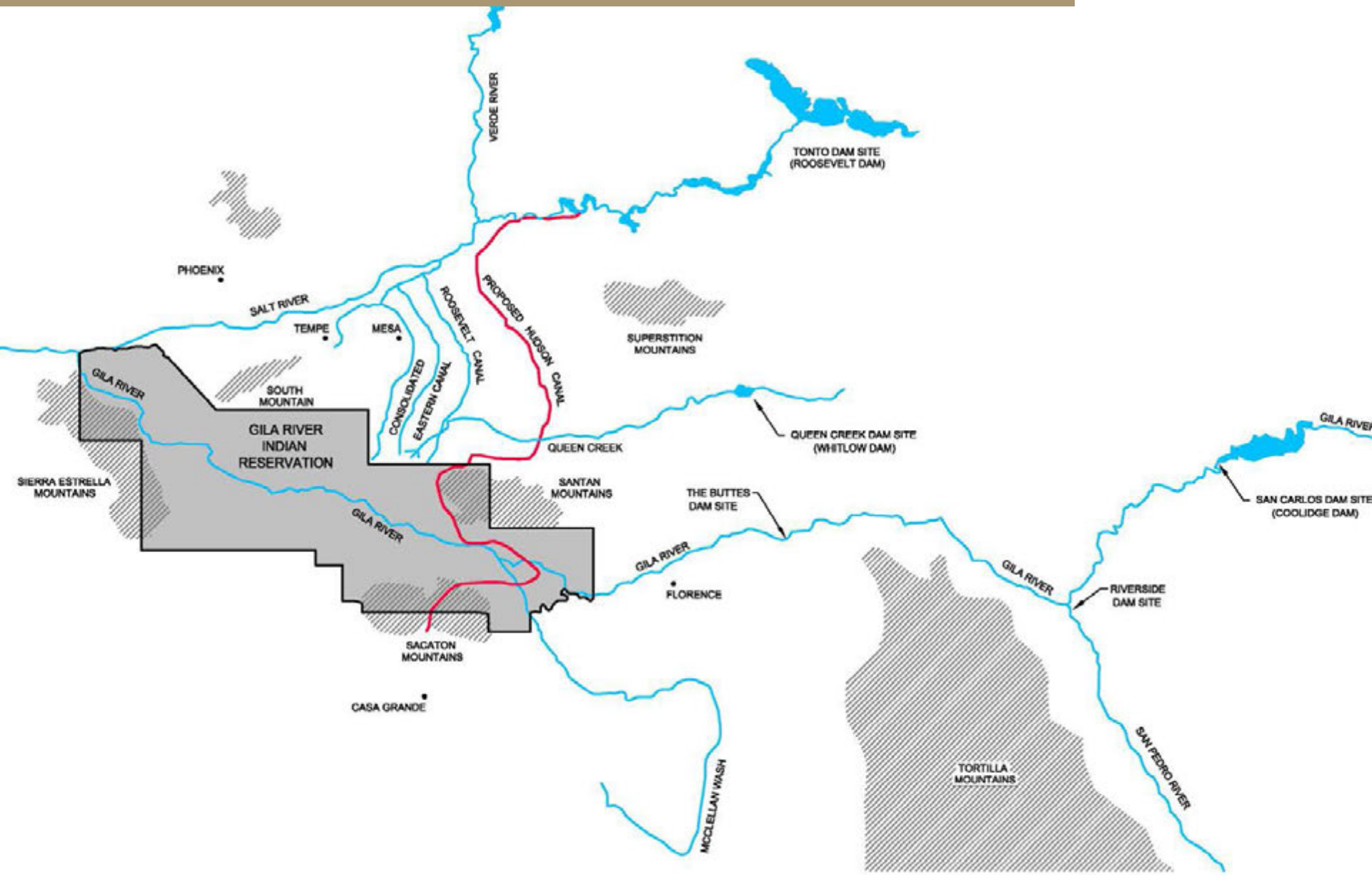
71 year-old Frank Hayes of Blackwater (1914)



“The farming here got uncertain just as it had in other districts. (We) are now forced ...to do the best we can for subsistence.”

**84 year-old Jose Enis of
Sweetwater (1914)**

All the while Congress debated restoring water.



The Tonto site (Roosevelt Dam) was selected as the first reclamation project but not without controversy.



“Appeal for Justice”

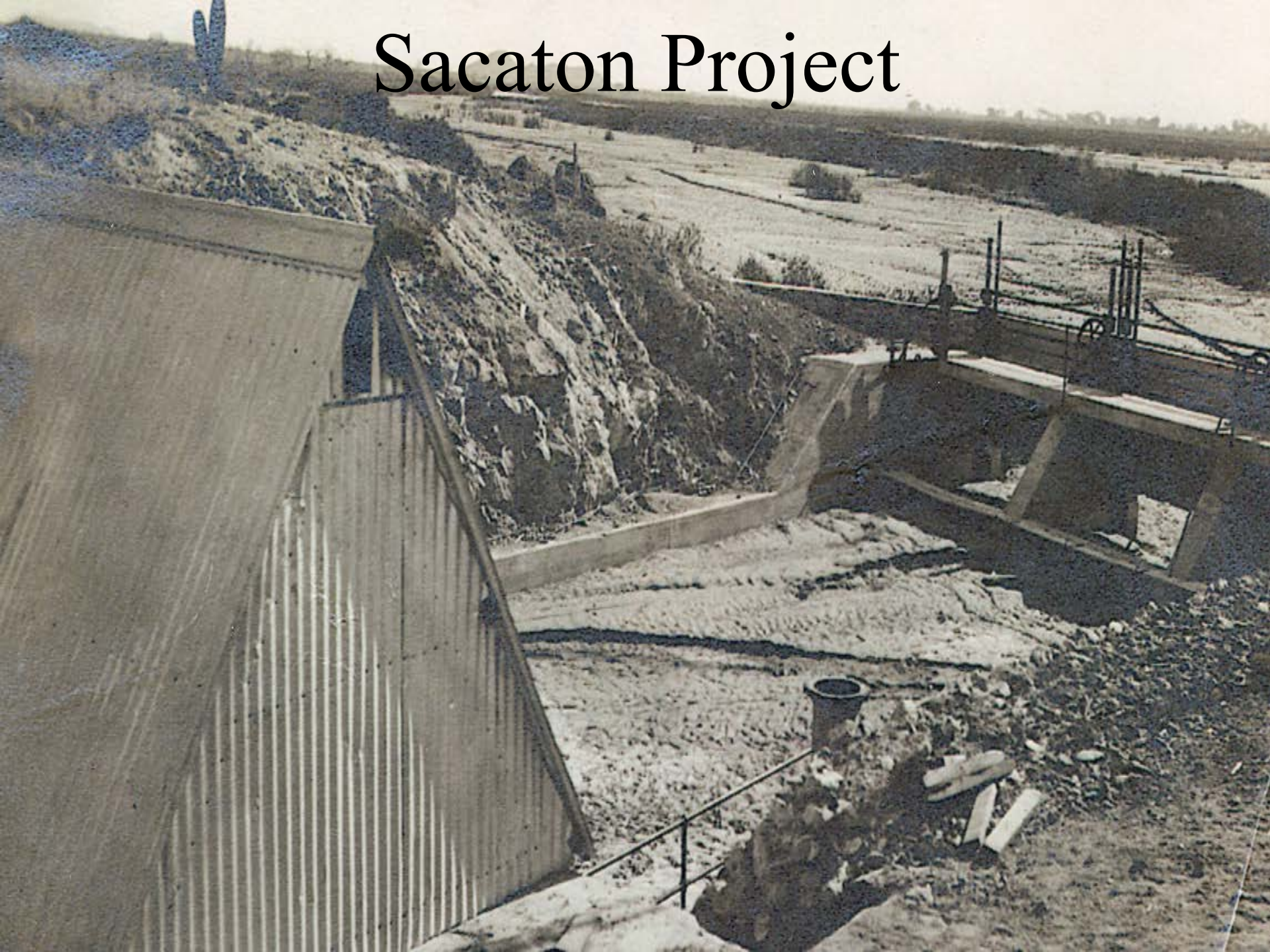
“We have not the papers to show just what the speculators and politicians of the Salt River Valley had to do with the appointments of Agent Alexander and Engineer Code, but the events which followed speak loudly. Before these men came on the scene, Government engineers ... had recommended the San Carlos Reservoir site as the best in this part of the country. But some time between August 15, 1902, and July 25, 1903, it seems a reservoir was decided upon for the Salt River Valley. The Pimas were told that much of their reservation could be irrigated from the Salt River Reservoir, and Alexander and Code at once began talking of underground water for the Indians. To this the Indians objected.”

written by Antonito Azul (1911)



In 1908, the U.S. Supreme Court for the first time recognize Indian “reserved rights” to stream waters. The decision was ignored for decades.

Sacaton Project



The Little Gila Project



The Agency Project



The Casa Blanca Project



The Blackwater Project



The Sacaton Flats Project

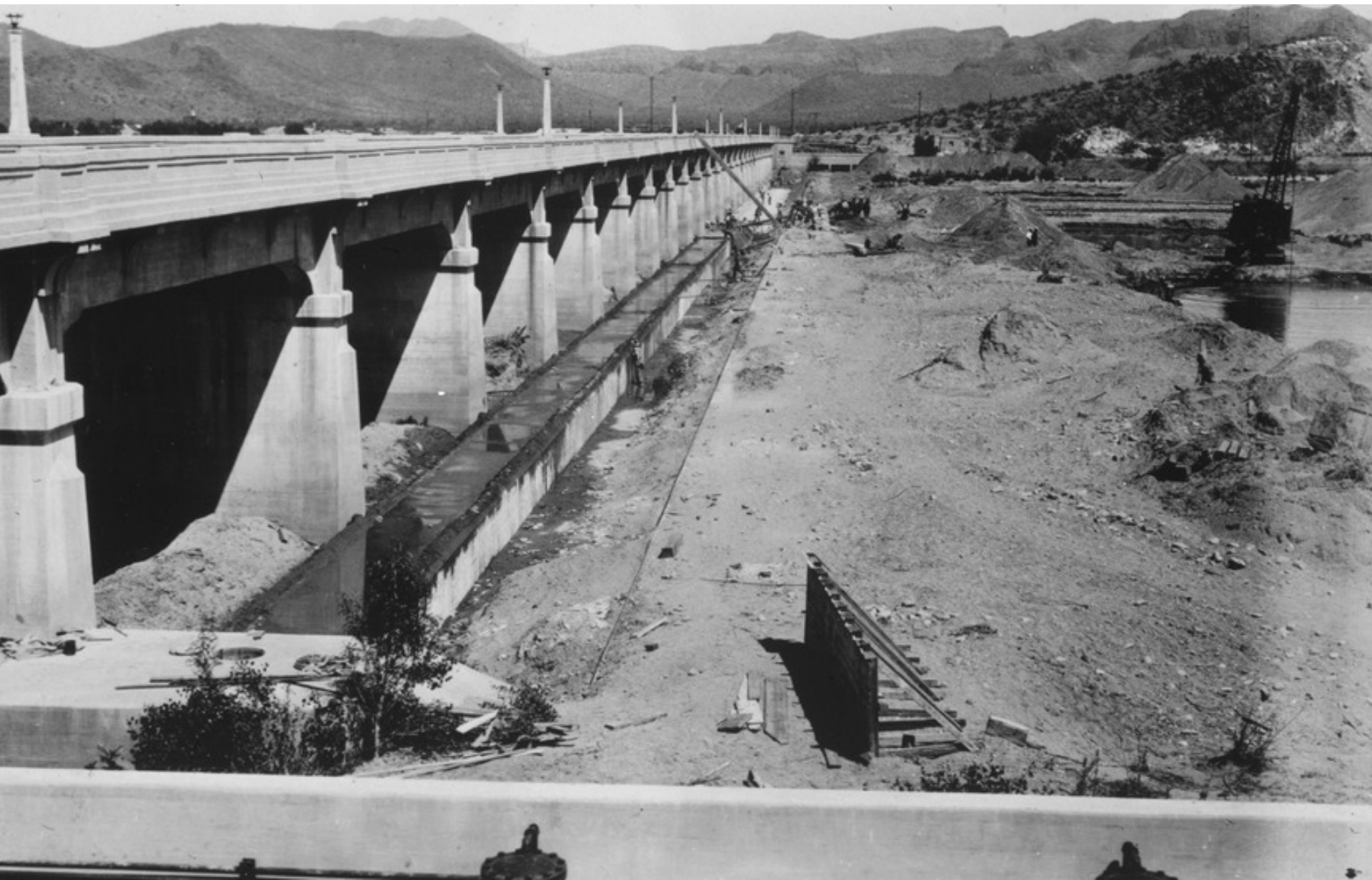


The Florence-Casa Grande Project

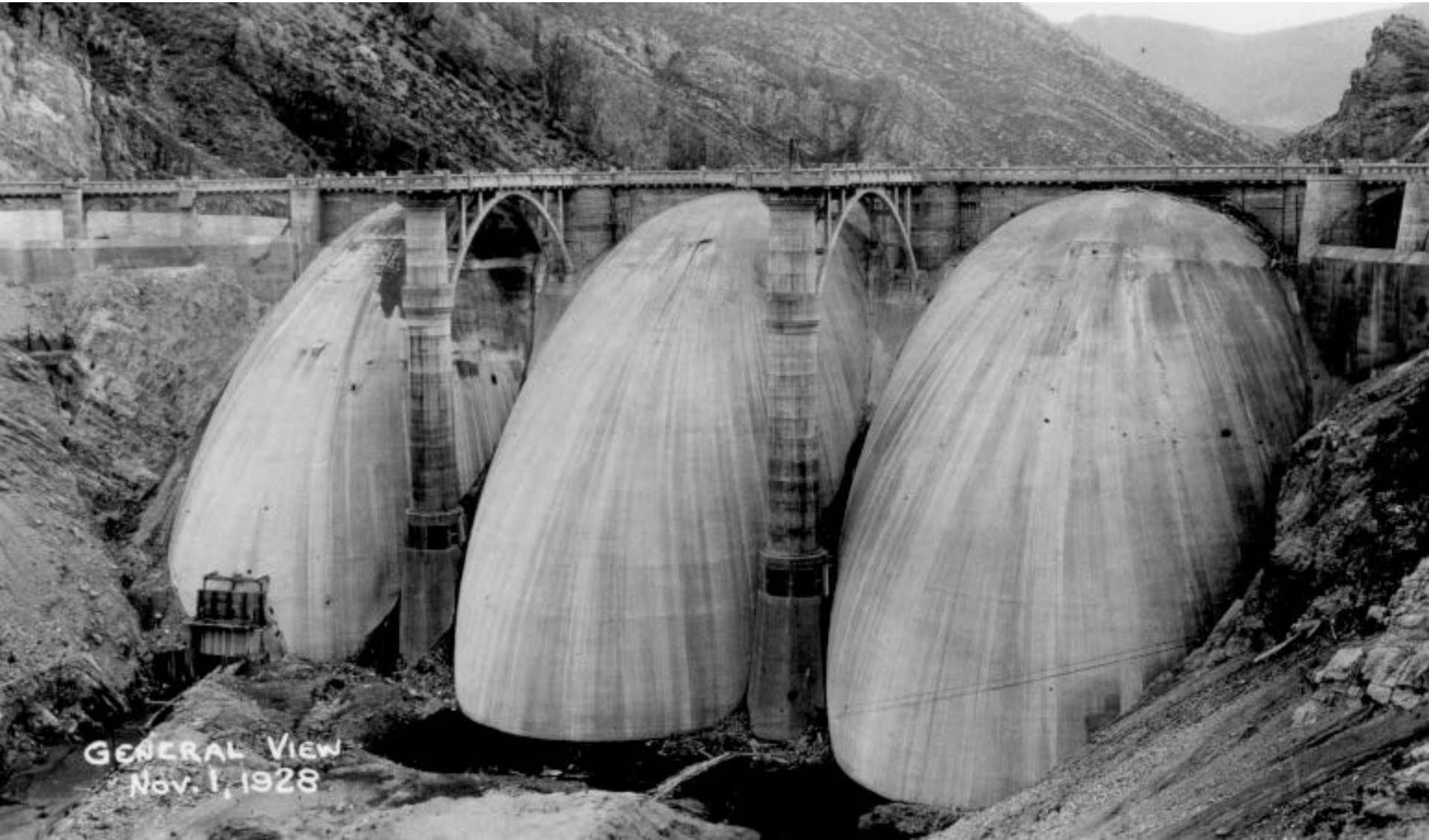


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Sacaton Diversion Dam



San Carlos Dam and San Carlos Irrigation Project



GENERAL VIEW
Nov. 1, 1928



“Subjugation” of 50,000 acres of land.

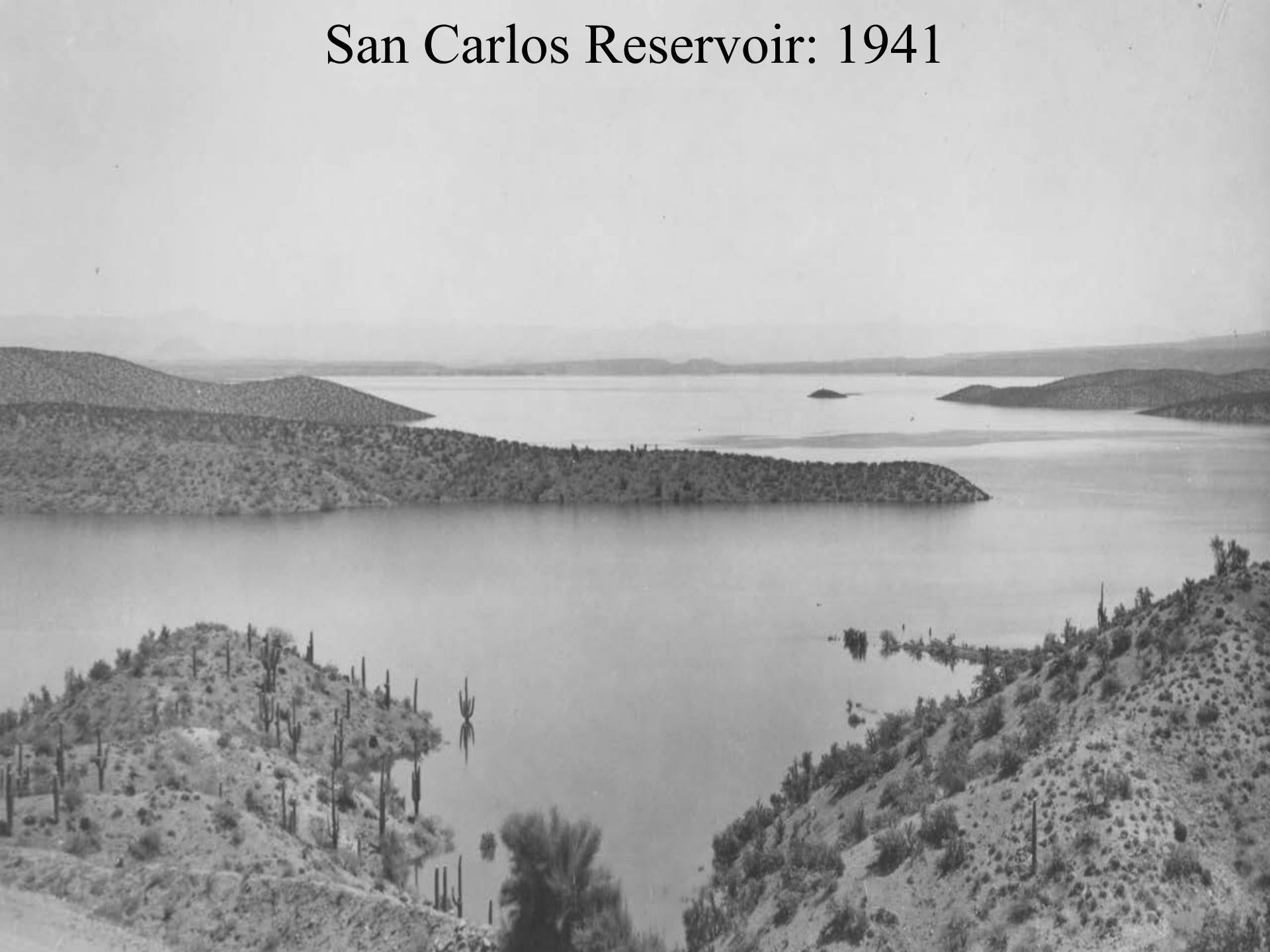


1933 subjugation in District 5.



ARIZ-253

San Carlos Reservoir: 1941



Globe Equity 59

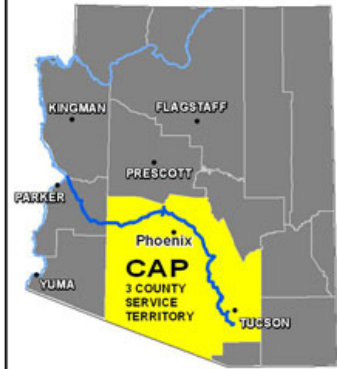
Globe Equity No. 59

In the District Court of the United States
In and for the District of Arizona

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
vs.
GILA VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT, ET AL.

DECREE ENTERED JUNE 29, 1935

CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT



○ DESIGNATES RECHARGE PROJECT

General Water Adjudication

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
En Banc

IN RE THE GENERAL ADJUDICATION OF) Supreme Court
ALL RIGHTS TO USE WATER IN THE GILA) Nos. WC-90-0001-IR
RIVER SYSTEM AND SOURCE) through WC-90-0007-IR
) (Consolidated) &
) WC-79-0001 through
) WC-79-0004
) (Consolidated)
)
) Maricopa County
) Nos. W-1, W-2, W-3,
) W-4 (Consolidated)
)
) **O P I N I O N**
_____)

Interlocutory Review of September 30, 1988 Order
Superior Court in Maricopa County
The Honorable Stanley Z. Goodfarb, Judge (retired)

- Issue 4: Do federal reserved water rights extend to groundwater (underground water) that is not subject to prior appropriation under Arizona law?
- Issue 5: Are federal reserved rights holders entitled to greater protection from groundwater pumping than are water users who hold only state law rights?

CAP WATER DELIVERY CONTRACT





Tribal leaders fought for many years to bring about the 2004 Arizona Water Settlements Act

Gila River Indian Community

Water Budget (acre-feet per year)

■	Underground Water	173,700	■	SRP Stored Water	20,000
■	Globe Equity Decree		■	Chandler Contributed	
	Water	125,000		Reclaimed Water	4,500
■	Community CAP Indian		■	Chandler Reclaimed	
	Priority Water	173,100		Water Exchange Prem.	2,230
■	RWCD CAP Water	18,600	■	Mesa Reclaimed Water	
■	RWCD Surface Water	4,500		Exchange Prem.	5,870
■	HVID CAP Water	18,100	■	New CAP NIA	
■	ASARCO CAP Water	0		Priority Water	102,000
			■	Haggard Decree Water	5,900

Water Budget ----- 653,500

Florence Canal 1887



Florence Canal 2014



The Consolidated Canal ca. 1900



Consolidated Canal Extension 2014



14 3:37 PM

September 7, 2010
Station 225+00
Looking South

Pima Canal 2010



Pima Canal 2013







“I hope that some day these once-cultivated lands may bring to coming children abundant harvests again .”

70 year-old Ho-ke Wilson of Cottonwood District (1914)

The Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project



Connected to the past.
Constructing for the future.

