

FOOD STAMPS AND COMMODITIES

WHEREAS, the Papago Indian Reservation is located in an isolated area of Southern Arizona; and

WHEREAS, there is a great need for food assistance services among the Papago People due to unemployment level of more than 40% and a per capita income of less than \$800.00 per year; and

WHEREAS, The Arizona State Legislature has refused to appropriate the funds necessary to operate the Food Stamp Program on the Papago Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the Papago Reservation encompasses approximately three million acres of land and 60 villages, with only 6 trading posts having retail food facilities; existing on-reservations retail prices average 25% above comparable Arizona prices; and, since public transportation is non-existent, transportation costs for individual families to trading posts may be as high as \$20.00 per trip; and

WHEREAS, the development of sufficient public transportation and retail facilities necessary to implement the Food Stamp Program will require time, money and effort; and

WHEREAS, participation in the Food Stamp Program among other Arizona Indian Tribes averages only one-half of the participation rate among non-Indians due to the problems cited above and to under-funded and unresponsive Arizona State mechanism; and

WHEREAS, the Papago People and District representatives have expressed a desire to continue the Program until such a time as there shall be sufficient retail and transport facilities to accommodate the Food Stamp Program; and

WHEREAS, San Lucy District has expressed an interest in returning to the Commodity Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to experiment and further acquaint the people with actual food stamp programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Papago Council does hereby request an indefinite continuation of the Commodity Food Program in accordance with the expressed wishes of its people; and as provided for in S-3458
2. The Papago Council does hereby request operation by USDA of a concurrent, Tribally designed, experimental Food Stamp Program, encompassing up to 200 families to begin operations during the next six months.
3. The Papago Council does direct the Tribal staff and officials to investigate and report on the desirability and feasibility of re-establishing the Commodity Program in San Lucy (Gila Bend) District.



4. The Papago Council does specify that the Commodity Food Program remains the only feasible program at this time and that if concurrent operation is not possible they do wish the Commodity Program continued and not be replaced by Food Stamps.

The forgoing resolution was duly enacted by the Papago Council on the 12th day of July 1974, at a meeting of which a quorum was present by a vote of 20 for; 0 against; 2 not voting and 0 absent pursuant to authority vested in the Council by Section 2 (d) of Article V of the Constitution and By-laws of the Papago Tribe of Arizona, ratified by the Tribe on December 12, 1936 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on January 6, 1937 pursuant to Section 16, of the Act of June 18, 1934, and is not subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

THE PAPAGO COUNCIL

By: Jacob A. Escalante
Jacob A. Escalante, Chairman

ATTEST:

Noreen Ignacio
Noreen Ignacio, Acting Secretary

Joseph M. Lucero
For Joseph M. Lucero, Superintendent

Date: July 31, 1974