

SUBCHAPTER XLIV—AGUA CALIENTE
(PALM SPRINGS) RESERVATION OF CALIFORNIA:
EQUALIZATION OF ALLOTMENTS

§ 951. Authority to equalize allotments

The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter called the "Secretary") is authorized and directed to do whatever is necessary and proper to equalize as nearly as possible the values of all allotments of land on the Agua Caliente (Palm Springs) Reservation in California in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 86-339, §1, Sept. 21, 1959, 73 Stat. 602.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 86-339, Sept. 21, 1959, 73 Stat. 602, as amended, which enacted this subchapter, is popularly known as the "Agua Caliente Equalization Act of 1959".

EXPIRATION OF RESTRICTION ON DISTRIBUTION OF
REVENUES FROM MINERAL SPRINGS PARCEL

Pub. L. 105-308, Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2932, provided that:

"SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

"Congress finds that—

"(1) among its purposes, the Act entitled 'An Act to provide for the equalization of allotments on the Agua Caliente (Palm Springs) Reservation in California, and for other purposes', approved September 21, 1959, commonly known as the 'Agua Caliente Equalization Act of 1959' (25 U.S.C. 951 et seq.) (referred to in this section as the 'Act') was intended to provide for a reasonable degree of equalization of the value of allotments made to members of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians;

"(2) the Act was enacted in response to litigation in Federal courts in *Segundo, et al. v. United States*, 123 F. Supp. 554 (1954);

"(3) the case referred to in paragraph (2) was appealed under the case name *United States v. Pierce*, 235 F. 2d 885 (1956) and that case affirmed the entitlement of certain members of the Band to allotments of approximately equal value to lands allotted to other members of the Band;

"(4)(A) to achieve the equalization referred to in paragraph (3), section 3 of the Act (25 U.S.C. 953) provided for the allotment or sale of all remaining tribal lands, with the exception of several specifically designated parcels, including 2 parcels in the Mineral Springs area known as parcel A and parcel B;

"(B) section 3 of the Act restricted the distribution of any net rents, profits, or other revenues derived from parcel B to members of the Band and their heirs entitled to equalization of the value of the allotments of those members;

"(C) from 1959 through 1984, each annual budget of the Band, as approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, provided for expenditure of all revenues derived from both parcel A and parcel B solely for tribal governmental purposes; and

"(D) as a result of the annual budgets referred to in subparagraph (C), no net revenues from parcel B were available for distribution to tribal members entitled to equalization under section 3 of the Act referred to in paragraph (1);

"(5) by letter of December 6, 1961, the Director of the Sacramento Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs informed the regional solicitor of the Bureau of Indian Affairs that the equalization of allotments on the Agua Caliente Reservation with respect to those members of the Band who were eligible for equalization had been completed using all available excess tribal land in a manner consistent with—

"(A) the decree of the court in the case referred to in paragraph (2); and

"(B) the Act;

"(6) in 1968, the files of the Department of the Interior with respect to the case referred to in paragraph (3), the closure of which was contingent upon completion of the equalization program, were retired to the Federal Record Center, where they were subsequently destroyed;

"(7) on March 16, 1983, the Secretary of the Interior published notice in the Federal Register that full equalization had been achieved within the meaning of section 7 of the Act (25 U.S.C. 957);

"(8) section 7 of the Act states that 'allotments in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall be deemed complete and full equalization of allotments on the Agua Caliente Reservation'; and

"(9) the regulations governing the equalization of allotments under the Act referred to in paragraph (1) were rescinded by the Secretary, effective March 31, 1983.

"SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

"In this Act:

"(1) BAND.—The term 'Band' means the Agua Caliente Band.

"(2) PARCEL B.—The term 'parcel B' means the parcel of land in the Mineral Springs area referred to as 'parcel B' in section 3(b) of the Act entitled 'An Act to provide for the equalization of allotments on the Agua Caliente (Palm Springs) Reservation in California, and for other purposes', approved September 21, 1959, commonly known as the 'Agua Caliente Equalization Act of 1959' (25 U.S.C. 953(b)).

"(3) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior.

"SEC. 3. EQUALIZATION OF ALLOTMENTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The full equalization of allotments within the meaning of section 7 of the Act entitled 'An Act to provide for the equalization of allotments on the Agua Caliente (Palm Springs) Reservation in California, and for other purposes', approved September 21, 1959, commonly known as the 'Agua Caliente Equalization Act of 1959' (25 U.S.C. 957) is deemed to have been completed.

"(b) EXPIRATION OF ENTITLEMENT.—By reason of the achievement of the full equalization of allotments described in subsection (a), the entitlement of holders of equalized allotments to distribution of net revenues from parcel B under section 3(b) of the Act entitled 'An Act to provide for the equalization of allotments on the Agua Caliente (Palm Springs) Reservation in California, and for other purposes', approved September 21, 1959, commonly known as the 'Agua Caliente Equalization Act of 1959' (25 U.S.C. 953(b)) shall be deemed to have expired.

"SEC. 4. REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—[Amended section 953(b) of this title.]

"(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply as if this section had been enacted on March 31, 1983.

"(c) SUBSEQUENT DISTRIBUTIONS.—Any per capita distribution of tribal revenues of the Band made after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 30, 1998] shall be made to all members of the Band in equal amounts."

§ 952. Members entitled to allotment; prohibition against further allotments

Any member of the Agua Caliente Band (hereinafter called the "band") who is living on September 21, 1959, and who has not received an allotment of land shall be given an allotment in accordance with the provisions of law existing prior to this Act. No further allotments of land shall thereafter be made to any other or future born members of the band, or to their heirs or devisees, except for the purpose of equalization. This prohibition against further allotments shall not be construed as a closing of the band's membership rolls.

(Pub. L. 86-339, § 2, Sept. 21, 1959, 73 Stat. 602.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The words "prior to this Act", referred to in text, mean prior to enactment of Act Sept. 21, 1959, Pub. L. 86-339.

§ 953. Lands

(a) Determination of value of unallotted and allotted lands; exclusion of deceased allottees' allotments

The Secretary shall determine on the basis of the contract appraisals that were made in 1957 and 1958 (1) the value of all unallotted tribal land, and (2) the value of the allotment of each allottee who is living on September 21, 1959, excluding the value of any improvements thereon. Where lands of a living allottee have been sold under the supervision of the Secretary, their value for the purpose of equalization shall be the amount received from such sale, excluding the value assigned to any improvements thereon. Where lands of a living allottee have been fee patented to and sold by the allottee, their value for the purpose of equalization shall be the appraised value of the lands, excluding improvements, as of the time of the sale, regardless of the amount received from the sale. The allotments of allottees who are not living on September 21, 1959 shall be excluded from the equalization program. All values so determined by the Secretary shall be final and conclusive for the purposes of this subchapter.

(b) Lands not subject to allotment

In no event shall the following tribal lands be subject to allotment, and they shall henceforth be set apart and designated as tribal reserves for the benefit and use of the band:

Cemetery numbered 1, block 235, section 14, township 4 south, range 4 east.

Cemetery numbered 2, as now constituted pursuant to secretarial order, comprising approximately two acres.

Roman Catholic Church, as now constituted pursuant to secretarial order, comprising approximately two acres.

Mineral Springs, lots 3a, 4a, 13, and 14, section 14, township 4 south, range 4 east.

San Andreas Canyon, west half southeast quarter, southeast quarter southeast quarter section 3, township 5 south, range 4 east.

Palm Canyon, south half and south half north half section 14, township 5 south, range 4 east; all section 24, township 5 south, range 4 east.

Tahquitz Canyon, southwest quarter section 22, township 4 south, range 4 east; north half section 28, township 4 south, range 4 east.

Murray Canyon, east half section 10, township 5 south, range 4 east.

(c) Equalization for living members by allotment without regard to acreage limitations; creation of right by selection and approval; allotments made subject to laws and regulations

On the basis of such values, the Secretary shall determine the highest level of equalization that is feasible for the members of the band who are living at the time of this Act by allotting all of the unallotted tribal land, except the reserved

areas listed in subsection (b) of this section, without regard to acreage limitations heretofore imposed by law. Such unallotted tribal land shall then be allotted to those members who have received allotments with a value that is less than the equalization figure deemed feasible in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary. No selection of an allotment pursuant to such procedures shall create a vested right in the land until all selections authorized by this subchapter have been made, included in one schedule, and approved by the Secretary. Allotments thereafter made shall be subject to the same laws and regulations that apply to other trust allotments on the Agua Caliente Reservation.

(d) Portions in airport subject to allotment unless sold; procedure for sale; payment of sale proceeds in lieu of allotment

The unallotted portions of section 18, township 4 south, range 5 east, and section 12, township 4 south, range 4 east, that are in the municipal airport for the city of Palm Springs shall be subject to allotment as a part of the equalization program, subject to the following qualifications: If within thirty days after September 21, 1959, a majority of the adult members of the band who are eligible to vote agree, the Secretary may offer to sell such land to the city for its appraised value on September 21, 1959, and the Secretary shall cause an independent appraisal thereof to be made by an appraiser he shall select who shall be approved jointly by the band and the city before proceeding with such appraisal, the costs for the appraisal to be shared by the band and the city; thereafter the Secretary shall review the completed appraisal and shall, if approved, then submit copies to both the band and the city for their approval which shall be either accepted or rejected in writing within thirty days; and if within three hundred and sixty-five days after joint acceptance of such appraisal by the band and the city, the city accepts the offer and tenders payment in full, the Secretary shall complete the sale, and any allottees who may have made or who may thereafter make an equalization selection from the lands sold to the city shall receive in lieu of the allotment selected his proportionate share of the proceeds of the sale.

(Pub. L. 86-339, § 3, Sept. 21, 1959, 73 Stat. 602; Pub. L. 105-308, § 4(a), Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2934.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The words "at the time of this Act", referred to in subsec. (c), mean at Sept. 21, 1959, the date of enactment of this subchapter.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 105-308, in undesignated par. relating to Mineral Springs, substituted "east." for "east: *Provided*, That no distribution to member of the band of the net rents, profits, and other revenues derived from that portion of these lands which is designated as 'parcel B' in the supplement dated September 8, 1958, to the lease by and between the Agua Caliente Band of Mission Indians and Palm Springs Spa dated January 21, 1958, or of the net income derived from the investment of such net rents, profits, and other revenues or from the sale of said lands or of as-