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Gila River Relocation Project  
Rivers, Arizona

November 13, 1942

TO THE MEMBERS AND ADVISORS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION

The committee on law and phraseology has spent five days in framing the proposed draft of the constitution herewith attached.

Please read each section of the constitution carefully. You will note that there are several matters which we have not as yet discussed at any regular commission meeting. It was the unanimous thought of the members of our committee that these matters should necessarily be included.

After considered attention and study, please bring in notes on any changes or criticisms which you may desire to make. Our next meeting of the commission will be Saturday morning, November 14 at 42-3-D. Do not fail to attend.

Joseph I. Omachi  
Chairman, Constitutional Commission

cc L. T. Hoffman  
H. J. Gabe  
W. J. Furuta  
E. Kawai  
K. Iwanaga  
Y. Hiracka  
K. Iwasaki  
H. Kuwabara

T. Yabanda  
S. Hikiida  
N. Mitsumori  
I. Otani  
H. Miyake  
F. Sakamoto  
H. Hatayama  
Y. Okuno

K. Utsunomiya, *Executive Secretary*  
K. Nobusada

Gila River Relocation Project  
Rivers, Arizona

November 17, 1942

TO: Mr. R. B. Cozzens  
FROM: Constitution Commission  
SUBJECT: Constitution

The proposed drafts of the constitution herewith attached are the result of six weeks intensive work on the part of our commission members and advisors. The following committees were instrumental in studying and drafting the various phases of the constitution:

Committee on Community Council  
Committee on Block Council and Block Chairmen Board  
Committee on Judiciary  
Committee on Law and Phraseology

Before making the final draft of the constitution, we desire suggestions and criticisms from some of the administrative staff members. Kindly retain the original draft and submit the copies to the following persons, among others whom you may deem suitable: Mr. Lewis J. Korn, Mr. John Henderson, Mr. William E. Williamson, and Mr. F. S. Frederick. Please ask these men to study the constitution and offer their criticisms to any member or advisor of our commission as soon as possible.

CONSTITUTION COMMISSION

by \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph I. Omachi  
Chairman

Names of Commission Members and Advisors:

L. T. Hoffman	T. Yahanda	3-13-D
M. J. Gaba	S. Hikida	64-7-B
W. J. Furuta 6-1-A	N. Mitsumori	60-7-A
E. Kawai 59-14-D	I. Otani	51-1-C
K. Iwanaga 8-4-B	H. Miyake	42-3-D
Y. Hiraoka 21-5-A	F. Sakamoto	57-10-B
E. Iwasaki 64-6-C	H. Hatayama	22-5-D
H. Kuwabara	Y. Okuno	61-6-C
	K. Nobusada	27-10-C
	K. Utsunomiya, Executive Secretary	48-11-3

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

In reply, please refer to:

Rivers, Arizona  
November 19, 1942

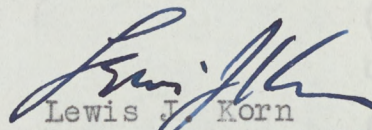
Mr. Joseph I. Omachi  
Chairman, Constitution Committee  
Gila River Relocation Center  
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Sir:

Thank you for forwarding the rough draft of the Center Constitution. Copies of the draft will be distributed to interested Project personnel, as you suggest, for their comments.

Every effort will be made to meet with you as soon as possible, so that our suggestions or comments can be offered to the Commission members and advisors in the near future.

Very truly yours,

  
Lewis J. Korn  
Acting Project Director



Gila River Relocation Project  
Rivers, Arizona

November 30, 1942

TO: Temporary Community Council  
Canal Community

FROM: Constitution Commission

SUBJECT: Constitution

On November 17, 1942 we submitted copies of the proposed draft of the Constitution of Canal Community for review, criticisms and suggestions.

The next meeting of our commission will be held on Thursday, December 3, 1942, 1:30 P.M. at 42-3-D. Please appoint a representative committee to attend this meeting and offer recommendations for such changes in the Constitution as shall have been approved by your Council.

CONSTITUTION COMMISSION

By Joseph I. Omachi  
Joseph I. Omachi  
Chairman

Gila River Relocation Project  
Rivers, Arizona

November 30, 1942

To the Members and Advisors of the Constitution Commission:

In accordance with the program agreed at our last meeting, copies of our proposed draft of the Constitution have been submitted to the Project Director and to the Community Councils of Canal and Butte Communities for their criticisms and suggestions as to any changes to be considered.

The next meeting of our commission will be on Thursday, December 3, 1942, 1:30 P. M. at 42-3-D. Representatives from the Administration and from both Councils, as well as all interested residents, have been invited to attend. Please be present at this meeting.

By Joseph I. Omachi  
Joseph I. Omachi  
Chairman

cc L. T. Hoffman  
M. J. Gaba  
W. J. Furuta  
E. Kawai  
K. Iwanaga  
Y. Hiraoka  
E. Iwasaki  
✓ ~~H. Kuwabara~~  
T. Yahanda

S. Hikida  
N. Mitsumori  
I. Otani  
H. Miyaoka  
F. Sakamoto  
H. Hatayama  
Y. Okuno  
K. Nobusada  
K. Utsunomiya, Executive Sec'y  
Ex. Sec'y.

Gila River Relocation Project  
Rivers, Arizona

December 5, 1942

To the Members and Advisors of the Constitution Commission:

The next meeting of the commission will be held  
on ~~Monday~~ <sup>Tuesday</sup> December 8, 1942, 8:30 P. M. at 42-3-D.

Among buisness to be considered is that of  
appointing a committee to work with the Project  
Attorney in writing the final draft of the Constitution.

Please attend!

Constitution Commission

By

Joseph I. Omachi  
Chairman

cc H. Terry  
L. T. Hoffman  
M. J. Gaba  
W. J. Furuta  
K. Kawai  
K. Iwanaga  
Y. Hiraoka  
R. Iwasaki  
T. Yahanda

S. Hikida  
N. Mitsumori  
I. Otani  
H. Miyake  
F. Sakamoto  
H. Hatayama  
Y. Okuno  
K. Nobusada  
K. Utsunomiya, Ex. Sec'ty.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM  
GILA RIVER PROJECT  
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Const. Comm.

December 7, 1942

TO:	W. J. Furuta	T. Yahanda
	K. Iwanaga	H. Hatayama
	Y. Hiraoka	K. Nobusada

SUBJECT: Notice of change in time

Due to conflict with the Administrative Staff Meeting on Monday afternoon, our next meeting of the Constitution Commission will be held on Tuesday morning, December 8, 1942 at 8:30 A.M. at 42-2-D instead of on Monday afternoon.

Your presence is urged!

Constitution Commission

By J. Onacchi  
Chairman

Gila River Relocation Project  
Rivers, Arizona

January 11, 1943

To the Members of the Final Draft Committee of the Constitution Commission:

Attached please find changes proposed by Mr. J. H. Terry, numbers 7 to 10, for your careful study and consideration.

Since the time of our last committee meeting, I have been informed by Mr. Terry that the Office of Solicitor of the W.R.A. at Washington D.C. is now considering certain changes in the evacuees' self government plans for relocation centers and therefore it was thought advisable to wait until these changes have been announced before continuing further with our work.

However, after studying the attached proposals, as well as the previous proposals as to changes in the Constitution, please call at the Office of the Project Attorney at Canal or at Butte to present your criticisms either to me or to Mr. Hiraoka.

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Joseph I. Ozachi  
Chairman

cc: Y. Hiraoka  
K. Iwanaga  
S. Hikida  
M. Mitsumori  
H. Miyake

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM  
GILA RIVER PROJECT  
RIVERS, ARIZONA

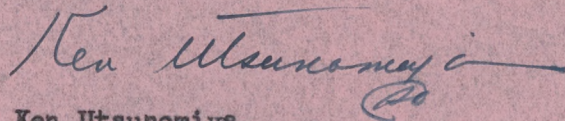
February 22, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: MR. JOE OMACHI 3-12-A

SUBJECT: Meeting of Constitution Commission

A special meeting of the Constitution Commission  
will be held on Thursday afternoon, February 25, at  
1:30 p.m. in Room 42-3-A.

Will you please arrange to be present as this  
is a very important meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ken Utsunomiya". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Ken Utsunomiya  
Executive Secretary  
Constitution Commission

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM  
GILA RIVER PROJECT  
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Self-Government

March 4, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Joe Omachi, Chairman  
Constitutional Committee

SUBJECT: Committee Resignation

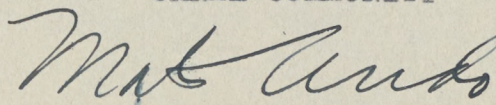
I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter to the Canal Temporary Community Council, stating the fact that the members of the Constitutional Committee desire to withdraw from that body, together with reasons set forth for their withdrawal.

The Canal Community Council appreciates very greatly the work which the Constitutional Committee has done and is fully aware of all the difficulties it has gone through to produce the draft of the Constitution as it is now. As you stated in your letter it is most probable that written instructions will come from the WRA Headquarters to the effect that Isseis will be allowed membership on the Community Council. Consequently, many changes would be necessary in the draft and we feel that it would be a good thing if more Issei members are added to the Constitutional Committee.

However, since the Committee was not created under the authority of the Community Council but rather under the authority of the Project Director, it would be impossible for us to add to this committee, or subtract from it, any of its members. The Council feels that if the Constitutional Committee desires more Issei members on its board, the Project Director would place on it as many Issei members as the Committee feels necessary.

We realize that up to the present time, the Constitutional Committee has done everything in its power as well as it was able to do under the circumstances. The Council feels that your Committee should reconsider its resignation and be on active duty so that whenever more definite instructions come from the WRA Headquarters, it will be possible for you to modify or change the Constitution accordingly.

TEMPORARY COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
CANAL COMMUNITY

  
Mats Ando  
Chairman

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
GILA RIVER PROJECT  
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Community Management Section  
Canal Community Council  
June 28, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, National Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Barr Building  
910 17th Street, N. W.  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

We, the people of Canal Community of the Gila River Project, Rivers, Arizona do realize the truth of your reason for closing this community, such as decrease of population which was caused by successful relocation of our people both to the West Coast and elsewhere. This was partly due to our desire to cooperate with your policy because of our faith in you and WRA.

However, we wish to point out some economical factors and differences of circumstance between many of those who have already relocated and those who are still remaining in this center. We will appreciate your sincere consideration on behalf of those who must relocate with the closing of this center.

Most of those who have relocated thus far have been either house or real property owners, ranch owners or possessors of other wealth which enable them to feel secure enough to go out and make their own livelihood. Also many were young and single with no worry of dependents, so naturally they had no serious housing problem to cope with nor to make them feel insecure financially.

Many among the residents now residing in this community are those who have no home to go back to. Most of us have already used or spent the bulk of whatever funds we had at the time of induction into this center. Some family heads are either too old or physically unfit to do any hard labor. Then some families with only one breadwinner and a large number of dependents do feel insecure of making a livelihood for the whole family in an outside war-time community of today. And it is natural for them to be skeptical of relocating depending only on whatever limited help they may get from the welfare agencies.

As you know, closing of one center by transferring the residents into another will not cause much difficulty or hardship to the people, as shown by the experience gained in closing of Jerome Relocation Center. This was due to a full understanding of the people of the dependability of WRA in furnishing a place to go, which was practically the same as a guarantee of security. But the closing of our community differs entirely from the previous closing of the Jerome Relocation Center and we sincerely believe many difficult problems will arise.

Although we realize that WRA is doing everything possible with the cooperation of other government, State and County agencies in returning our people to normal life, yet their combined efforts have failed so far to stop the attack incidents or to wipe out anti-Japanese American elements. Consequently some people cannot help feeling skeptical about relocating into certain insecurity of life and livelihood.

Therefore, we request that the utmost material help and protection be given to those who relocate hereafter, and in addition to the above facts we submit the following suggestions which may be of help toward the solution of some of the problems arising from the closing of this community.

#### SUGGESTIONS

1. That WRA investigate and furnish full information on places which have group relocation possibilities. Location choices for most Canal residents are California, Arizona, and Texas in order named.
2. That WRA help open farm labor camps in various parts of California.
3. That WRA temporarily loan beds, mattresses and blankets, which the residents are now using, to those who have no household goods.
4. That WRA permit representatives of groups of relocatees to make an exploratory trip to the place of their probable destination anywhere in the U. S. And pay all expenses of such exploratory trips.

5. In order to help the relocation of Canal residents, WRA should locate as much seasonal work as possible in California and permit family heads to go out on such work until closing of center.

(note) Limited WRA help is inadequate to meet the needs of some of the people with low economical circumstances when they relocate. But money saved through seasonal work plus the fact that they can look for housing while working will ease the way for calling out the rest of the family later.

6. That WRA deliver without charge all freight and baggage directly to the home of the relocatee instead of only to the nearest station.
7. That WRA help secure priority on building material for those relocatee who wish to build a temporary home or repair an old home.
8. That any commitment or promise made at the time of relocation by the center relocation officers should be faithfully kept and carried out by the Field offices.
9. That, since the relocation grant of twenty-five dollars will not even pay for one week's room and board, we request your consideration in increasing such grants as much as possible.
10. That WRA help solve housing problem wherever the choice of relocation may be.
11. That WRA store relocatee's goods without charge until relocatees finds suitable and permanent housing.  
(note) One average laborer cannot take so much baggage from one job to another until he is able to find permanent housing.
12. That WRA keep up present storage facilities for the duration of war.
13. That WRA give every consideration to old and physically disabled residents.
14. That WRA give careful consideration and same protection to some who may be unable to relocate by closing date.

15. That WRA give full information in both Japanese and English regarding all the papers that individual relocatees must sign at the time of leaving the center.

Respectively submitted,

CANAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Ben Fukuzawa, Chairman

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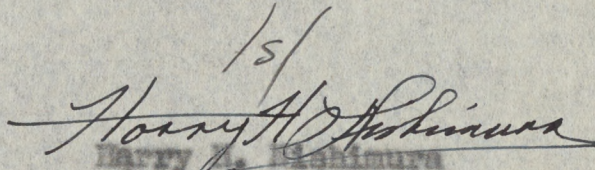
George Harada, Executive Sec'y

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM  
GILA RIVER PROJECT  
RIVERS, ARIZONA

July 16, 1945

NOTICE

Effective July 17, 1945, Chairman, Harry  
H. Nishimura, Butte Community Council will  
take a short-term leave. Acting Chairman  
for the Council will be Mr. M. Homai., 57-3-D.

15/  
  
Harry H. Nishimura  
Chairman  
Butte Community Council