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Allotments  
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Allotments within  
Black Creek Irrigation  
Project.

The Honorable

the Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

On May 21, 1901, the Commissioner of the General Land Office forwarded to this Office for investigation and report a map filed in his office by the South Western Development Company, under the Act of March 31, 1891 (26-Stat. L., 1095), in connection with its application for a right of way for a reservoir site in Sections 23 to 26 inclusive, 35 and 36, T. 24. N., R. 30 E., and Sec. 18, T. 24 N., R. 31 E., within the Navajo Extension Indian Reservation, Arizona.

It appears from reports received from Joseph G. Kent and William M. Peterson, Special Allotting Agents, and Peter Paquette, Superintendent of the Navajo Indian School, that there are 19 Indians who have received allotments of tracts within T. 24 N., R. 30 E., which will fall within the Black Creek reservoir site. These tracts have been partly irrigated by the Indians, and improvements placed thereon. The allotments have not been approved by the Department.

As a result of the investigation made by Messrs. Kent, Peterson and Maquette, they have recommended that the Indians having allotments within the proposed reservoir site be permitted to exchange their allotments for other lands which will be subject to irrigation under the Black Creek project.

It appears further that all of the available lands in this vicinity, within the Navajo Extension Reservation, have been allotted. Mr. Peterson in his letter of November 13, 1909, enclosed herewith, reports that at a meeting of the Indians held on November 3, 1909, they agreed to take a section of land covered by the Black Creek project, in lieu of the lands tentatively allotted to them within the proposed reservoir site, to be allotted in severalty to the Indians having these tentative allotments, and to be furnished with water by the South Western Development Company, and requested him to select a section of land for this purpose.

Mr. Peterson recommends that Section 20, T. 20 N., R. 27 E., G. and S. R. M. be reserved for these lieu allotments, as the most desirable section that can be procured for this purpose. An informal inquiry at the General Land Office discloses the fact that this section is entirely vacant.

Final arrangements have not been made with the South Western Development Company for the relinquishment of the Indians' rights within the proposed reservoir site,

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but it is deemed advisable to preserve Sec. 20, T. 20 N.,  
R. 27 E., for allotment purposes when such final arrangement  
has been made.

It is respectfully recommended, therefore, that  
Sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 27 E., S. and P. M. E., Arizona,  
be reserved from all forms of settlement and entry, pending  
the allotment thereof to Indians losing their allotment rights  
by reason of the Black Creek Irrigation Project.

It is respectfully requested that the enclosed  
communication from Mr. Peterson be returned to the files  
of this office.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) R. G. Valentino,  
Commissioner.

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Approve and referred to the Commissioner of  
the General Land Office for action in accord-  
ance with the foregoing recommendations:

*Signed R. A. Bulling*

Assistant Secretary.