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Subject:-
Irrigation system for the Hopis.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
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APR 2 - 1909
File 25182

Keams Canon, Arizona

The Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs. March 24, 1909.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to state that I have progressed far enough with the work of allotting lands to the Moquis to believe that the work can be accomplished satisfactorily to all parties concerned, but it would greatly facilitate my work if I could give the Indians some assurance, that the Government would put in an irrigation system for them in the near future.

They have to depend entirely on flood waters for irrigation, and even this source of supply is rapidly getting beyond their control; about one half ~~of~~ one per cent of the flood waters that came down the valleys last summer was utilized by the Indians; I find about 2000 acres less irrigable land at Oraibi now, than there was four years ago.

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One half the people have no land that can be irrigated; they have to depend on the scanty rain-fall of less than six inches per annum.

I have not found a suitable reservoir site in the

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vicinity of any of the villages; but I am of the opinion that a reservoir site is not necessary, but that a much cheaper system can be put in that will answer the needs of the Indians until they can afford a water system of their own.

I have the honor to inclose a rough sketch of a plan that may serve as a basis for your irrigation engineers to devise a system.

Very respectfully,
Matthew M Murphy
Spl Allotting agent
Moqui Reservation

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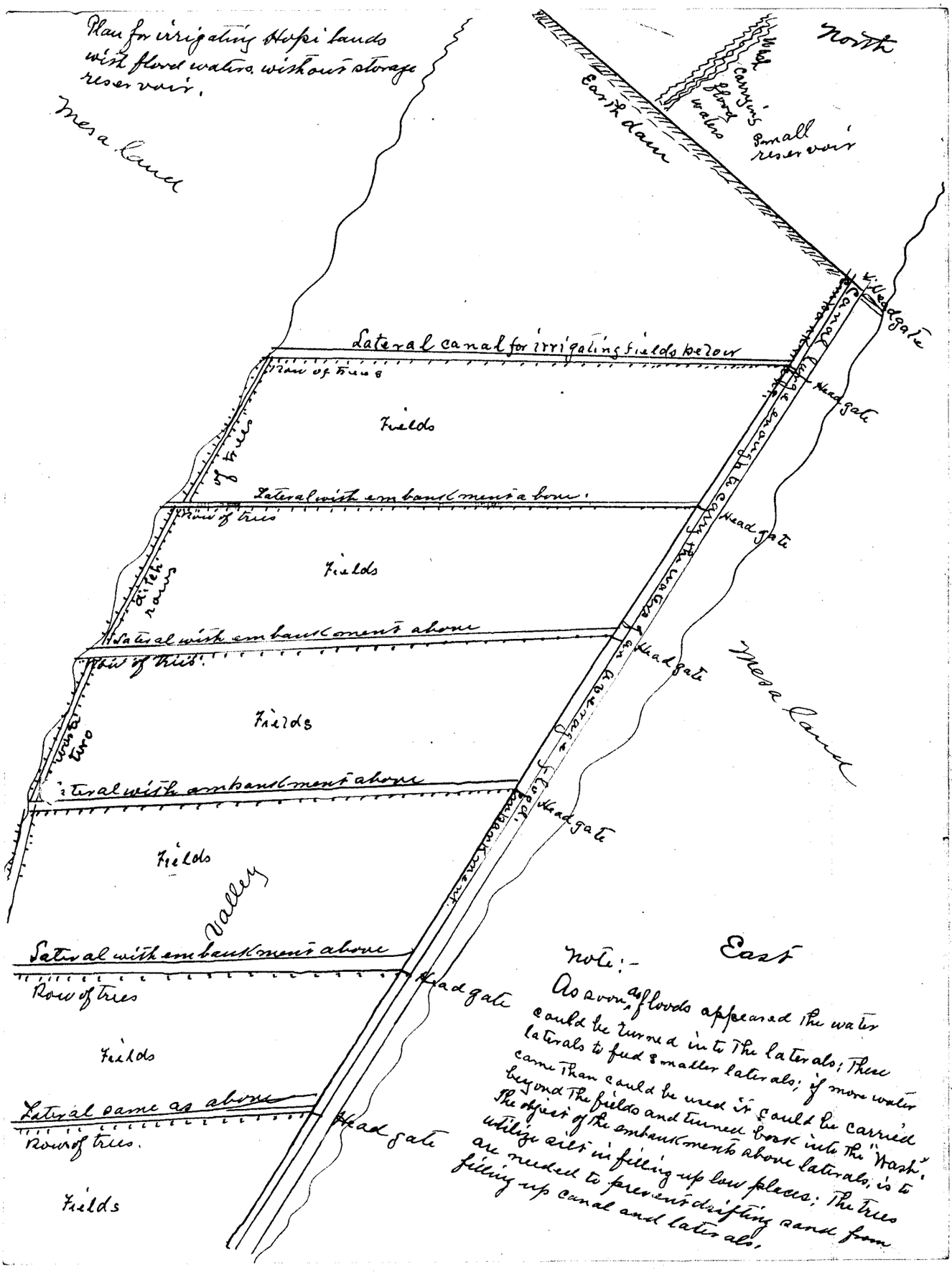
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