



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
3022 Federal Building
Phoenix 25, Arizona

February 12, 1962

Mr. James C. Witty
4123 East Solano Drive
Phoenix 18, Arizona

Dear Mr. Witty:

Your letter of January 17, 1962, to the Secretary of the Interior regarding Federal lands in the vicinity of Squaw Peak has been referred to this office in order that we may provide you with additional information regarding the status of the lands.

The lands which are situated in sections 34 and 35, T. 3 N., R. 3 E., and section 3, T. 2 N., R. 3 E., have been and are still involved in considerable controversy. All or portions of the parcels are affected by claims located under the general mining laws, an application for exchange, and an application for selection, both filed by the State of Arizona, and applications under the provisions of the Small Tract Act.

During an examination of the area, officials of the City of Phoenix were contacted and it became evident that the lands had potential value for recreation purposes as an addition to the Squaw Peak Park. The City of Phoenix could not file an application since the lands were embraced in a prior exchange application filed by the State of Arizona. This matter, however, was discussed with officials of the State and a solution of the conflict is possible.

Before final action can be taken to meet the desires of the City, prior existing rights must be considered and adjudicated. The initial step in this process was consideration of the small tract applications. This resulted in a decision holding the applications for rejection. Some of the applicants appealed the action and the cases are now pending in the Office of The Secretary as indicated in your letter.

We are initiating an investigation to determine the validity of the mineral claims affecting the lands. Once this has been completed, we will then be in a position to consider the possibility of transferring title to the City of Phoenix under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. In the meantime, however, the lands are being classified for recreation purposes under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. This will segregate the lands pending consideration of any existing rights.

As you can see, the status of the lands is quite complicated and it will take considerable time to adjudicate the asserted rights. You may rest



assured, however, that we are well aware of the desires of the City and their needs for lands to meet the demands for public recreation sites.

If you have any additional questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred J. Waller".

Fred J. Waller
State Director