California Sup't. No 657

P. J. Hearley
San Fran. Augt 28th 1854

I have corresponded with Sub-Agent W. H.
Hanna respecting the Young
Pipe of Indians. Their abode
etc.

Reed 28 Sept 1854

Augst 30th Sept 1854
Report to Secretary of the
Interior Oct 6th 1854.
Office Indian Affairs
San Fco, cal. Aug. 28/34

Geo. W. Ewing, Secy.
Commr. of Indian Affairs
Washington
2d

Sir:

Inclosed herewith,

Copies of letters relative to the business appertaining to this Superintendent: one from W. H. Harvey, and my reply thereto.

I am,

Very respectfully,

Thos. J. Hanks
Supt.
Fort Yuma, Colorado River
July 15th, 1854

Col. Thomas Kenley
My Dear Sir,

I learned a few days ago that Lieut. Beale has been removed from the Superintendency of Indian Affairs in this State, and that you have been appointed in his place.

If such be the case, I request of you that I may be continued in my present situation as Sub. Indian Agent of this Yuma Tribe living on this River. I have undergone much fatigue and hardship in travelling among them up and down this River, ascertaining their number, condition, habits, and a suitable place for a reservation. I had commenced a report for Lieut. Beale, but as I suppose he has been removed, I will not finish it until I hear from you. I have selected a place for a reservation. I was ordered to do so by Beale, he also ordered me to have it surveyed. I have selected a place between the junction of the Gila and Colorado. It is in New Mexico.

The Indians in this region live by cultivating the soil. We have on this like all other
Rivers in California an annual flood or overflow, which depends upon the quantity of snow that has fallen in the Mountains. After the water passes off from the low or overflowed lands they then plant, the ground retaining a sufficient moisture to mature their crops.

Unfortunately there will be no flood this year and as the Indians cannot plant they will be in a starving condition. They will if something is not done for them commit depredations on the stock of the immigrants as they pass by on their way to Upper California.

This in all probability would produce a war. I would advise that some two or three hundred Beef Cattle be issued to them. Humanity and policy both demand it. I can by cutting a ditch or Saker on the place that I have selected irrigate from five to ten thousand acres of land and as soon as the first crop could be gathered from that time they would cease to be one dollar expense. The reservation should be surveyed immediately, this Country is attracting considerable attention, the people will soon begin to take up pre-emption claims.

Will you write me immediately and let me know if I am to be retained. If I shall have the reservation surveyed, if I shall contract for the Beef, I have been offered
Beef Cattle to be delivered on this River for forty-five dollars per head. Should I be continued I want to commence collecting the Indians on the Reservation immediately. Should you order me to proceed I will then make out and send to you such a bill for Seeds, Tools and other things as may be required. It will not take a very heavy outlay to get everything in fine condition if properly managed.

I remain Yours Col with great respect

(signed) Walter H. Harvey

P.S. You will please write by Adams & Co. express, San Diego, to the care of Maj. McKinstry
Los Angeles, Cal. July 30th, 1854

Maj. W. B. Harney,
Fort Yuma,
Cal.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your favor of the 15th instant.

In reply, I have to inform you, that the appropriation of the Indian Superintendency for the last year is expended, and that for the present year has not yet been passed by Congress; at least, I am not advised of its passage. I cannot, therefore, make any arrangements for any further expenditure of money, until I know the amount appropriated, which I cannot ascertain in time to do anything in time to save the Yuma Indians.

I regret to hear of the probability of suffering among the Indians in that quarter during the ensuing winter; but hope you may be enabled to induce them to some extent at least to avert the impending calamity by a resort to industry and economy in utilizing with their resources which are at their command.
It will be well to tell the Indians this, what is but the plain truth, that, while the Government is anxious to relieve them, and will in another year be able to provide them with the means to sustain themselves by their own labor, yet at this time it is unwise to afford them any assistance, and that whatever is done for them hereafter will depend upon their good conduct.

You will proceed to carry out the instructions of the Deale, except as to surveying the Reservation, which need not be done. You will be careful also not to incur any expense whatever, except your own personal expense. You will send me your estimate for seeds, tools, &c., for the reservation, and I will supply you in the best manner the appropriation will admit of. The report you allude to as having been prepared for the Deale you will please forward immediately to San Francisco, Cal., addressed to me.

It is my wish that you will remain in your present position so long as the service of any one may be needed in that quarter.

Yours tr.,

[Signature]

Thos. J. Scully
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.