Previously known as the Yuma Indians, the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation have always lived in the Colorado River Valley. Their land borders California and Mexico, and the Reservation was established in 1884.

Quechan (pronounced “kwuh-tns”) means “those who descended.” Their distinct language, the native tongue of southeastern California and southwestern Arizona, is believed to be spoken by just a few hundred people.

Their location along the Colorado River has meant a long history of trading and exchange networks with other tribes, as well as battles over land.

According to the 2010 decennial census, 2,733 Quechan live on the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation.

LOCATION
The Fort Yuma Quechan Reservation is 45,000 acres near Yuma, Arizona, and is bisected on the south by Interstate 8. Its location means that several million cars drive through the Reservation each year on their way to and from Phoenix or Tucson and San Diego, California.
SOCIAL & HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS*

The Quechan Tribe is a young community. The under-18 population accounts for 35.6 percent of all tribal members, which is considerably higher than the State of Arizona as a whole. The median age for the tribe is 26.9, compared to a median age of 35.9 for the State.

There are approximately 827 occupied housing units on the Fort Yuma Reservation. Roughly half (51 percent) are owner-occupied. Approximately 40 percent of the community lives in a Census-defined rural area.

The Quechan Tribe is made up of diverse households. Households are more likely to be multigenerational (10.5 percent) than the State (4.9 percent), defined by the Census as more than two generations living together. Less than half of households are traditional married-couple families (32.5 percent), and households headed by a single female make up 28 percent of all households.

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Economic characteristics are not available for the Quechan from the 2010 Decennial Census. According to the 2000 Census, the median household income for the Quechan Tribe was $30,500. At that time, 30 percent of Quechan members lived below the federal poverty level.

In terms of occupation, 29 percent of those employed) worked for the government in 2000.

ENTERPRISES

The Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe operates the Paradise Casino in Yuma, Arizona. The tribe also operates a sand and gravel operation, a seasonal parking lot in Andrade, five trailer and RV parks, a small grocery store, and a museum. The Tribe’s 700-acre farm is leased to non-tribal members.

*All statistics on this page are from the 2010 Decennial Census unless otherwise noted.*
FORT YUMA-QUECHAN TRIBE CONSTITUTION

Articles of the Quechan Tribal Constitution that may pertain to institutional research protocol:

Article IV - Powers of the Council

Section 1. The Tribal Council shall have the power:

(a) To negotiate with the federal, state, and local governments on behalf of the Tribe:

Section 6. The Council shall have the power to regulate, license, and levy fees upon non-members doing business within the jurisdiction of the Tribe. This shall not apply to churches or schools.

Section 7. The Council shall have the power to promulgate ordinances for the purpose of safeguarding the peace and safety of residents of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, and to establish minor courts for the adjudication of claims or disputes arising amongst the members of the Tribe and for the trial and punishment of members of the Tribe charged with the commission of offenses set forth in such ordinances.

Section 11. The Council shall have the power to encourage and protect the public health and morals and to promote the public welfare by appropriate regulation of the activities of members of the Tribe.

Section 14. The Council may exercise such further powers as may be delegated to the Quechan Tribal Council by qualified officials or agencies of government.

Section 15. The Council shall have power to regulate its own procedure by ordinance or resolution.

Federal

42 USC § 3515b requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to adopt appropriate regulations for the use of federal funds to pay for any research program or project, or any program, project, or course which is of an experimental nature, or any other activity involving human participants that presents a danger to the physical, mental, or emotional well-being of a participant or subject.

45 C.F.R. § 46.101 requires that research supported by a federal department or agency (defined by 45 C.F.R. § 46.102(e)) must be reviewed and approved by an institutional review board.