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February 24, 2004

Mr. Robert J. Salgado, Sr., Chairman  
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians  
P.O. Box 487  
San Jacinto, CA 92581

Dear Chairman Salgado,

This letter is to inform you of the action that I am urging the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to take on behalf of the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians. On Tuesday, March 2, at our regularly scheduled Board meeting, I will be introducing Resolution 2004-108, a resolution in support of your Band and the passage of their settlement legislation.

Our Board is well aware of the fact that the Soboba Indians lived alongside the San Jacinto River in our County, where your 6,000-acre reservation has existed since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. We also know that the Band at one time flourished with lush fields of grapes, melons, beans and corns, and orchards of peaches, pears and apricots. But the water in the area disappeared when newcomers arrived and diverted and dammed the river and its tributaries.

Now, after 10 years of negotiation, the Band has reached a settlement with the Eastern and Lake Hemet Municipal Water Districts and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California that will resolve a multitude of claims, some over a century old, for the disastrous effects of the lost water. The settlement also will quantify the Band's water rights and – together with a water management plan being developed by the area's non-Indian water users – will protect the water resources of the valley from future depletion.

When approved by Congress and the President, the settlement will bring to a close more than 120 years of conflict and struggle between the Soboba Band and its neighbors over the San Jacinto River basin's water resources. Moreover, it will do so in a way that ensures not only the future of the Soboba Indians, but also the future of the region's water supply for the area's inhabitants.

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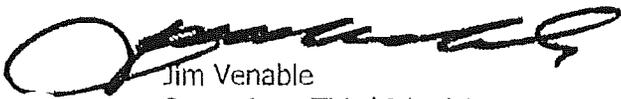
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Salgado Letter, continued  
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Again, Chairman Salgado, I will urge my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors to adopt this resolution and in so doing show support for the Band and their desire to have this settlement legislation resolved quickly. I fully understand the Band's need for this legislation, and all that it will mean not only to the Band, but also to the economic health of the entire area. I also stand willing to help in any other way necessary, including traveling with members of your Tribal Council to Washington, D.C. to lobby for the expeditious resolution of this issue.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if there is any additional assistance that we can provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Venable", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Venable  
Supervisor, Third District

JV:msm