

RINCON LUISEÑO BAND OF INDIANS

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Resolution No. 2004-05

RESOLUTION OF THE RINCON SAN LUISEÑO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

Resolution of Support for the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians' Water and Land Rights Settlement Negotiations and Support for the Passage of Settlement Legislation

- WHEREAS, the Rincon San Luiseno Band of Mission Indians ("Rincon") is organized pursuant to the Articles of Association adopted on February 14, 1960 and approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs on March 15, 1960; and
- WHEREAS, the Rincon Tribal Business Committee (the "Rincon Business Committee") has been empowered pursuant to Section 6, subsection (b), of the Articles of Association to manage tribal lands and resources; and
- WHEREAS, the Rincon Business Committee believes that it is important to protect and promote the tribal sovereign governmental rights, the cultural identity, and the interests of federally recognized tribes;
- WHEREAS, the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians (Soboba Tribe) has lived in the area alongside the San Jacinto River in California where their reservation now exists since long before the Spaniards first arrived in the vicinity in the 16th century; and
- WHEREAS, the Soboba Tribe built the first irrigation ditch in the San Jacinto Valley, and when American settlers entered the valley in the 1860s, the Soboba Tribe possessed a self-sustaining agricultural economy, built upon the Tribe's rich water resources; and
- WHEREAS, the Soboba Tribe's water supplies began disappearing when the newcomers diverted water from the San Jacinto River and built dams in upstream tributaries; and
- WHEREAS, by the dawn of the 20th century there was starvation in what had been a lush region of grape vineyards, rows of melons, beans and corn, and extensive orchards of peaches, pears, apricots, and oranges; and

- WHEREAS,** in the 1930s the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California dug a 13-mile tunnel through the San Jacinto Mountains, about 3.5 miles northwest of the Soboba Tribe's reservation, which pierced underground faults and fractures in the mountains that dammed large amounts of water underneath the reservation, causing groundwater to flood into the tunnel and causing the springs, creeks, and wells on the reservation to dry up; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1950 the Tribe sued the federal government in the Indian Claims Commission for failing to protect it from the effects of the San Jacinto tunnel, as well as from the groundwater pumping and upstream diversions of surface water that depleted the reservation's water resources; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States government settled the aforementioned lawsuit in 1991 and joined with the Tribe in attempting to negotiate an overall resolution of the reservation's water-related claims; and
- WHEREAS,** such negotiations involved the Eastern and Lake Hemet Municipal Water Districts, the Metropolitan Water District, the Department of Interior, and the Soboba Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the parties expect to finalize the terms of the settlement of the land and water claims by the end of 2003 and expect to introduce settlement legislation in the 108th Congress; and
- WHEREAS,** the terms of the settlement for the Soboba Tribe include: an adequate and secure future water supply; funds from local water districts for economic development; funds from the United States for water development; and 128 acres of replacement land for commercial development.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rincon Business Committee does hereby support the resolution of the ongoing negotiations between the Soboba Tribe, the Eastern and Lake Hemet Municipal Water Districts, the Metropolitan Water District, and the Department of Interior in order to reach a water and land settlement that is consistent with federal law; and

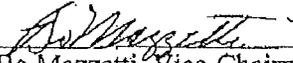
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rincon Business Committee encourages the full support of the settlement legislation by the Department of Interior and urges the passage by Congress of the Soboba Tribe's settlement legislation.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, as the Chairperson and Secretary of the Business Committee, governing body of the Rincon Band of Mission Indians, do hereby certify that the Business Committee is composed of five (5) members of whom 5 constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly held on the 5th day of February, 2004, and that foregoing Resolution was adopted by the affirmative vote of 5 members.



John D. Currier, Chairperson
Rincon Tribal Business Committee



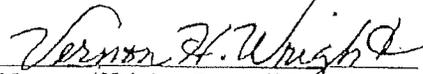
Bo Mazzetti, Vice-Chairperson
Rincon Tribal Business Committee



Stephanie Spencer, Council Member
Rincon Tribal Business Committee



Gilbert Parada, Council Member
Rincon Tribal Business Committee



Vernon Wright, Council Member
Rincon Tribal Business Committee



Cheryl Blackowl
Executive Secretary