

**For Immediate Release  
Friday, August 20, 2004**

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**STATEMENT ON DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR APPROVAL OF COMPACTS**

The following statement was issued jointly today by the chairpersons of the Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians, the Pala Band of Mission Indians, the Pauma Band of Mission Indians, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and the United Auburn Indian Community.

“We have worked side-by-side with Governor Schwarzenegger in order to come to agreement on a set of compacts that are a win for everyone involved, for the state of California and for our tribes. We are proud to have been in a position to help California through its budget difficulties, and we are grateful for the opportunities that these compacts present both to our tribes and to the people of the state.

“We are particularly proud of our tribal members for their leadership in recognizing the necessity to be the first to move the state and tribes forward in their ever-growing relationship. In addition, we are grateful to both Secretary Norton and Governor Schwarzenegger for their work on behalf of these compacts and for their kind words. (Secretary Norton’s statement is included below.)

“This is truly a team effort – between the U.S. government, the state of California, and the five sovereign nations our tribes represent. Throughout this process, our tribes were treated with respect. All of the participating governments were able to exercise the prerogatives of sovereignty, while still respecting each other’s responsibilities to their own people. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the people of California to provide a better future for all of our people.”

Chairman Chris Devers (Pauma Band of Mission Indians)  
Chairwoman Paula Lorenzo (Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians)  
Chairman Anthony Pico (Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians)  
Chairman Robert Smith (Pala Band of Mission Indians)  
Chairwoman Jessica Taveres (United Auburn Indian Community)

**STATEMENT FROM U.S. INTERIOR SECRETARY GALE NORTON**

"I applaud Governor Schwarzenegger and the leadership of the five tribes for working to develop compacts that will benefit both the tribes and the people of California," Interior Secretary Gale Norton said.