

Office of the Secretary

For Immediate Release: October 11, 2002

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**DEPUTY INTERIOR SECRETARY GRILES, FIVE TRIBAL CHAIRMEN, METROPOLITAN
OFFICIALS SIGN PRINCIPLES KEY TO REACHING CALIFORNIA (4.4) PLAN FOR
COLORADO RIVER WATER SUPPLIES**

Mayors of Escondido, Vista are also document signatories

WHAT: Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior Steven Griles leads list of dignitaries signing principles for a settlement that is key to a "California Plan" for the state's reduced use of Colorado River water.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15

WHERE: Metropolitan Water District, 700 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles, immediately adjacent to Union Station; Thomas Guide pg. 634, G-H 3.

WHO: Deputy Secretary of the Interior Steven Griles; Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs Neal McCaleb; Metropolitan Chairman Phillip J. Pace;

Metropolitan CEO Ronald Gastelum; Ronald Jaeger, regional director, Bureau of Indian Affairs; Virgil Townsend, Southern California superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs; Escondido Mayor Lori Pfeiler; and the Chairman of the Vista Irrigation District Board

MEDIA AVAILABILITY:

Deputy Secretary Griles will be available for brief interviews immediately after the event; mult box and camera lights will be provided.

BACKGROUND:

To help reach settlement of a 34-year-old water rights dispute involving the San Luis Rey River in San Diego County, Metropolitan has agreed in principle to exchange or purchase up to 16,000 acre-feet of Colorado River

water to be provided by the Department of Interior annually. Beneficiaries of the agreement are the La Jolla, Pala, Pauma, Rincon, and San Pasqua bands of Mission Indians, the city of Escondido, and Vista Irrigation District. Water from Metropolitan would supplement local water supplies in resolving the dispute.

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