



Sam Abed
Mayor
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October 22, 2015

The Honorable John C. Fleming, Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**Subject: H.R. 1296 – Congressman Duncan Hunter’s Bill to
Implement the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement**

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The City of Escondido, California, appreciates you and the distinguished Members of the Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee conducting the October 28, 2015 hearing regarding an important amendment to the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act. The City of Escondido supports passage of H.R. 1296. Please accept this letter as written testimony for the hearing record.

H.R. 1296 approves and ratifies the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement, which has been executed by all of the parties: the City of Escondido, the Vista Irrigation District, and our neighbors, the Pala, Pauma, Rincon, San Pasqual and La Jolla Bands of Mission Indians as well as the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice.

I want to emphasize that H.R. 1296 contains no appropriations, earmarks or other financial considerations. The bill merely implements the terms of the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act which was sponsored by Congressman Ron Packard and authorized by Congress in 1988. The supplemental water authorized and the financial contribution appropriated by the 1988 Act satisfy the terms of the Settlement Agreement. No future legislation by Congress or additional contribution of water or money by the United States is necessary. Indeed, the Settlement Agreement shields the United States from potential future expense by providing waivers and releases of liability in favor of the United States.

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The Settlement Agreement represents the culmination of 46 long years of work among the City of Escondido, the Vista Irrigation District and each of the Bands to resolve disputes over the waters of the San Luis Rey River. In doing so, we will secure water supplies not only for the Bands but for the more than 300,000 residents of north San Diego County served by the City of Escondido and the Vista Irrigation District. We will save millions of dollars in legal fees. But most importantly, H.R. 1296 will finally give the City and the Vista Irrigation District the ability to improve long term water supply and efficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this important legislation.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Abed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam Abed
Mayor