



NEWS RELEASE

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Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians Rescues Jaycees Christmas Parade

Escondido city officials announced today that the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians of Valley Center has donated \$15,000 in security costs needed to hold the Jaycees Annual Christmas Parade. The Christmas parade, a 56 year tradition, has been in jeopardy of being cancelled after city officials said they could no longer subsidize this expense due to cutbacks in the city's budget.

"The Rincon Band of Indians has given Escondido an early Christmas present today and we couldn't be happier," said Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler.

According to Bo Mazzetti, vice chairman of the Rincon Tribal Council, the Rincon tribe has long shared a relationship with Escondido. "The tribal council is grateful that the Rincon Band has the means at this time in our history to help out a community whose schools educated generations of Rincon tribal members and, in which many of our members have resided historically and into the present," he stated. Mazzetti added, "We are pleased to be able to express our appreciation for this important holiday tradition and support its continued celebration."

The Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians governs a 5,000-acre reservation in Valley Center. Established in 1875, the Rincon tribe is a sovereign government, recognized by the Constitution of the United States, federal law and policy and court precedent. As such, the tribal government has many responsibilities and powers equal to city, county, state governments, and even the federal government, with which tribes have a government-to-government relationship.

Owners of Harrah's Rincon Resort and Casino, the tribe uses profits from this, and other commercial enterprises located on the reservation, to provide legislative, regulative, administrative governmental services and legal jurisdiction on behalf of the Rincon people. Federal law restricts the expenditure of gaming profits to tribal government programs and services, but allows for charitable contributions to other governments and non-profits.

The Rincon Band, which now enjoys an economic partnership with neighboring communities, shares its good fortune with North County San Diego, through tribal government donations to worthy causes that contribute to the welfare and health of the region. In addition, the Rincon tribal government provides increased fire and police protection to the surrounding communities with a state of the art fire station and contract with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department for extra law enforcement protection.

Rincon's democratically elected tribal council members are: Vice Chairman Bo Mazzetti, and Council Members Gilbert Parada, Stephanie Spencer, and Charlie Kolb.

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