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**SAN MANUEL VICE CHAIRPERSON APPOINTED TO NATIONAL INDIAN
MUSEUM BOARD**

Washington, DC – February 5, 2009 – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is proud to announce that the appointment of Vice Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena to the Board of Trustees for the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) was ratified recently by the Smithsonian Institution’s Board of Regents. Valbuena’s initial three-year term as Trustee begins on January 1, 2009.

The National Museum of the American Indian was established in November 1989 and is the first national museum in the country dedicated exclusively to Native Americans, the first to present all exhibitions from a Native viewpoint and the first constructed on the National Mall since 1987. A number of tribal nations made significant financial contributions to the development and construction of the museum.

“I am honored to have been considered for this important appointment by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC,” Valbuena said. “The National Museum of the American Indian has an opportunity to serve a critical role in bridging the cultural divide between indigenous people of the Americas and the rest of the world. It’s a wonderful place to learn about indigenous cultures and I look forward to contributing to its success.”

The Board of Trustees currently includes twenty-five members representing various sections of the Western Hemisphere. The NMAI is a part of the prestigious Smithsonian Institution, which operates numerous public museums in Washington, DC and other cities in the country.

“Vice Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena is precisely the kind of board member we need,” said Kevin Gover, Director of the museum. “With her leadership skills, knowledge of museums and other non-profits, she will contribute greatly to the museum’s mission.”

Lynn has been actively involved with national, regional and local organizations, including service on the governing boards of the National Indian Gaming Association, the Autry National Center, San Bernardino Valley Lighthouse for the Blind, and the YMCA San Bernardino. She is currently chairwoman of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations, an organization of tribal governments throughout south-central California. For more than nine years, Valbuena has been active member of the Advisory Council for the California American Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Valbuena's appointment to the Board of Trustees was ratified by the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents in September 2008. She took her position on January 1 and is attending her first meeting this week in Washington, DC, as Trustee.

ABOUT THE SAN MANUEL BAND OF SERRANO MISSION INDIANS

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Despite challenges and hardships, the San Manuel tribal community has continued to progressively maintain and enhance its unique form of governance - focusing all efforts on providing a better quality of life for its citizens. Through economic diversification, both on and off the reservation, the tribe has been forward thinking in its efforts to build infrastructure, maintain civil services and promote social, economic, educational and cultural development. Today, the San Manuel tribal government has created essential governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment and continues to pursue opportunities for future generations.

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