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**TASIN Chairperson Lynn Valbuena Receives Prestigious John Kieffer Award
from National Indian Gaming Association**

*San Manuel tribal member honored for years of service, dedication to Native
American economic development and sovereignty*

August 19, 2003, Prior Lakes, MN - Lynn Valbuena, Chairperson of the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations (TASIN) and member of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians received the prestigious 2003 John Kieffer Award last night. The award honors outstanding Native Americans for exemplary service and dedication to the cause of Native American economic development, from the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA). Ms. Valbuena shares this year's award with Mark F. Brown, Chairman of the Mohegan Band of Indians in Connecticut.

The John Kieffer Award recognizes excellence in service and commitment to the NIGA, the protection and advancement of Native American economic development, as well as advocacy on behalf of American Indian sovereignty. John Kieffer was a member of the Spokane Tribe of Indians of Eastern Washington and served as a NIGA Executive Committee member from 1993 until his death in 1999.

"I am truly honored by this wonderful award," Ms. Valbuena stated. "Sovereignty is the backbone, the foundation of everything we do."

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Mrs. Valbuena was recently re-elected to a fourth consecutive term as Secretary of the 184-member NIGA, and has served as chairperson of TASIN since 1995. As a leader in the Native American community, she has seen firsthand the tremendous progress tribes have made throughout America and the impressive growth of economic development throughout Indian Country.

“Economic development, along with sovereignty and cultural preservation, are the things we need to protect, promote and foster as we continue heading down the road to self-reliance,” Valbuena added.

“Lynn’s commitment and tireless efforts to improve the conditions of Indian and non-Indian communities throughout the country are commendable,” said NIGA Chairman Ernest L. Stevens Jr. “Her work in the Inland Empire and the region has touched many lives.”

The ceremony was held at the Mystic Lake Hotel and Casino, owned and operated by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community in Prior Lakes, Minnesota.

About TASIN

The TASIN mission is to protect and promote the tribal sovereign governmental rights, the cultural identity and the interests of its membership tribes. TASIN members include the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Augustine Band of Mission Indians, Cahuilla Band of Indians, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, Ramona Band of Mission Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians.