



1 rights involved in this case. Currently, the Steering Committee  
2 is comprised of representatives from the United States, Rancho  
3 California Water District, Fallbrook Public Utility District,  
4 Eastern Municipal Water District, and Metropolitan Water District  
5 of Southern California.

6 The Court's order of March 13, 1989 indicates that "a party  
7 may petition the Court to allow them to appoint a representative  
8 to the Steering Committee." The Pechanga Tribe (also known as the  
9 Temecula Band of Luiseno Mission Indians) is a party to the action  
10 and a significant water user in the Santa Margarita Watershed.  
11 Although the United States is a member of the Steering Committee  
12 and acts as a trustee of the Pechanga Tribe's water interests, the  
13 Pechanga Tribe is concerned that the United States cannot  
14 adequately represent its interests.

15 **DISCUSSION**

16 As a member of the Steering Committee, the United States  
17 represents the interests of several parties to the litigation in  
18 addition to the Pechanga Tribe, including the United States Marine  
19 Corps, Camp Pendleton. The Pechanga Tribe believes that its  
20 interests will not always coincide with those of Camp Pendleton  
21 and that, as a result, the United States will be faced with a  
22 significant conflict of interest. Therefore, the Pechanga Tribe  
23 seeks an independent membership on the Steering Committee in order  
24 to protect its water rights.

25 The United States, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern  
26 California and the Fallbrook Utility District each filed responses  
27 to the Pechanga Tribe's motion and indicated they have no  
28 objection to the Court granting the Pechanga Tribe's motion. The


1 Court has received no other responses or objections to the  
2 Pechanga Tribe's motion. Because it appears there may be a  
3 conflict of interest between the Pechanga Tribe and Camp Pendleton  
4 and because no parties have objected, the Court finds that the  
5 Pechanga Tribe should be permitted to appoint a representative to  
6 the Steering Committee in order to protect its water interests.

7 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the Pechanga Tribe's Motion to  
8 Appoint a Representative to the Steering Committee is **granted**.

9 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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*June 4 1996*  
Date

  
GORDON THOMPSON, JR.  
Senior United States District Judge

cc: All counsel and parties without counsel