

HR 5984

Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Sep 9, 2016

Current Status: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 644.

Latest Action: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 644. (Nov 14, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5984>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-42]

Party: Republican • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Hunter, Duncan D. [R-CA-50]	R · CA		Sep 9, 2016
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Sep 26, 2016
Rep. Torres, Norma J. [D-CA-35]	D · CA		Sep 26, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Reported By	Nov 15, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 612	Related bill	Dec 16, 2016: Became Public Law No: 114-322.
114 S 2848	Related bill	Sep 19, 2016: Held at the desk.
114 S 1983	Related bill	Feb 3, 2016: Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary has been expanded because action occurred on the measure.)

Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement Act

(Sec. 4) This bill authorizes, ratifies, and confirms the Pechanga Settlement Agreement, entered into by the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, the Rancho California Water District (RCWD), and the United States, except to the extent that the agreement is modified by or conflicts with this bill.

(Sec. 5) The bill confirms water rights that must be held in trust by the United States on behalf of the tribe and its allottees. (Allottees are individuals who hold a beneficial real property interest in an Indian allotment that is located within the reservation and held in trust by the United States.) Allotted land is entitled to a just and equitable allocation of water from the water rights for irrigation and domestic purposes.

Allottees may lease their land together with any water right.

The tribe must enact a Pechanga Water Code that governs the storage, recovery, and use of the water rights, subject to the Department of the Interior's approval. Interior must administer the water rights until the water code is enacted and approved.

(Sec. 7) The tribe and the United States (acting as trustee for the tribe and allottees) must waive all claims to water rights within the Santa Margarita River Watershed, except water rights recognized in the Pechanga Settlement Agreement and this bill.

The tribe and the United States (acting as trustee for the tribe) waive specified claims against the RCWD.

The tribe may waive claims against the United States regarding specified water rights and damages.

The waivers in this bill are enforceable on the date Interior publishes specified findings regarding deposits, waivers, and approved agreements.

(Sec. 8) Interior must provide the amounts necessary to fulfill the tribe's obligations under specified agreements regarding water infrastructure.

(Sec. 9) The bill establishes the Pechanga Settlement Fund. The fund is to be used to carry out this bill.

(Sec. 12) If Interior does not publish the findings required for enforcement of the waivers in this bill by April 30, 2021, or an alternative later date agreed to by the tribe and Interior, the provisions of this bill expire, related agreements are void, and funds are rescinded.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 14, 2016:** Reported by the Committee on Natural Resources. H. Rept. 114-821.
- **Nov 14, 2016:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 644.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Sep 9, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 9, 2016:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.