

## AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR CARE OF CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT ARTIFACTS



Sacaton, Ariz. - Governor Gregory Mendoza of the Gila River Indian Community and Reclamation's Phoenix Area Manager Randy Chandler signed an agreement on June 11, 2013, that guarantees the curation of the Central Arizona Project (CAP) artifact collection "in perpetuity" at the Huhugam Heritage Center. In a signing ceremony held at the center, Reclamation and GRIC agreed to several provisions including permanent title of the center to the Community and a payment of \$2 million to the tribe to assist in the care and maintenance of the precious artifacts which were uncovered and preserved during the construction of the Central Arizona Project.

In 2003, the Huhugam Heritage Center construction was completed, providing a repository for the CAP collection. The Center includes classrooms and a museum in which the artifacts are displayed. Chandler spoke at the dedication of the center at that time, and mentioned in his signing ceremony remarks that he was pleased to return ten years later. "Cooperation between Reclamation and the Gila River Indian Community resulted in the construction of this beautiful center," he said. "I very happy to return and take part in the ceremony that would solidify the commitment between Reclamation and the Community to permanently house the archeological collection with the Gila River Indian Community."



**Former Gila River Indian Community Governor Mary Thomas (left) looks on as Phoenix Area Manager Randy Chandler and Governor Gregory Mendoza (right) sign the CAP curation agreement. Looking on are District Council members Barney Enos, Jr., District 4; and Carolyn Schurz, District 2. Also present but not pictured: Monica Antone, District 4; and Devin Redbird, District 7.**

"I'd like to thank Governor Gregory Mendoza, the Tribal Council, the Heritage Center Staff, and Linus Everling, for their leadership and Don Pongrace for his assistance in getting this agreement completed in a timely manner," Chandler said. "Reclamation is proud of the manner in which we support the Community in so many ways, and this is representative of our commitment to work together to accomplish sometimes difficult but important work. I believe this agreement helps fulfill one of the key purposes of the Heritage Center and assists the community in its efforts to protect and preserve the history of the Akimel O'odham and Pee Posh peoples, and their ancestors, the Huhugam."

Governor Mendoza also spoke, expressing his appreciation to Reclamation and to Chandler personally for his part in achieving the agreement.