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**CONTACT:** Jania Palacios  
(310) 552-4189

## **FIRST 5 GLENN COUNTY APPOINTS TWO NEW COMMISSIONERS**

### ***Eddy Baker and Irene Mesa Join the Commission that Determines Funding for Programs Benefiting Children and Their Families***

**(Willows)** - First 5 Glenn County announced today the recent appointment of two new Commissioners. As community members on the Commission, Eddy Baker and Irene Mesa will help ensure the healthy development of local children ages 0 to 5.

"Eddy Baker and Irene Mesa bring a community perspective to our Commission," said XX, Commissioner of First 5 Glenn County. "We will greatly benefit from their varied expertise to help us improve the lives of Glenn County children."

Baker is the mother of a five-year-old and brings a solid background in social work. Throughout her career, she has served on the Domestic Abuse Response Team and as a deputy probation officer and juvenile hall counselor, as well as volunteering with numerous local community-based organizations. She has also been involved in First 5 programs, most recently the Ready to Learn program.

"When my daughter was born, I had to travel to Chico to enroll in parent programs," said Baker. "I'm looking forward to working with other First 5 Glenn County Commissioners to ensure all Glenn County families, regardless of culture or economic status, have access to local programs and services."

Mesa is a strong advocate for children, especially within the Native American community. She volunteers with the American Red Cross and serves on the Modoc Lassen Indian Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. As a tribal administrator

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at Grindstone Indian Rancheria, she recently helped develop a preschool/daycare in the Grindstone Community Center.

"It is important for children to have a strong educational foundation," said Mesa. "Being on the Commission, I look forward to helping local children grow up happy, healthy and ready to enter school learning."

Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically during the first five years of life and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. First 5 Glenn County distributes approximately \$300,000 in Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.

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