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RIO SALADO FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD CHAIR

Local Nonprofit's New Board Officers to Drive Renewed Vision

PHOENIX (November 5, 2013) - Rio Salado Foundation (RSF), a local nonprofit whose mission is to preserve the history and natural beauty of Rio Salado and Papago Park, has announced the appointment of Michael R. Rooney as chairman of the board of directors for 2014.

As chairman, Rooney will be responsible for moving forward with the nonprofit's charter to ensure Rio Salado and Papago Park's success as major cultural, recreational and urban destinations through the creation of public-private partnerships. Projects on the docket for 2014 include final restoration of the historic Eisendrath House in the Carl Hayden Campus for Sustainability in Papago Park, a Veteran's Memorial at Tempe Beach Park, and the Arizona Boathouse and Welcome Center. Rooney has served on the board since 2007. The remaining 2014 board officers are: Vice Chairman, Mayor Mark Mitchell of Tempe, Treasurer, Mary Ann Miller, president & CEO of Tempe Chamber of Commerce, Secretary, John Graham, president & CEO of Sunbelt Holdings.

Michael Rooney has practiced business law with the Scottsdale firm of Sacks Tierney for more than 38 years. Along with his many awards and honors over the decades, Rooney was again recently named as one of the Valley's "Best Lawyers" by *Phoenix Magazine*. A Tempe resident, Rooney is passionate about the Rio Salado corridor and what RSF represents as a development partner.

"He has a strong commitment to his community and in making this unique commercial and recreational destination available for all to enjoy," stated RSF's Executive Director Kim Knotter. "With a long list of nonprofit board service Mike's decades of service, experience and historical perspective will lead the RSF into its next stage as the Rio Salado Corridor continues to make history in the region."

Rooney also serves as chairman of the board of friends of Tempe Center for the Arts, a board member for O'Connor House and the Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation, a trustee for

Prescott College, and as president of the Tempe Community Foundation, an affiliate of Arizona Community Foundation.

About The Rio Salado Foundation

The Rio Salado Foundation was initially formed in 2001 to ensure the success of the Rio Salado Project. Governed by a board of directors over the past 12 years the foundation has supported the construction of several historical, cultural and recreational projects. The numerous benefits of bringing water back to the Rio Salado include the restoration of natural habitats, new residential and economic development opportunities and a wealth of recreational and cultural amenities for all Valley residents and visitors alike. With parks and museums, educational activities for children, and venues for performing arts and sporting events, the region is one of the most popular draws in the state with over 2.6 million visitors annually. Tempe Town Lake is one of Arizona's most popular attractions for fishing, jogging, boating, bicycling and many international and local sporting events such as the Ironman Triathlon. For more information about Rio Salado Foundation please visit www.supportriosalado.org or call 602-421-8857 or 480-473-0245.

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