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### **The Hopi Tribe Returns To Court To Protect San Francisco Peaks From Reclaimed Wastewater After Flagstaff City Council Further Delays Decision On Settlement**

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. – The Hopi Tribe will return to Court in Flagstaff to seek an injunction and damages to prevent further snowmaking with reclaimed wastewater on the sacred San Francisco Peaks. Last night, after studying a proposed settlement agreement for months, the City Council indefinitely delayed the matter with no explanation. Hopi Tribe officials were stunned by Flagstaff City Council’s complete inability to make a decision regarding a settlement that both the City Attorney and City Water Utilities staff recommended. Hopi Tribe Vice Chairman Lomahquahu who was at the City Council meeting was unimpressed with the Mayor and City Council’s lack of leadership on the issue. “Unfortunately, the City Council once again dodged and delayed a decision on an agreement that its staff and attorneys spent more than a year developing. Flagstaff is erratic and unreliable under its current administration. Parties doing business with the City Council should beware.” City attorneys and staff recommended that Flagstaff agree to construct and operate an additional treatment stage at Thorpe Park to improve the quality of reclaimed wastewater being sold by the City to the Arizona Snowbowl (“Snowbowl”) for snowmaking at its ski resort on federal land in the San Francisco Peaks. There is growing public opposition to the reclaimed water contract.

The San Francisco Peaks, known as Nuvatukya’ovi to the Hopi Tribe, are one of the most sacred places to the Hopi Tribe. The Hopi Tribe filed suit in 2011 in Arizona Superior Court in Flagstaff challenging the City’s decision to sell reclaimed wastewater to Snowbowl, asserting that the sale of up to 1.5 million gallons of reclaimed wastewater per day to Snowbowl is illegal because it violates several Arizona laws that govern the proper use of reclaimed wastewater, and creates a public nuisance through environmental contamination. The case will continue in light of the inaction of the City Council, and its failure to take advantage of this opportunity to build its government to government relationship with the Hopi Tribe.

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