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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 5, 2012

HOPI LEADERS STRONGLY OPPOSE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GRAND CANYON ESCALADE

Kykotsmovi, Ariz. - At a recent Tribal Council meeting, Hopi leaders unanimously agreed to approve Resolution H-113-2012, in which they formally state their position to strongly oppose the development of a commercial initiative at the Grand Canyon called the "Grand Canyon Escalade".

The Hopi people continue to have connections to their ancestral past, including the landscapes, ruins, ceremonial trails, shrines, springs and rivers. The Hopi and many other southwestern Tribes, as well as members of the Navajo Tribe, hold the Grand Canyon (Öngtupqa) and its cultural contributories, a sacred place of reverence and respect. Hopi religious leaders and the Hopi people in general, also strongly oppose this development.

"The Canyon is still regularly visited by Hopis to deposit prayer offerings in the area of the confluence, so this development will adversely affect the sacredness of this special place", said Leigh Kuwanwisiwma Director of the Hopi Tribe's Cultural Preservation Office. "Because of the significance of Öngtupqa, it is extremely important for the Hopi people to preserve and protect this area from harm and wrongful exploitation."

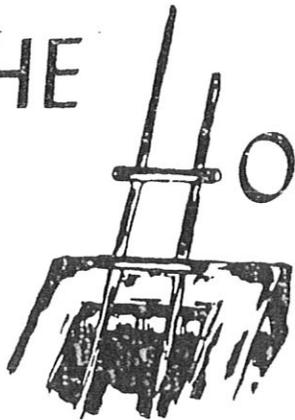
Hopi Vice Chairman Herman G. Honanie said "the proposed development located at the confluence is unacceptable to Hopi religious leaders, practitioners and the Hopi people as it will significantly and forever adversely impact Hopi sacred places to which Hopis have aboriginal title and use".

"This development will forever compromise the tranquility and sacredness of all the surrounding area. The Hopi people and the Hopi Tribal Council strongly oppose the development of the Grand Canyon Escalade and will continue to advocate for protection of Öngtupqa and all its elements" said Hopi Chairman LeRoy N. Shingoitewa. "The Hopi Tribal Council calls upon the Pueblo of Zuni, Navajo People, and other tribes to which the Grand Canyon is sacred, the National Congress of American Indians, Inter-tribal Council of Arizona, All Indian Pueblo Council and the National Park Service to join in opposing this development and collectively support legislation to protect the Grand Canyon and other Native American sites".

Confluence Partners LLC, represented by Albert Hale and supported by Navajo President Ben Shelly, proposed the development of the Grand Canyon Escalade to include a river walk and restaurant at the bottom of the Grand Canyon confluence, where the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers meet. A main feature of the proposed development is to build a luxury resort/spa at at the northeast rim along with a tram which would take tourists down to the river and stop at the restaurant. A river walk will give a view of the confluence.

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THE



OPI TRIBE

LeRoy N. Shingitewa
CHAIRMAN

Herman G. Honanie
VICE-CHAIRMAN

MEMORANDUM

TO: Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

FROM: *Martha A. Mase*
Martha A. Mase, Tribal Secretary
Hopi Tribal Council

DATE: September 28, 2012

SUBJECT: "GRAND CANYON ESCALADE" A.I. #118-2012

The Hopi Tribal Council on September 26, 2012 by motion and unanimous vote approved Resolution H-113-2012.

By passage of the Resolution the Hopi Tribal Council strongly opposes development of commercial initiatives called "Grand Canyon Escalade".

Should you have any questions, you may contact me at (928) 734-3132.

c: Office of the Chairman
Office of the Vice Chairman
Office of the Tribal Treasurer
Office of General Counsel
Department/Programs
Villages
file

HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL
RESOLUTION
H-113-2012

WHEREAS, the Hopi Tribal Council, under Constitution and By-Laws of the Hopi Tribe, ARTICLE VI-POWERS OF THE HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL, SECTION (a) and (f) is authorized "To represent and speak for the Hopi Tribe in all matters for the welfare of the Tribe" and "To use such Tribal Council fund for the welfare of the Tribe, . . ."; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi Tribal Council, under Article VI(k) is charged "To protect the arts, crafts, traditions and ceremonies of the Hopi Indians"; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi Tribal Council under Article IV is charged "...to secure adequate protection for its outlying, established shrines"; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi people are committed to carrying out its world stewardship for all living things; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi people, represented by their respective clan histories and traditions have established their cultural footprints throughout *Tuuwaqatsi* (earth), and more recently in the South and North American continents and particularly in the American southwest; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi people continue to have a living relationship and connection to its ancestral past including Hopi landscapes, ruins (*kiikiqö*), ceremonial trails (*homvi'kya*), eagle collecting areas (*kwaatitipkya*), shrines (*pahokiki*), offering places (*tuutuskyä*), springs (*nöngangva*), rivers (*paayu*), lakes (*patupha*), ancestral burials (*tuutu'ami*), petroglyphs (*tutuventiwngwu*) and places of special events (*hiniwtipu*); and

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WHEREAS, the Hopi people continue to make annual pilgrimages and deliver offerings as stewards to ancestral Hopi lands (*tutskwa*) to reinforce the Hopi people's connection to their past, present and future; and

WHEREAS, it is important to preserve and protect these sites from harm and wrongful exploitation and the Hopi people have a significant responsibility to respectfully care for these special places and to transmit traditional knowledge about these places to the coming generations of Hopis; and

WHEREAS, *Öngtupqa* (the Grand Canyon), and its contributing Hopi cultural elements is a time-honored, revered, respected and important place to the Hopi people; and

WHEREAS, an organization called the "Confluence Partners, LLC" represented by Albert Hale, has proposed a significant commercial development project called the "Grand Canyon Escalade" inclusive of resort and a tramway into *Öngtupqa*; and

WHEREAS, this proposed development will be located at the confluence of the Little Colorado River and the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon; and

WHEREAS, this proposed development and location is unacceptable to Hopi religious leaders, practitioners and the Hopi people as it will significantly and forever adversely impact Hopi sacred places to which Hopis have aboriginal title and use; and

WHEREAS, this development will forever compromise the tranquility and sacredness of all surrounding area including the final resting place of Hopi people, *Öngtupqa*; thereby violating our First Amendment rights; and

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WHEREAS, Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites addresses Accommodation of Sacred Sites, and the Grand Canyon is eligible as a Traditional Cultural Property pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the United States, states "Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands...and other resources and uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard".

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Hopi Tribal Council that it hereby strongly opposes the proposed development of this commercial initiative called "Grand Canyon Escalade".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Hopi Tribal Council that it calls upon the Pueblo of Zuni, Navajo People, and other tribes to which the Grand Canyon is sacred, the National Congress of American Indians, Inter-tribal Council of Arizona, All Indian Pueblo Council, and the National Park Service to join in opposing this development and collectively support legislation to protect the Grand Canyon and other Native American Sacred Sites.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Hopi Tribal Council that it hereby authorizes and directs the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Hopi Cultural Preservation Office and the Office of the General Counsel to pursue all avenues, including legal action(s) and

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sponsorship of legislation at the state and national levels to protect all Native American Sacred Sites, and to oppose and prevent this development.

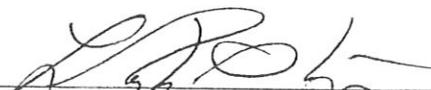
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED by the Hopi Tribal Council that the Chairman is authorized to modify the budget of the Office of Public Relations, Acct.#102-12-2040, to create a line item, "Advertising and Publishing", Account#102-6800 and that the Chairman is hereby authorized to retain a public relations firm under this budget.

The current requisition submittal deadline of September 28th, is hereby waived and extended to October 31, 2012.

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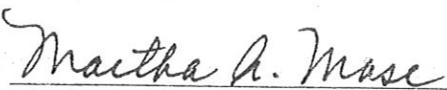
CERTIFICATION

The Hopi Tribal Council duly adopted the foregoing Resolution on September 26, 2012, at a meeting at which a quorum was present with a vote of 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining (Chairman presiding and not voting) pursuant to the authority vested in the Hopi Tribal Council by ARTICLE VI-POWERS OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL, SECTION 1 (a) and (f) of the Hopi Tribal Constitution and By-Laws of the Hopi Tribe of Arizona, as ratified by the Tribe on October 24, 1936, and approved by the Secretary of Interior on December 19, 1936, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934. Said Resolution is effective as of the date of adoption and does not require Secretarial approval.



LeRoy N. Shingoitewa, Chairman
Hopi Tribal Council

ATTEST:



Martha A. Mase, Tribal Secretary
Hopi Tribal Council