



June 4, 2024

The Honorable Senator Kyrsten Sinema
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Mark Kelly
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Eli Crane
1229 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Schweikert
460 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Stanton
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Biggs
252 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Juan Ciscomani
1429 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
1203 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Lesko
1214 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Gosar, DDS
2057 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: City of Flagstaff Letter of Support for Proposed Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024

Dear Senators Sinema and Kelly, and Representatives Crane, Schweikert, Gallego, Stanton, Biggs, Ciscomani, Grijalva, Lesko and Gosar:

As Mayor of the City of Flagstaff, I strongly support the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Act (“Act”). On June 3, 2024, City Attorney, Sterling Solomon, along with representatives of other parties to the settlement negotiations, executed a joint letter in support of the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the proposed legislation. Naturally, the Flagstaff City Council must still conduct a final review of the Settlement Agreement with exhibits, as well as the proposed legislation, and make an independent decision at a future



date. However, in the meantime, I want to share the City's strong support in advancing the proposed settlement legislation.

As you know, there is a critical need for regional water supply projects in Northeastern Arizona, not only for the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, but also for the City of Flagstaff. With over 80,000 residents and more than 6 million visitors each year, Flagstaff continues to manage water wisely through conservation and maintains one of the lowest per person water usage rates in the State. Even with these laudable efforts, the reality of climate variability, wildfires and reduced local groundwater supplies, requires the City to address its pressing water resiliency and water security needs by developing its municipal water supply at Red Gap Ranch, a city-owned property located about 35-miles east of Flagstaff along Interstate 40.

Red Gap Ranch was acquired by the City with 71% voter approval in 2004. Since then, the City has invested millions of dollars in designing and developing this Regional Pipeline Project including drilling wells and conducting two detailed feasibility analysis reports with Jacobs Engineering. This Project is designed to deliver 16,000 acre-feet of water per year for the City's municipal needs, with the ability to provide water to customers such as the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, the Arizona State Land Department ("ASLD") and others at various Arizona Department of Transportation ("ADOT") connection points at intersections along the Interstate 40 corridor. These locations are currently being designed by Jacobs Engineering in cooperation with ADOT, and with anticipated further input from the ASLD, the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe.

Although not identified in the Act, the Red Gap Ranch Regional Pipeline Project is specifically referenced in the Northeastern Arizona Water Rights Settlement Agreement. Indeed, under the Settlement Agreement, the Navajo Nation may connect to the Regional Pipeline Project to serve additional Navajo Lands at Twin Arrows, near Winona, or at locations that would support supplemental needs in the southwestern area of the Navajo Reservation or at Leupp. Also, under the Settlement Agreement, the Arizona State Land Department and the City will coordinate regarding future pumping on State Lands near Red Gap Ranch.

The City strongly supports federal funding for the requested water supply projects identified by the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe and the San Juan Southern Paiute in the Act. These Tribal water supply projects are critically needed on their respective reservations and are long overdue. Economically viable Tribal communities depend on reliable water supplies. In addition to the Tribal water supply projects, it is imperative that Congress supports federal funding to complete the Red Gap Ranch Regional Pipeline Project. This Regional Pipeline Project is virtually shovel-ready, can be constructed within five (5) years, and the City is willing to meet the cost-share requirements. This Regional Pipeline Project will provide water security for Flagstaff and will



CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL

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benefit other regional participants like the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, the Arizona State Land Department and other communities in Coconino County.

For details about the Red Gap Ranch Regional Pipeline Project, the status of its development and requested funding, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Becky Daggett

Mayor Becky Daggett, on behalf of the Flagstaff City Council