RESOLUTION NO. 2008- 09

A RESOLUTION OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OPPOSING URANIUM DEVELOPMENT IN THE VICINITY OF THOSE PORTIONS OF GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK AND ITS WATERSHEDS THAT LIE WITHIN COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA

Whereas, the Grand Canyon National Park is one of the world's great natural wonders whose protection for future generations has long been a priority for the citizens of Coconino County: and

Whereas, the Grand Canyon National Park is an economic engine whose 5 million visitors per year contribute significantly to the economy of Coconino County: and

Whereas, more than 2,000 uranium mining claims have been filed since 2003 in the Tusayan Ranger district alone, the majority of them within ten miles of Grand Canyon National Park: and

Whereas, additional claims have been filed on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the House Rock Valley: and

Whereas, the Kaibab National Forest on January 8 issued a decision memo permitting exploratory drilling for uranium deposits by Vane Minerals on the Tusayan Ranger District within two miles of the boundaries of the Grand Canyon National Park: and

Whereas, previous uranium development operations in Coconino county have left long term contamination problems that continue to harm the health of citizens of Coconino County and have contaminated creeks and aquifers providing public drinking water: and

Whereas, Horn Creek in the Grand Canyon National Park is contaminated with the typical legacy left behind from prior and existing uranium mines places undue costs and adverse impacts on the tax payers of Coconino County: and

Whereas, uranium development on the Tusayan Ranger District and the House Rock Valley will adversely affect unique ecosystems and endangered species, and pose potential threats of long term contamination to the Grand Canyon National Park, the Colorado River and those who use its waters, and the water supplies of communities such as Tusayan and Valle;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Coconino County Board of Supervisors opposes uranium development on lands in the proximity of the Grand Canyon National Park and its watersheds:

2. Coconino County will monitor uranium development in the Tusayan Ranger District, lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in House Rock Valley, and State Trust Lands in the Cataract Creek watershed, and actively comment where appropriate

3. The Coconino County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the withdrawal of the Tusayan Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest and the lands in House Rock Valley managed by the Bureau of Land Management from mineral entry

4. The Coconino County Board of Supervisors requests the Arizona Congressional Delegation initiate the permanent withdrawal from mining, mineral exploration, and mineral entry on all Federal Lands in the Tusayan Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest and the lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in House Rock Valley

5. The Coconino County Board of Supervisors further requests that the Land Commissioner for the State of Arizona place a moratorium on mineral leasing and development on those State Trust Lands within the Cataract Creek drainage that lie within Coconino County, and those that lie within House Rock Valley.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of February, 2008, by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors.

Deborah Hill

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Wendy Ecklund

Clerk, Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Deputy County Attorney