RE: Extension of Temporary Closure of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Tribal Government Operations and Services and the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort until May 14, 2020

Dear Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Tribal Members,

As you know, on March 18, 2020, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Tribal Council ("Tribal Council") ordered a two (2) week closure of the Tribal Government and the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort in response to the spread of the global coronavirus ("COVID-19") pandemic. On March 30, 2020, the Tribal Council approved a second extension to extend the temporary closure of the Nation’s Tribal Government to April 30, 2020. In light of the recent order from the White House to extend social distancing guidelines and ongoing recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), the Tribal Council on Monday, April 27, 2020, voted to extend the temporary closure for both the Tribal Government and Casino Resort except for essential personnel and services until May 14, 2020.

This temporary closure order will continue to make an exception for essential Tribal Government personnel and services, including but not limited to the Government’s Community and Economic Development Division, Community Services Division, Education Department, Finance, Fire Department, Human Resources, Police Department, Surveillance, Wassaja Family Services, Wassaja Memorial Health Center, the Casino Resort Facility Maintenance, Finance, Management, and Security. The Tribal Government will reopen on May 18, 2020 and the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort services are expected to return on May 15, 2020. This order is subject to change based on how COVID-19 evolves.

The Tribal Council and Staff continue to work remotely and hold necessary meetings (via teleconference).

The Tribal Council issues this order to protect the health and safety of Tribal and Community Members, and the Nation’s employees. In the meantime, the Tribal Council recommends strict adherence to CDC guidelines, including social distancing, small gatherings, and hygienic practices and discouraging any out of state travel.

Your health and safety is our main priority. Please take care, stay safe, and seek medical attention immediately if needed.

If you have any questions in regards to Tribal Government services, please contact General Manager, Phil Dorchester, at (480) 266-4616. Any questions regarding the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort, contact the Chief Business Officer, Michael Starr, at (480) 250-1098.

Sincerely,

Bernadine Burnette, President
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

Cc: Tribal Council
Diandra Benally, Office of General Council
Bert Parra, Chief Financial Officer
GM Supervisory Group
Michael Starr, Chief Business Officer