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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

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Water Wheel Camp Recreational Area, )  
Inc.; Robert Johnson, )

No. CV-08-0474-PHX-DGC

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Plaintiffs, )

**ORDER**

11

vs. )

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The Honorable Gary LaRance; )  
Jolene Marshall, )

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Defendants. )

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In March of 2008, Plaintiffs Water Wheel Camp Recreational Area, Inc. and Robert Johnson filed suit in this Court, seeking a declaration that the Colorado River Indian Tribe’s Tribal Court has no jurisdiction over them. Dkt. #1. On September 23, 2009, this Court denied declaratory relief as to Water Wheel and granted it as to Johnson. Dkt. #83. Water Wheel has appealed the Court’s decision and has filed a motion pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 62 asking the Court to enjoin the Tribal Court from enforcing its judgment until the appeal is decided. Dkt. #89. For the reasons that follow, the Court will deny the motion.

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Rule 62 provides that “[w]hile an appeal is pending from an interlocutory order or final judgment that grants, dissolves, or denies an injunction, the court may suspend, modify, restore, or grant an injunction on terms for bond or other terms that secure the opposing party’s right.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 62(c). A party seeking relief under Rule 62 “must establish that he is likely to succeed on the merits, that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the

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1 absence of relief, that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and that a stay is in the public  
2 interest.” *Humane Soc’y of the U.S. v. Gutierrez*, 558 F.3d 896, 896 (9th Cir. 2009) (citing  
3 *Winter v. NRDC, Inc.*, — U.S. —, 129 S. Ct. 365, 374 (2008)); *see Nken v. Holder*, — U.S.  
4 —, 129 S. Ct. 1749, 1761 (2009).

5 Water Wheel argues that the Court should apply the sliding scale analysis previously  
6 used by the Ninth Circuit for injunctive relief and stays pending appeal. *See, e.g., Golden*  
7 *Gate Rest. Ass’n v. City & County of S.F.*, 512 F.3d 1112, 1115-1116 (9th Cir. 2008) (stating  
8 that a party seeking a stay must show either a probability of success on the merits and the  
9 possibility of irreparable injury, or that serious legal questions are raised and the balance of  
10 hardships tips in its favor). That standard, however, has been rejected by the Supreme Court.  
11 *See Winter*, 129 S. Ct. at 374. Courts in the Ninth Circuit now apply the four-part test cited  
12 above. *See Am. Trucking Ass’n, Inc. v. City of L.A.*, 559 F.3d 1046, 1052 (9th Cir. 2009)  
13 (preliminary injunction); *Humane Soc’y of the U.S.*, 558 F.3d at 896 (stay pending appeal);  
14 *see also Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Cmty. v. California*, No.  
15 CIV 2-04-2265 FCD KJM, 2009 WL 2971547, at \*2 n.3 (E.D. Cal., Sept. 14, 2009) (refusing  
16 to apply sliding scale analysis to a request for stay). The first two factors of the four-part test  
17 – likelihood of success on the merits and irreparable injury – are the most critical and must  
18 be satisfied before the second two factors are considered. *Nken*, 129 S.Ct. at 1761 (citing  
19 *Winter*, 129 S. Ct. at 375).

20 Water Wheel does not argue that it is likely to succeed on appeal. It argues instead  
21 that an injunction is appropriate because there are serious legal questions at issue and the  
22 balance of hardships tips in its favor. Dkt. #94 at 3. Under the cases cited above, this  
23 showing does not entitle Water Wheel to an injunction.<sup>1</sup>

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26 <sup>1</sup> Even if Water Wheel had argued that it was likely to succeed on the merits of the  
27 appeal, the Court would disagree. For the reasons set forth in the Court’s order on the merits  
28 of this dispute (Dkt. #83), the Court concludes that Defendants are likely to prevail on Water  
Wheel’s appeal.

