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New lawsuit targets Shadowrock Groups argue proposed Chino Cone development endangers bighorn sheep

By Stefanie Frith

A development agreement extending the amount of time developer Mark Bragg has to build his luxury hotel and golf project in the Chino Cone is being challenged by a lawsuit filed Tuesday by two conservation groups.

The lawsuit is the second filed by the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity against Shadowrock in the last four months, and the third since 1997. Both groups agree the project endangers bighorn sheep in the Chino Canyon.

Shadowrock has been in the works for about 22 years and in May, the City Council gave Bragg an additional 10 years to complete the development.

Joan Taylor, chair of the local Sierra Club chapter, said Wednesday the city of Palm Springs attempted to bypass a pending citizen's referendum challenging the development agreement, which was approved by the City Council in May and will appear on the November ballot.

She said City Attorney Doug Holland sent a letter to Bragg in June, granting him an "undetermined" amount of time to complete the project.