**Exhibit E – Wildlife and Vegetation Department Comments**

**Wildlife and Vegetation Management Department (WVMP)**

**Comments on the San Rafael Watershed (San Antonio Project)**

**WVMP comments and recommendations:**

The San Rafael Watershed has remained mostly untouched, this area is home to several avian species, amphibian, reptile, and several other species. There are several endangered species that could be directly affected from these potential mining and drilling operations.

* Avian species; wintering raptors, sparrows, pipits, and longspurs. (Audubon Society) Recoded species in a 5 day study.
  + Chestnut-collared Longspur (T)=Threatened
  + Arizona Grasshopper Sparrow (T)
  + Brewers Sparrow (LR)= Low Risk
  + Savannah Sparrow (LR)
  + Lincoln's Sparrow (LR)
  + Baird's Sparrow (D)=Declining
  + White-Tailed Kite (LR)
  + Northern Harriers (LR)
  + Prairie Falcon (LR)
  + Merlin (LR)
  + American Pipit (LR)
  + Red-naped Sapsucker(LR)
  + Chipping Sparrow (LR)
  + Scaled Quail (D)
  + Montezuma Quail (LR)
  + McCown's Longspur (D)
  + Botteri's Sparrow (LR)
  + Western Meadowlark (LR)
  + Short-eared Owl (SD)=Steep Decline
  + Aplomado Falcon (LC)=Least Concern

Vegetation: Short-grass Prairie and Un-fragmented Grassland

* Purple three-awn (Aristida purpurea var. purpurea),
* Four species of grama grasses (Bouteloua sp.), plains lovegrass (Eragrostis intermedia), giant sacaton (Sporobolus wrightii), plains bristlegrass (Setaria macrostachya)
* Vine mesquite (Panicum obtusum).
* Huachuca Water Umbel.

Potential Species Threatened: Confirmed by IUCN Endangered Species List

* Canelo Hills Ladies-Tresses (E)=Endangered
* Huachuca Water Umbel (E)
* Sonoran Tiger Salamander (E)
* Northern Mexican Gartersnake (E)
* Gila Chub (E)
* Huachuca Springsnail (C)
* Chiricahua Leopard Frog (T)
* Gila Topminnow (E)
* Northern Aplomado Falcon (E)
* Yellow-billed Cuckoo (E)
* Jaguar (E)
* Ocelot (E)
* Desert Pup Fish (E)
* Pima Pineapple Cactus (E)
* Southwestern Willow (E)
* Mexican Spotted Owl (E)
* Sonoran Chub (E)
* American Peregrine Falcon (Recovery Period) 5 year review
* Lesser Long-nosed Bat (Recovery Period) 5 year review
* Bartram Stonecrop (flowering plant) (Proposed Threatened Species)
* Beardless Chinch Weed (flowering plant) (Proposed Threatened Species)

Mining will have a direct effect on habitat, eliminate food sources, and fragment wildlife corridors. Potentially cut off or change migratory routes, and change the current predator/prey balance. Issues with overall water quality, and air quality are also of major concern.

The Wildlife and Vegetation Department recommends that the Tohono O’odham Nation request that an Environmental Assessment be conducted on the surrounding environment to include wildlife and vegetation; to evaluate the potential environmental impacts. Consultation is needed with the Tohono O’odham Nation to discuss these potential impacts further. Surveys should be conducted by the Tohono O’odham Nations Natural Resource Department before this proposal moves forward.

Eric Verwys

Ecologist Tohono O’odham Nation