



January 4, 2021

Matthew Reece, Project Manager
Juneau Ranger District
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801
sm.fs.kensington@usda.gov

Juneau Downtown Business Association Comments in support of Plan of Amendment 1 to enable the Kensington Mine to extend operations.

Dear Mr. Reece,

The Juneau Downtown Business Association (DBA) is an advocacy organization formed to promote, foster, and encourage downtown businesses and act as an advocate on issues that affect the downtown businesses of Juneau, Alaska.

The DBA would like to register its comments and support of the US Forest Service and Cooperating Agencies to approve Coeur Alaska's Plan of Amendment 1 (POA 1). Coeur Alaska is asking the US Forest service to expand its current Tailings Treatment Facility and tailings storage use this proven, environmentally sound process to extend the life of the mine. In their detailed Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, this Plan of Amendment 1 (POA 1) is the most environmentally practicable alternative, and we support this conclusion.

The community benefits and the impact on DBA members would be heavily felt. Coeur Alaska provides these benefits:

Approximately 390 full-time, year-round employees, generating \$55 million dollars of payroll circulating in our community.

Coeur Alaska is committed to local hire and local buyer policies.

Coeur Alaska is the 2nd largest private employer in terms of payroll and the second largest property taxpayer in the City & Borough of Juneau (CBJ). If Coeur Alaska was not able to continue operations, the CBJ would need to raise taxes or cut services to make up the loss of tax revenue. The 2019 sales tax paid indirectly to CBJ through registered business was about \$900,000.

Coeur Alaska spending in 2019 with Alaska vendors in support of mine operations and capital projects was almost \$16 million. In 2020, Coeur Alaska has directly and indirectly supported local restaurants and hotels during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coeur Alaska has invested in local arts through contributions to the new JACC, Sealaska, Juneau Dance Theatre, Alaska Folk Festival, and more.

Coeur Alaska has proven to be a dependable and responsible community member and provides economic stability to our community. We ask that the US Forest Service and Cooperating Agencies conclude the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and properly and appropriately issue a Record of Decision for Coeur Alaska's proposed POA 1 as the preferred alternative.

We want to thank the US Forest Service for the opportunity to comment and support Coeur Alaska with their continued and environmentally responsible operations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Midgi Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Midgi Moore
President