

May 30, 2024

Mr. Kerwin S. Dewberry, Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
ATTN: Hermosa Critical Minerals Project
300 West Congress Street
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Mr. Dewberry:

I am writing to express my support for the Hermosa Critical Minerals Project. Climate change is a primary worldwide concern, and we need to move away from fossil fuels as a country. New electric vehicle and solar technologies require a source of critical minerals. Too often, we rely upon unstable and sometimes often adversarial rival countries to provide these minerals.

The Hermosa Project will provide our economy with a domestic source of two critical minerals, zinc and manganese, while providing needed economic benefits in a county with high unemployment. The EIS should emphasize the following points:

- How the project will support national efforts to deal with the problem of climate change,
- How the project will bring needed jobs to Santa Cruz County, which is primarily Hispanic and nearly 20% of the population lives below the poverty line, and
- How the project will reduce our national reliance on overseas sources of critical minerals.

The EIS should also discuss how the Hermosa Project as proposed will include significant measures to mitigate its environmental effects. These measures include the following.

- The project's footprint will result in less than 500 acres of surface disturbance which will be reclaimed upon completion.
- Its tailing storage facilities have been and will be in the future designed and operated as dry stack facilities, thereby increasing stability, and alleviating any environmental risk,
- Approximately one-half of the project's production tailings will be combined with cement, creating an inert material and managed underground, thereby reducing the extent of the surface disturbance, and providing strength and stability to support the underground workings,
- The project will use less than 75% less than other mining projects, and the water from deep underground aquifers will be pumped from areas to be

mined, treated, and reinjected into the alluvial aquifer for use by other water users, and

- The project is constructing new access roads along with other efforts, including busing employees, to minimize the impact to local communities, such Patagonia.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul Nazaryk
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Vail, Arizona 85641
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