



TOWN OF SUPERIOR

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July 10, 2025

Ms. Ericka Luna, Supervisor
Tonto National Forest
2324 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, Arizona 85006

RE: Comments on the FEIS

Dear Supervisor Luna,

The Town of Superior has completed its review of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). We would like to commend you on a very thorough and considered document. This is a significant milestone for our community, Resolution Copper, our state, and region. As a key stakeholder, the Town would like to comment on one key area where we feel the document can be improved or clarified.

The Town of Superior appreciates Resolution Copper's initial investments in our community and supports the mining industry and the economic benefits that it will generate for our community, region and state. However, the Town of Superior's support of the Resolution Copper project is directly contingent on a firm and enforceable commitment that (1) our mitigation requests are well funded and included in the final Record of Decision, and (2) the Bronco Creek issue is addressed.

Bronco Creek

The proposed Bronco Creek Superior West project would drill up to 25 holes in the same area as the recreation plan. This project makes developing the Town's Land Exchange properties impossible and undermines the legislation's intent. As of July 11, 2025, they have withdrawn a permit to drill on claims they have filed in this area, but this is only a temporary solution, and the permit could be resubmitted at any time. Should Bronco Creek be permitted to drill in the Land Exchange to be sold to the town as a part of the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), with the intent to develop a mine, it would forever obviate the ability of the Town of Superior to achieve economic diversity and sustainability as a significant portion of those lands are the only location in our community that could accommodate employment for the future. Failure to correct this would be a fatal flaw in the FEIS, and the Town would not be able to support the mining permit in good faith.

We respectfully request that Resolution Copper's written commitment to resolve the Bronco Creek Superior West claims issue be attached to the FEIS. An agreement with Rio Tinto should be completed to guarantee that no development of these properties occurs during the life of the Resolution Copper project and that the committed mitigations remain viable and valuable throughout the entire life of this project with enduring community and economic benefits even beyond. Any exploration would occur in mutually agreed-upon locations, avoiding areas that would negatively impact mitigations and the ability of the Town of Superior to diversify its economy. Any

claims listed in the agreement of intent for a direct sale with the U.S. Forest Service for the Town of Superior Airport and Fairview Cemetery will be transferred to the town.

The mitigation agreement negotiated between RCM and the Town of Superior, the email confirming the withdrawal of the Superior West drilling permit, and the letter from Rio Tinto committing to resolve this issue are attached to this letter.

We are most grateful for your consideration of the impacts of the Resolution Copper Project and for including them in the EIS so that others can review and comment on them. We look forward to continuing this productive dialogue with you and your staff. Please contact our Town Manager, Todd Pryor, at 520-689-5752 or manager@superioraz.gov if you have questions or would like additional information.

Thank you for your attention to this matter of critical importance to the Town of Superior. In the meantime, please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,



Todd Pryor
Town Manager
Town of Superior