



July 29, 2025

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

RE: Comments on the Resolution Copper Mining Final Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Supervisor Luna,

The Community Working Group (CWG) of the Superior area has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) conducted for the proposed Resolution Copper Mining Project (RCM). We appreciate the diligence and detail of the US Forest Service in its investigation of this most impactful initiative.

Resolution Copper's commitment to mitigation requirements and support of this CWG are key features for the ongoing health of this greater community. However, as a group with standing in this FEIS, we are deeply concerned about the proposed Bronco Creek Superior West project and its effect on Resolution's required mitigation.

The Bronco Creek Superior West project proposes to drill up to 25 holes in the same area as the required recreation plan. This project makes developing the Town of Superior's Land Exchange properties impossible and undermines the legislation's intent. As of July 11, 2025, Bronco Creek has withdrawn a permit to drill on claims they have filed in this area, but this is only a temporary solution, and the permit could be resubmitted at any time.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 this community that could accommodate employment for the future. Failure to correct this would be a fatal flaw in the FEIS, and the CWG would not be able to support the mining permit in good faith.

We ask 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 beyond the life of the project. Any exploration would occur in locations agreed-upon with the CWG and Town of Superior, 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.

Thank you for your efforts and attention.

Sincerely,



John Godec

Facilitator, on behalf of the Community Working Group of the Superior Area



Community Working Group Members and Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) Signatories:

Pam Bennett, Queen Valley Homeowners Association; JoAnn Besich, Superior Optimist Club; Mila Besich, Mayor of Superior; Tyler Bingham, Town Manager, Kearny; Rick Cartier, Superior Chamber of Commerce; Woody Cline, Gila County Supervisor; Steve Estatico, Superior Unified School District Supervisor; Fred Gaudet, Arizona Trail Association; Arlynn Godinez, Director, Superior Enterprise Center; Lisa Gonzales, Chicano Por La Causa; Kim Gray, Boyce Thompson Arboretum; Hank Gutierrez, Copper Community Alliance; Manny Guzman, ReBuild Superior; Lynn Martin, Area Ranching Community; Ed Natti, Queen Valley Golf Association; Freddy Rios, Councilmember, City of Globe; Alexis Rivera, Manager, Town of Miami; Gloria Ruiz, Town of Winkelman; Jim Schenck, Legends of Superior Trail; Carol Schumacher, Queen Valley Historical Society; Fernando Shipley, Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center; Nathan Taylor, Town of Superior; Connie Van Driel, Pinal County; Silvia Were, Top of the World; Bruce Wittig, Queen Valley Fire Department