



TOWN OF KEARNY

Town Hall • 374 Alden Road, PO Box 639 • Kearny, Arizona 85137
(520) 363-5547 • Fax: (520) 363-7527 • Kearnyaz.gov

July 28, 2025

Ms. Erika Luna
Acting Forest Supervisor
Tonto National Forest
2324 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85006
Sent via email to Madeline.bautista@usda.gov

Re: FEIS for Resolution Copper Land Exchange

Dear Acting Forest Supervisor Luna,

On behalf of the Town of Kearny, I write to express cautious support for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) prepared by the U.S. Forest Service for the Resolution Copper land exchange.

The FEIS is the product of more than a decade of detailed scientific and cultural review under the National Environmental Policy Act. This independent analysis by the Forest Service reflects input from Arizona communities, tribal governments, and local stakeholders, and outlines clear measures for environmental protection, cultural resource management, and responsible development.

For our local and regional economy, the Resolution Copper project offers tremendous transformative potential for historically underserved communities. The project will create thousands of jobs during construction and hundreds more in long-term operations—opportunities that are essential to the economic vitality of Superior and surrounding areas. Beyond employment, the project will support small businesses, increase local tax revenue, and help rebuild the infrastructure and services our region needs to thrive.

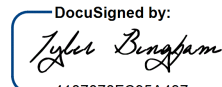
Additionally, local communities have played a critical role in shaping the project through formal agreements that prioritize meaningful engagement, two-way dialogue, and long-term benefits. Through its Community Working Group, Resolution Copper has engaged for over 10 years to develop mitigation strategies, economic development plans, cultural heritage preservation initiatives, and environmental protections. Recently, a Good Neighbor Agreement was signed by more than 23 local community partners, including the Town of Kearny and every other municipality in the Copper Triangle, as well as numerous organizations and nonprofits. Together, our communities are setting the stage for life-of-mine engagement and collaboration.

Although the published FEIS is largely acceptable, one key issue was not addressed that the Town of Kearny would like to see included. Mining claims made by Bronco Creek that lie on some of the proposed land to be swapped undermine much of the mitigation planning efforts for the Resolution Project. We respectfully request that Resolution Copper and Rio Tinto provide written commitments to resolve the Bronco Creek Superior West claims issue to be attached to the FEIS.

To be clear, although the Town of Kearny is excited for the opportunities afforded by the proposed Resolution Copper Project, we cannot in good faith support the mining permit if proper assurances from Rio Tinto to resolve the Bronco Creek mining claims issue are not included. In their current form, the mining claims leave the door open for the long-planned and agreed upon mitigation efforts between Resolution Copper, the Town of Superior, and the Copper Triangle to be voided without public input.

We thank the Forest Service for its diligence and professionalism in completing this thorough FEIS review. If written commitments from Rio Tinto and Resolution Copper to resolve the before-mentioned mining claims issue are included in the final publication, we would ask you to move forward with the land exchange, and we stand ready to support the next phase of this project in partnership with all stakeholders. If these commitments cannot be included, we cannot formally support the land exchange or the mining permit.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

4187878FC95A437...
Tyler Bingham
Town Manager