
From: Katie Seger [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2026 8:18 PM
To: FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office
Subject: CNF Hermosa Critical Minerals Project

Greetings!

I am writing to provide comments regarding the Hermosa Minerals Project and its associated Environmental Impact Statement. The project has the potential to significantly increase yields of essential minerals, including zinc, manganese, copper, silver, and lead. Current reliance on importing these materials from other countries facilitates economic inefficiencies and an increased carbon footprint. Zinc, in particular, plays a critical role in the construction of local and national roadways, bridges, transmission towers, and batteries, emphasizing the broader importance of domestic production.

At the same time, I share concerns common among environmental stakeholders regarding the ecological impacts of large-scale mining operations. The geographic changes associated with mine construction will disrupt the productivity of local ecosystems and therefore alter wildlife behavior for decades. These long-term consequences warrant careful consideration and continued mitigation efforts.

As a college student studying Natural Resource Ecology at Arizona State University, I am especially interested in opportunities to better understand how projects like this can balance economic development with ecosystem conservation. A site visit or tour would provide valuable insight into strategies such as groundwater monitoring, transmission line collocation to minimize habitat fragmentation, construction of wildlife crossing structures, infrastructure relocation to protect cultural resources, and aquatic invasive species management.

As a lifelong Arizona resident, I am concerned about statewide efforts to sustainably support growing populations, including increased energy demands. Future projects of this scale must continue to prioritize both environmental protection and long-term resource sustainability.

I commend the organization's commitment to environmental stewardship, particularly its investment of \$40 million to remediate waste from previous mining activities. Additionally, the reported contribution of over \$3,000,000 to local nonprofits, social services, and educational institutions reflects a meaningful effort to support surrounding communities and address existing economic disparities, especially those affecting local indigenous communities. If the construction of large-scale mining projects is needed to sustainably support increasing anthropogenic development in the Southwest, Hermosa32 is the right company to take on the mission.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Katie Seger