

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/17/2024 1:26:28 PM

First name: Anon

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a high school Environmental Science teacher who is quite familiar with the intricacies of this project and mining in general, I am against the development of the Hermosa Mine in this area for a number of reasons, both environmental, economic, and cultural. Environmentally, I have grave concerns about the mine's use of water in an area already suffering from drought and water scarcity. I also have concerns about water contamination and pollution, both from the chemicals used in the processing stage, but also as a result of erosion (from roads and other infrastructure, etc.). Finally, a number of endangered species inhabit this area and would be threatened further by the mine's development. Economically, it is known that many jobs in mines actually go to people from outside of the community due to their technical nature and required training. Meanwhile, many jobs connected to ecotourism, ranching, and the growing wine business would be threatened by the mine. Culturally, a number of tribes have spoken out about impacts to sacred sites, water, air quality, and more. Although South32 has made many claims about their sustainable mine design and mitigation practices, their mines in other parts of the world tell a different story (they are on Australia's list of "dirty dozen" companies related to fossil fuel emissions and have been sued for water quality contamination). Until our regulations in the US are updated to properly protect communities and prevent "walkaway restoration" I am not in support of further degradation of environmental and cultural resources. Why not work on improving mineral recycling rather than continuing to take from and destroy the Earth?