

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/20/2024 10:20:45 PM

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Comments: Attempts to fast track the South32 mine flies in the face of the environmental justice, which, according to the EPA

"means the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment so that people are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers. "

Attempting to short change the participation of community members, the majority of whom speak Spanish at home is unacceptable. The environmental and human impact of the proposed mine is HUGE with the supposed benefits serving people who live outside the area and who will not suffer the negative implications of the mine on the air, land and water of a cherished region. Further, those who will benefit from the materials being mined will be those who are financially well off, thus extracting precious minerals from an environmental justice community to benefit an already advantaged population.

A major selling point of the mine for the community is that it will bring jobs which is a false statement. It is obvious that the expertise for the mine will come from outside Santa Cruz County resulting in a large influx of people into the region that is not necessarily prepared for it. These people will take the money and go, leaving little in place for the community.

As Representative Grijalva says: "Mining has more harmful impacts than any other FAST-41 covered sector, and the Hermosa project, in particular, is an especially large, complex, and controversial project that warrants robust public review and input,"

I am opposed to this mine, but regardless, attempting to fast track the process undermines any federal attempts to rectify historical harm from outside industries.