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Organization:

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Comments: For decades the people from Santa Cruz County have endure economic challenges due to the lack of industry diversity, poor job creation, and opportunities, which have contributed to the exodus of many of our young community members, they must leave the community to attain opportunities and good paying jobs.

Santa Cruz County community must consider diversification of our economy and encourage growth by supporting the mining industry, which can immediately come and play a role in our progress.

Santa Cruz county has mineral resources and deposits, exploring responsible mining could contribute to the local economy in a huge way and improve the quality of life for members of our community and future generations of Santa Cruz County.

The company South32 aims to build the mine primarily on private lands in the Patagonia Mountains. This project is the only advanced mining initiative in the U.S. to produce two "federally designated critical materials": zinc and manganese. These minerals will help fuel new clean energy projects and reduce our dependency on foreign countries.

I believe we can support this project while ensuring responsible mineral extraction involves a combination of regulations, industry practices, and community engagement. Sustainable mining practices will minimize ecological impact, ensure the local economy benefits from the process that will create both direct mining jobs and indirect jobs by the support and services needed for the life of the mine.

I know South32 is committed to transparency, education, and work Force Development of Santa Cruz County; strengthen educational institutions and vocational training programs. This is a direct benefit that our community needs, if we develop a skilled workforce that can attract other businesses and supports economic growth.

We must not take lightly the opportunity at hand, it will change our economy and the life of our Santa Cruz County community for generations to come; however, we must ensure our community is educated about environmental stewardship for fostering awareness and positive action for the success of both the mine and our community.

Please approve the success of our community!