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Comments: The following comments pertain to the proposed South 32 Hermosa Mine Project:

The public comment period should be extended to a minimum of 90 days because the size and scope of the project warrants a longer time frame for public study and commentary. Additionally, South 32's Plan of Operation has not included materials in Spanish to accommodate the large percentage of Spanish speakers who will be impacted if the project goes forward. Spanish materials must be made available in the interest of fairness and justice.

There are many serious concerns about the mine's impact, including:

Significant, negative, and long-term effects on air quality and water usage, quality, and monitoring.

Negative effects of increased traffic.

Threats to over 100 endangered species.

Compromise of nature-based economy in Patagonia, including mountain biking and birdwatching.

Public health threat, i.e., lead and manganese heavy metals are proven toxic to human health.

Vulnerability of archeologically-sensitive region.

Fire danger increased.

Negative impact upon property values.

Environmental justice concerns: Worker, resident, and wildlife health will all be compromised.

Thank you for your sincere consideration of the above concerns.