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First name: Andrea

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to share my concerns and provide feedback regarding the permitting of South 32's Hermosa Project in the Patagonia mountains.

We have a number of concerns about the mining projects and just because the government has this subject to the Fast41 program for permitting doesn't mean that doing proper due diligence should be overlooked!

This area is one of the most biodiverse areas in the world and the cumulative impacts of these projects need to be understood to the environment, and the endangered species which live in this area. All the environmental groups are likely focusing on the overall environment, but there is also the human aspect of this. This is my home, I live here, I work here, and I rely on uncontaminated water coming from our well for our family. While we also have significant concerns about the environment, I also have very significant concerns when it comes to the future effects on our water quality and water accessibility.

South32 is proposing future mining of some materials which there is no current EPA regulations on, and are looking to exploit old mining regulations which are behind the times. I haven't even touched on our concerns of additional truck traffic and the transportation of these toxic materials.

This project could have devastating impacts if the proper due diligence is not done. I would implore the forest service to lengthen the feedback period, allow the time for the appropriate due diligence to take place and provide the opportunity for some guidelines and controls be developed to help provide a more balanced approach that works for both the community and the mine.

I think many of us realize that there are benefits to the mine, but that also needs to be balanced with the right due diligence or the impacts to my community could be devastating.

Thanks for your consideration.

Andrea & Mark Shoevlin

Lake Patagonia Ranch Estates Resident