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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to the Hermosa Project in the Patagonia Mountains for many reasons. This comment will be focused on the impact on people's mental health that concerns me.

I moved to Rio Rico in mid 2019 but I didn't really become aware of the scope of this project until about a year and a half ago. Once I realized how much the Hermosa Project was going to affect the county, my anxiety levels have been through the roof. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't worry about the future of Santa Cruz County. All of the things I love about this area are in jeopardy now and I can't bear the thought of what this mine will do to our water, our air, our health, our biodiversity and our chance at ecotourism.

I feel like this process has been rushed and is lacking transparency. I believe that South 32 is acting like they've acted in other countries when they've bought their way into communities with promises of high paying jobs and bright futures but they turn those communities into desolate, unlivable wastelands. I believe that South 32 does not care about our community and their only concern is profits.

They are going to do as little as possible to protect the residents and the environment. They are going to spend most of their money on marketing and buying their way into the community. Pat Risner is a slick used car salesman who will sell a faulty car to a family just to make a dollar. Saying that they will self monitor the air and water is like putting the fox in charge of the chicken coop. Are we really that naive or are we just very stupid? Why would we believe that they will act any differently in the U.S than they have acted in other countries? We should have stricter regulations here but that doesn't seem to really be true. We are asking for the same environmental, air, water, health and employment disasters that we've seen at every other mine in which Pat Risner and South 32 has been involved.

South 32 is never really held accountable and they are used to skirting regulations. Are you confident that we will not see this same behavior with the Hermosa Project? I am not. I am depressed, anxious and exhausted because of the Hermosa Project and I am certain that many other residents of Santa Cruz County are as well.

This process needs to be slowed down and we need more time to look at the Hermosa Project POO before we are required to comment. At the very least, the POO needs to be in Spanish. This comment period needs to be extended to 90 days. There is too much at stake here to rush this through.