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Comments: As a direct employee of South32 I would like to express my support for the South32 Hermosa project. First and foremost and based on 30 years of mining experience around the world, the South32 Hermosa Project is one of the safest and environmentally conscientious companies that I have worked with. There is a strong commitment from everyone to make sure this mine is developed in a sustainable and safe manner.

The mine will generate jobs in the local community that will be there for generations to come. There will be an economic boon to Santa Cruz County from mining jobs and services to support the mine. Santa Cruz county will certainly benefit from the mine by being able to invest in community infrastructure and services to better serve all people in the County.

Underpinning the above statements the mine will produce two critical minerals (Zinc and Manganese) within the United States and help replace the current supply that is coming from other countries. The US will not have to rely on foreign entities that want to control the minerals market and certainly have much lower environmental, safety and community standards than a US based mining project.