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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have enjoyed living in the Santa Cruz County area for over 15 years. During this time, I've enjoyed many trips to the Patagonia Lake, Sonoita Creek, Harshaw Creek and surrounding areas hiking and enjoying the beautiful natural conditions.

I'm writing to share my concerns over the impacts of the Hermosa Mining Project for silver, manganese and zinc in the Patagonia Mountains. Water is a particularly scarce and precious resource, and the impacts of local dewatering of an aquifer cannot always be accurately predicted---especially over the decade or more of this proposed project's lifetime.

Please study the likely impacts of the mining project and if they seriously lower the water table and/or dewater surface flows that are essential for so many animals, plants, and ecosystems in these mountains.

Please study the cumulative impacts of the pumping, collection, storage and recharging activities on the quality of the creeks, lakes and soil into which affected water can reasonably be expected to be found, including Harshaw Creek, Sonoita Creek, and Patagonia Lake.

Please study the scientific evidence concerning the extent to which the tailing storage facilities and associated infrastructure proposed in the MPO can reasonably be expected to prevent harmful impacts of exposure to the sulfide, ore concentrates, and other "filtered tailings" on plants, endangered animals, and humans. Specifically, please study the evidence concerning the long-term efficacy of the proposed storage facilities and supporting infrastructure.

Please study the direct impacts of the current and proposed additional project-related traffic on the health and safety of residents and visitors who use area roads.

Submitted by AsCenTae Holmes