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First name: Melanie

Last name: Morrison

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live at 378 Pennsylvania Avenue in Patagonia. I am also an owner of Sanctuary at Sonoita Creek, a home, rental property/campground in Patagonia. I am concerned about my investment here in the Town. Our property is located approximately 300 feet from Sonoita Creek. As you likely know, the entire town of Patagonia is located in the 100-year flood plain. Patagonia Town Code Chapter 13 states: A. the flood hazard areas of the Town of Patagonia are subject to periodic inundation, which may result in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards etc. And, B. These flood losses may be caused by the cumulative effect of obstructions in special flood hazard areas which increase flood heights and velocities and when inadequately anchored, cause damage in other areas.

With the above description of the status quo in Patagonia, It seems self-evident that over 6 million gallons of water per day going in to a tributary to Sonoita Creek that is upstream of the Town will most certainly increase the risk of flooding on my property. And that doesn't even take into consideration the potential effects of climate change on that risk. Though I know that the regulation of water quantity is handled by the Arizona Department of Water Resources, we are not in an Active Management Area and therefore do not have the rules and regulations to ensure that our community is not adversely affected by an industrial project in the Patagonia Mountains. It does not seem right for the Forest Service, an agency of the United States, to allow a new industrial property owner to jeopardize an entire town's wellbeing. Please address in detail how the Town will be protected from increased risk of flooding or put forward a no action alternative where the project is not permitted.