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First name: Sha MaeA

Last name: Brown

Organization:

Title:

Comments: After independent research of South 32's Hermosa Project in the Patagonia region of Southern Arizona, here is a list of proposed questions and concerns for the health of the public under law as well as private and foreseeable repercussions of the stated plan:

Santa Cruz County for Testing Wells schedule for Existing Wells is currently every 1 to 5 years. Should we have plan for more consistent testing for lead and other trace minerals to ensure the safety of the people and the animals needing access to clean drinking water. In the research studies for Cement Paste Backfilling and Tailings; the research has shown the tailing particles and processing water contain numerous types of heavy metals. The South 32 project tests should provide a sample of less than 0.011 mg/L of *Arsenic, Bacteria, Fluoride, Lead, Nitrates, Total Dissolved Solids, and Uranium to be at standard for Public Health Safety standards according to Santa Cruz County Environmental health department.

The EPA promulgated a revision to the ozone NAAQS - The National Ambient Air Quality, lowering the level of both primary and secondary standards to 0.070 ppm. This is the standard levels for (Co), (NOX), (PM), (SO2) (O3), and Lead (Pb). There is a concern for the proposed effects of mining projects and the impacts on the air quality which inadvertently effects the soil used for crops and livestock. Mine drainage into Harshaw and Sonoita Creek(s): When pyrite, an iron sulfide mineral, is exposed during mining and reacts with air and water, it can create sulfuric acid and dissolved iron that drains into surface water and groundwater. This acidic water can contaminate drinking water, harm aquatic plant and animal growth and reproduction, and corrode infrastructure. It can also leach toxic heavy metals like lead and zinc from rocks into water. Mining can also produce harmful sediment discharge into the rivers and lakes.

Patagonia is called the "Jewel of the Sonoita Valley" for its natural beauty and vitality. Many Birders, Hikers, and seasonal tourism from all of the world visit Patagonia for the wildlife and exclusivity. The potential impact on nearby properties and the natural environment are two of the biggest concerns for residents.

The implementation of policies to protect the people to ensure mining is conducted in a sustainable manner must be aligned with national and regional laws on mining and mineral development acts. Consumption of Manganese could lead to Health risks such as memory loss and other cognitive issues in both children and adults. The creation of jobs in the mining industry must be weighed with the cost of Environmental, Social, or Economical problems more than its profiting the people in the Patagonia and surrounding areas.

The most diverse bee species live here leading up to 600 native species of bees and more sparrow species exist in Patagonia than in any other region of the world. The Patagonia ecosystem is at the intersection of four major bio- geographic regions of the North Rocky Mountains, West Winter Rains, East Summer Rains, and the South Sierra Madres. This is sacred land with Riparian Forests, deemed richest most diverse place in the United States.

In March 2019, The National Heritage Area was signed into law for Santa Cruz Valley which encompasses the watershed of the Santa Cruz River around Nogales and Patagonia. The area's official heritage status will allow its leaders to apply for matching federal funds for projects that help preserve its agricultural, cultural, and historical identities.

We ask that you please protect our invaluable positions as a common good for people under such compliances with the U.S Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Mining Association, Independent contractors, Private landowners, county health providers and departments, and the Environmental protection agencies.

Thank you.

Sha MaeA