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First name: John

Last name: Hughes

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I've owned property in Patagonia since 1997. This is one of the most biologically diverse areas in the United States. Dewatering the mountain to the tune of six million gallons of waters a day for five years seems totally incongruous with conserving water in an arid environment. The amount of turgor pressure the existing water exerts keeps springs, critical to wildlife, flowing. My property is in the predicted cone of depression from the well. South 32's mine will act as a sink pulling existing ground water to it. I've heard that Game and Fish will supply water for wildlife should the springs dry up - will they do the same for me if my well runs dry. Past mining practices have left Harshaw Creek and Alum and Flux Canyons full of toxic metals. Releasing water into Harshaw Creek will raise the water table increasing the probability of flooding downstream. High volume floods will wash more of the toxic metals downstream. While it is hard to predict the results of washing more toxic metals downstream, it is conceivable that municipal water supplies in the town of Patagonia will be impacted negatively. Aquatic foods webs in Sonoita Creek will potentially be impacted as will vegetation and wildlife. These toxic metals will reach Patagonia Lake, which is already impaired, further exasperating existing problems. Pumping this amount of water out of fractured rock has, in other areas, created giant sinkholes. Are these minerals really worth the risk to the environment? I think not. I oppose this project. Thank you for your time.