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Comments: Based on all of the information that I have received as part of the South32 Advisory Panel, and from other individuals with incredible background knowledge and expertise, I am NOT in favor of the Hermosa project. With that said, I do believe that the Hermosa Project will come to fruition.

Protecting surface and groundwater in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, in light of the Hermosa Mine discharging 6.48 million gallons of water per day requires a multifaceted approach. I would suggest the following strategies: Robust Monitoring and Reporting (Implement real-time water quality monitoring systems both upstream and downstream of the discharge points to detect any changes in water quality immediately), Water Treatment Technologies (Utilize state-of-the-art water treatment technologies to ensure that discharged water exceeds regulatory standards for pollutants and contaminants), Strict Regulatory Compliance (Ensure strict enforcement of state and federal water quality standards, including the Clean Water Act, and any local regulations), Hydrological Impact Assessments (Conduct thorough hydrological studies to understand the potential impacts of the mine's water discharge on local water tables, aquifers, and surface water bodies), Pollution Prevention Measures (Implement measures at the source to reduce the levels of pollutants entering the discharge water, including minimizing the use of hazardous substances and improving process controls within the mine), Buffer Zones & Riparian Protection (Establish vegetative buffer zones around discharge areas to filter runoff and protect water bodies), Public Involvement & Education (Involve the local community in monitoring efforts and decision-making processes related to water quality and mine operations), Emergency Response Planning (Develop and maintain robust contingency plans for potential spills, leaks, or other emergencies that could impact water quality & ensure that mine staff and local emergency responders are trained and equipped to respond effectively to water-related emergencies).

Other topics that need attention include: Mine Traffic, the effects of Manganese on the people and environment (plans must be created to ensure the safety of the people, animals and plants that could be the most at risk).