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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Charlene Saltz and I am a resident of the town of Patagonia. I am writing to express my concerns in regards to the ecological and broader impacts from the Hermosa Critical Minerals Project. I would like to start by stating that I support and agree with all comments submitted by the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance.

In addition, I would like for the following to be studied to further understand the impact of the mine on the surrounding area and included in the draft environmental impact statement:

- At full operation, what percent of the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), both Scope 1 & 2 emissions, will the mine account for in the overall GHG emissions for the town of Patagonia and Santa Cruz County during construction and during operation? Will the mine be the largest source of GHG emissions for the area, where does it fall in overall contributors to GHG for the town and for the County? I want to know what percent of the overall GHG emissions for the area will be from the mine.
- The mine has set ambitious sustainability goals, one of them being net-zero GHG emissions by 2050? Does this include buying carbon offsets? Will those carbon offsets be certified? If they use offsets, what will the actual emissions be from the plant impacting the town of Patagonia and Santa Cruz County?
- What is the trajectory for an all electric vehicle fleet, including autonomous vehicles, if the vehicles they currently use have not been electrified? What is the plan for charging these vehicles? Will the power to charge these vehicles be part of the net-zero GHG goals? What are the current emissions and the near-term emissions from the vehicles being used today?
- What is the plan for South32 to share their GHG emissions every year? Will they be reporting them to CDP or other governing bodies? I would suggest full transparency of all three scopes of GHG emissions.
- Will their targets include Scope 1, 2 & 3 for GHG emissions? Can more details be provided on all three scopes and targets?
- How will these additional GHG emissions impact climate change in the local area?
- Based on EJ Screen and other tools, the town of Patagonia is identified as an EJ40 community. The mine will be contributing additional environmental impacts and burdens (increase of GHG emissions, traffic, etc..) to the community. What will the mine be doing to reduce these impacts and burdens on the community?
- Since the town has a large elderly population and high rate of cancer, both identified via EJ Screen, what considerations were given by South 32 to not further impact this burden? Were cumulative impacts considered?

Thank you for taking these questions into consideration and including the responses in the Environmental Impact Statement.