



## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER  
130 W. CONGRESS, TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317  
(520) 740-8661 FAX (520) 740-8171

C. H. HUCKELBERRY  
County Administrator

January 18, 2007

Jeanine Derby  
Forest Supervisor  
Federal Building  
300 West Congress  
Tucson, Arizona 85701

**Re: Resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors Opposing Mining in the Santa Rita Mountains of the Coronado National Forest**

Dear Ms. Derby:

Enclosed please find letters directed to Senators McCain and Kyl, as well as Congressman Grijalva and Congresswoman Giffords, regarding this subject. The Pima County Board of Supervisors, on January 16, 2007, unanimously passed the enclosed resolution to oppose mining activities in the Santa Rita Mountains by the Augusta Resource Corporation. The Board's hearing room was filled to capacity with most in attendance in opposition to the proposed mining activity. The Board has petitioned our Congressional representatives to withdraw the Rosemont area from further mineral exploration and to fund and use the Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire private in-holdings to be used for mining within the Coronado National Forest, containing the Santa Rita Mountains.

The County will continue to remain engaged in the review and comment of any proposed mining activity associated with Rosemont. We would appreciate being informed of any submittals. We will obviously respond to any formal notice of review and comment on any mining plan of operation or environmental impact statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Huckelberry".

C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

CHH/jj  
Attachments

c: The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors



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C. H. HUCKELBERRY  
County Administrator

January 18, 2007

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords, Member  
United States House of Representatives  
502 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: **Resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors Opposing Mining in the Santa Rita Mountains of the Coronado Forest**

Dear Congresswoman Giffords:

Enclosed please find a resolution unanimously passed by the Pima County Board of Supervisors on January 16, 2007. This letter is to request your assistance in withdrawing from mining or mineral exploration, the Santa Rita Mountains within the Coronado National Forest. Such is necessary in order to preserve the ecological and scenic values of the Santa Rita Mountains and Rosemont area. Further, such action is necessary to eliminate the significant and universally adverse effect of mining activities caused by an open pit copper mine. Pima County, unfortunately, is home to the adverse legacy of mining. Air pollution caused by blowing tailings, groundwater pollution caused by sulfate water infiltration into our groundwater, and the scenic scars on the landscape that will persist for generations are all the local community of Green Valley has to show for decades of open pit copper mining. This should not be repeated in the Santa Rita Mountains. In 1992, Senator McCain and Congressman Kolbe sponsored the Cave Creek Canyon Protection Act, passed by Congress in 1993. The Act withdrew ecologically sensitive lands in the Chiricahua Mountains and Coronado National Forest from mineral exploration.

We also believe that Congress should take steps to fund the established Land and Water Conservation Fund to allow various federal agencies, including the Forest Service, to use said funds to purchase any private in-holdings within the boundary of the Coronado National Forest, with the first priority being given to purchasing the existing rights of private land in-holdings that are planned to be used for mining activities within the Rosemont area. Use of this fund has historically preserved and protected some of America's most scenic and environmentally sensitive lands. We believe the Rosemont area of the Santa Rita Mountains is of national significance and hence justifies acquisition through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. H. Huckelberry".

C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

CHH/jj  
Attachment

c: The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors



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C. H. HUCKELBERRY  
County Administrator

January 18, 2007

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Member  
United States House of Representatives  
1440 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: **Resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors Opposing Mining in the Santa Rita Mountains  
Coronado Forest**

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Enclosed please find a resolution unanimously passed by the Pima County Board of Supervisors on January 16, 2007. As you recall from being on the Board of Supervisors, this controversial issue arose previously. Then a broad-based community coalition of Save the Santa Ritas successfully challenged the proposed mining activity, which was subsequently abandoned by the owner, ASARCO. To keep the mining proposal for Rosemont from resurfacing again and again in the future, it is necessary to withdraw the area from further mineral exploration. Apparently such was successfully accomplished by Congressional action in passing the Cave Creek Canyon Protection Act in 1993 for lands in the Chiricahua Mountains. We believe this area, opposite the Madera Canyon international birding area, is just as ecologically sensitive as Cave Creek Canyon.

We ask your assistance in initiating those necessary Congressional actions to withdraw the Santa Rita Mountains within the Coronado National Forest from mining or mineral exploration. We realize that some entity will ultimately have to deal with the existing rights as they may exist regarding the Rosemont property; however, we believe that withdrawing the area from further and future mineral exploration is a first necessary step in the ultimate protection of these public lands from mining exploitation.

We also believe the existing Land and Water Conservation Fund should be used to acquire the private mining in-holdings in the Coronado National Forest to conserve this most important, scenic and ecologically sensitive area.

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. H. Huckelberry".

C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

CHH/jj  
Attachment

c: The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors



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C. H. HUCKELBERRY  
County Administrator

January 18, 2007

The Honorable John McCain, Member  
United States Senate  
241 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0303

Re: **Resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors Opposing Mining in the Santa Rita Mountains Coronado Forest**

Dear Senator McCain:

Enclosed please find a resolution unanimously passed by the Pima County Board of Supervisors on January 16, 2007. This resolution opposes a proposed open pit copper mine in the Rosemont area of the Santa Rita Mountains by Augusta Resource Corporation. It should be noted that this location has been the site of controversial mining proposals in the past that have been abandoned. The Board requests initiation of actions necessary to withdraw the Coronado National Forest containing the Santa Rita Mountains from further mineral exploration, similar to mineral withdrawal that occurred by Congressional action in passing the Cave Creek Canyon Protection Act.

To avoid future conflicts with mining activities on our most sensitive and valued public lands, we would also ask that mineral withdrawal take place on all national parks, monuments and forests within Pima County, as well as on the County's natural resource parks of Tucson Mountain Park, Tortolita Mountain Park, Colossal Cave Mountain Park, Cienega Creek, and the Davidson Canyon Preserve.

We hope you will be able to assist Pima County in this effort. We look forward to meeting with you and your staff to discuss those steps necessary to accomplish the actions requested in the resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Huckelberry".

C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

CHH/jj

Attachment

c: The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors



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C. H. HUCKELBERRY  
County Administrator

January 18, 2007

The Honorable Jon Kyl, Member  
United States Senate  
730 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: **Resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors Opposing Mining in the Santa Rita Mountains Coronado Forest**

Dear Senator Kyl:

Enclosed please find a resolution unanimously passed by the Pima County Board of Supervisors on January 16, 2007. This resolution opposes a proposed open pit copper mine in the Rosemont area of the Santa Rita Mountains by Augusta Resource Corporation. It should be noted that this location has been the site of controversial mining proposals in the past that have been abandoned. The Board requests initiation of actions necessary to withdraw the Coronado National Forest containing the Santa Rita Mountains from further mineral exploration, similar to mineral withdrawal that occurred by Congressional action in passing the Cave Creek Canyon Protection Act.

To avoid future conflicts with mining activities on our most sensitive and valued public lands, we would also ask that mineral withdrawal take place on all national parks, monuments and forests within Pima County, as well as on the County's natural resource parks of Tucson Mountain Park, Tortolita Mountain Park, Colossal Cave Mountain Park, Cienega Creek, and the Davidson Canyon Preserve.

We hope you will be able to assist Pima County in this effort. We look forward to meeting with you and your staff to discuss those steps necessary to accomplish the actions requested in the resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Huckelberry", is written over the typed name and title.

C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

CHH/jj

Attachment

c: The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OPPOSING THE PROPOSED ROSEMONT MINE

WHEREAS, Augusta Resource Corporation submitted a draft plan of operations to the U.S. Forest Service on July 31, 2006 to develop the Rosemont Mine on private and Forest Service land within the Santa Rita Mountains south of Tucson; and

WHEREAS, Augusta's July 31, 2006 plan of operations was not accepted by the U.S. Forest Service due to insufficient information; and

WHEREAS, Pima County provided comments on the July 31, 2006 plan of operations to the U.S. Forest Service and to Augusta stating five performance criteria that should be met by any mining or development project proposed for such a location; and

WHEREAS, these five performance criteria address concerns in the areas of conformance to the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Conservation Lands System, and Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, prevention of water quality and quantity impacts, concurrent reclamation, visual impacts, and an environmental enhancement endowment; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service via the National Environmental Policy Act will be required to take into account consistency with local land use plans, which in this case is the Pima County Comprehensive Land Use Plan including the Conservation Lands System; and

WHEREAS, Pima County is preparing an application for a Section 10 permit pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act via the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the land proposed for mining contains important ecosystems desired for protection; and

WHEREAS, the typical legacy left behind from prior and existing mines places undue costs and adverse impacts on the tax payers of Pima County with few local tax benefits, and is therefore unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, a recent study of 70 Environmental Impact Statements for modern-era hard rock mines found that water quality impacts from hard rock mines are consistently underestimated and therefore the mitigation is consistently inadequate; and

WHEREAS, water quality impacts to Davidson Canyon and Cienega Creek would be detrimental to rare riparian habitat along the creeks, the endangered species within the creeks, and the high quality water supply to the Tucson Basin; and

WHEREAS, Augusta has not yet shown how the Rosemont Mine will conform to the Clean Water Act, Stormwater and Section 404 permit requirements for the deposition of dredge and fill materials in waters of the United States; and

WHEREAS, a recent geological survey of the site brings into question the stability of the high wall natural rock formations above the proposed mining pit; and

WHEREAS, the County has questioned the validity of Augusta's Forest Service mining claims due to the fact that the claims are not proposed to be mined for the recovery of valuable minerals, but are instead proposed to be used as a dumping ground for waste produced from mining on Augusta's private land, thereby invalidating the legal foundation of the original claims; and

WHEREAS, Augusta has not yet proved that it has valid Forest Service mining claims; and

WHEREAS, the information Augusta has provided the County to date leaves many questions unanswered and is insufficient to determine if and how Augusta would be able to meet the five performance criteria outlined by the County to address the negative impacts associated with the proposed Rosemont Mine.

NOW, THEREFORE, UPON MOTION DULY MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Pima County Board of Supervisors opposes Augusta Resource Corporation's proposed Rosemont Mine.
2. Pima County will continue to actively comment on any future plan of operations submitted for Rosemont Mine, including during any formal review by the U.S. Forest Service per the National Environmental Policy Act.
3. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the withdrawal of all Pima County natural reserve parks from mineral entry, as well as Federal lands included in National Parks, Monuments, and Forests within Pima County.
4. The Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the inclusion of these lands (Rosemont) for conservation purposes into the National Forest Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds.
5. The Pima County Board of Supervisors requests the Arizona Congressional Delegation initiate the permanent withdrawal from mining and mineral exploration all federal lands within the Santa Rita Mountains area of the Coronado National Forest.

Passed by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, this 16th day of January, 2007.



Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors

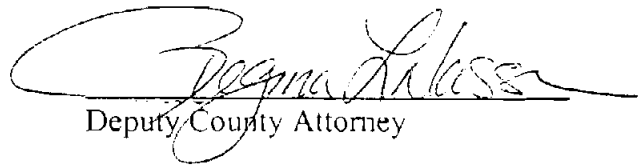
JAN 16 2007

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Deputy County Attorney