



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
115 N. CHURCH AVE., 2nd FLOOR, Suite 231, TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317
520-724-8661, FAX 520-724-8171

JAN LESHER
County Administrator

March 12, 2026

Robyn Sahid, Commissioner
Arizona State Land Department
1110 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Support for Protest of Public Auction Sale No. 53-122457 for Copper World

Dear Commissioner Sahid:

Pima County supports the attached protest of Public Auction Sale No. 53-122457 submitted by a firm representing Save the Scenic Santa Rita's. Regarding the specific terms of the auction that are appealable, Pima County is similarly concerned that minimum bid price may be based on an undervalued appraisal. Pima County has applied for and purchased many parcels of State Trust land. Those appraisals often included hypothetical conditions and extraordinary circumstances that disregarded impediments to development and existing local land use or zoning designations, resulting in an inflated appraised value of the land. This was not the case for this 160-acre property which was appraised based on the zoning code classification of Rural Homestead even though the appraisal acknowledges that the parcel will not be used for Rural Homestead uses and that the proposed use is industrial.

Pima County is also concerned about the lack of consideration for the monetary impacts to the value of adjacent State Trust land due to the groundwater pumping that would be necessary to serve the mine in an area with large State Trust land holdings. The lack of a required 5-year State Trust land disposition plan is a concern of Pima County's for a while as more urban lands that may be ripe for development are not moving to auction even though our region is facing a housing shortage and has identified the availability of land for housing as a contributing constraint.

Again, we request this property be withdrawn from auction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Leshner", is written over a horizontal line.

Jan Leshner
Pima County Administrator