My name is Robin Lucky, my address is 1377 Camino Faja, Rio Rico, AZ 85648. I am the President of the Calabasas Alliance in Rio Rico Arizona, and we work in the area of Environmental Justice thought advocacy and education. We support the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance and object to the proposal from ADEQ to review the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Eliminations Permit # AZ 00026387 for South 32 Hermosa Project mine.

ADEQ must determine these new facilities to be legal NEW SOURCES of discharge.

Yesterday, members of the Calabasas Alliance attended the Arizona Water Resources Board meeting in Rio Rico. It was distressing to say the least. Not only are we facing the 6.5 million gallons of water a day being mis-used in Patagonia with a plan to extract extremely dangerous manganese ore, but SCC is still designated in EXRREME DROUGHT STATUS for all last year - and this has not changed for January 2024.

There was a rancher present at this meeting who lives near the Patagonia highway, who said he can smell raw sewage from the Santa Cruz River near his property. He and his family have stopped drinking the tap water. Moreover, as reported by the EPA in USA TODAY recently, then, re-reported by The Nogales International, Rio Rico and South Tubac have 900% over the proposed allowable limits of PFAS’s in our drinking water. These are forever chemicals in our local water supply that can cause cancer and other disabling diseases such as auto immune disease. Our water company in Rio Rico is Liberty Water. When we contacted them to ask for further information/remediation on our PFASF issue – they never responded.

Liberty Water is owned by the Canadian Company (Fortis), who also owns Unisource/Tucson Electric Power. It looks like our so-called friends from the British Commonwealth, who we as US citizens have a “special relationship” with, are in fact, quietly trying to destroy us, starting with our precious natural resources - in our own backyard. Tonight - I ask you the powers Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and our County officials to immediately declare a Water Emergency in Santa Cruz County due to our continued EXTREME DROUGHT STATUS, the poisoning of our water and destruction of an ancient aquafer with mined heavy metals such as lead, zinc, silver, now manganese and raw sewage – AND extremely high amount of PFAS in our local water Supply. I ask AZDEQ not to issue any permits to the to the Australian Mining Company South 32 Hermosa project for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your time.  PLEASE MAKE MY COMMENTS PART OF THE PATAGONIA AREA RESOURCE ALLIANCE COMMENTS.