

Chris Mason

I disagree strongly with the plan to allow South32 to develop a new underground mine known as the Hermosa project. The area first has to be pumped dry. This would lower groundwater levels around the mine by an estimated 1,900 feet and potentially harm hundreds of springs fed by that water.

If granted, groundwater pumping will begin and that water would be squandered. 6 million gallons per day would be dumped into Harshaw Creek and 172,000 gallons per day into Alum Creek. The consistent addition of such huge volumes of water would bury springs and irrevocably change the landscape. This groundwater pumping could also cause flooding in the town of Patagonia threatening homes and businesses.

Shortsighted, greed based projects that create lasting harm to the environment are something I think we should avoid at all costs.