

Louis Dombroski

I am writing to urge you to DENY the proposed AZPDES Permit No. AZ0026387 for the January Hermosa Mine Project.

I spent the last four years (through October 2023) living in Patagonia while I worked at Tucson Audubon's Paton Center for Hummingbirds.

Sonoita Creek is the life blood of the town of Patagonia. The pumping of millions of gallons of water into Harshaw Creek, which flows into Sonoita Creek, could have devastating consequences for the environment and for the community. Nature study, and especially birdwatching or "birding" are vitally important to the area economy, and any environmental changes that would make the area less appealing to birders would harm the community. The impact of releasing huge amounts of water into an ephemeral/intermittent creek will bury springs and irrevocably change the landscape in ways that will make it less appealing to birders. Many springs and seeps in the Patagonia Mountains could be harmed by the cone of depression in the water table caused by pumping so much water into Harshaw Creek.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns, which are shared by many birders throughout the country.