

# Jeffrey Richardson

Dear Arizona Department of Environmental Quality,

As a frequent visitor to federal public lands in the Patagonia Mountains, I am shocked at the proposed groundwater pumping and related activities connected to the South32/Hermosa project. The notion that such a project might go forward on private or AZ public land without any regard for the resources on adjoining federal lands is completely unacceptable.

I urge you to deny South32's Hermosa permit (#AZ0026387) for groundwater pumping and discharge of mine water into Harshaw and Alum creeks. The resulting loss of springs from a lowered water table and the accelerated and excessive flows resulting from discharge of the pumped water would cause damage that is irreparable. This region is environmentally sensitive by its very nature. Its resilience is being severely tested by diverse forms of habitat loss, human activities and climate change.

Please deny this permit!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Richardson