

# Keith Moheban

I object to the proposed permit and request that AZPDES not approve it. My concerns are as follows:

1. I have visited the Patagonia area on a number of occasions. It is a unique and largely untouched desert landscape of immense beauty. It is unique in having a regular source of water in the beautiful Sonoita Creek, as well as numerous seeps and springs that support diverse and beautiful vegetation and wildlife. This water also creates the very popular (and rare for Arizona) Patagonia Lake and its state park.
2. The proposed dewatering involved with the proposed mine threatens the underground source of Sonoita Creek and Patagonia Lake. It could result in the drying up of the creek and the lake. Why would Arizona allow an activity that would potentially eliminate these valuable natural resources? It should not allow dewatering.
3. If you do allow dewatering then you have to determine what to do with the immense volumes of now-contaminated water resulting from the dewatering. This is another reason to not allow dewatering in the first place. But the proposal to simply release millions of gallons of water a day into existing arroyos or washouts that are known to be contaminated from prior mining activity makes no sense.
4. The washout water will end up in Sonoita Creek and ultimately Patagonia Lake. Thus, if you do not destroy the creek and lake by dewatering, you will destroy it through contamination.

In a state where water is such a precious resource, approving this proposed permit is contrary to the interests of Arizonans (and tourists to Arizona like me) while benefiting primarily only a foreign mining company that has no long-term connection to this region.

Sincerely, Keith