

Dear Arizona Department of Environmental Quality,

Having been raised in Southern Arizona, we are writing to urge you to deny South32's Hermit permit renewal (#AZ0026387) for discharging pumped aquifer "waste" water into Harshaw and Alum creeks. The possible impacts are unacceptable and fall under two main categories:

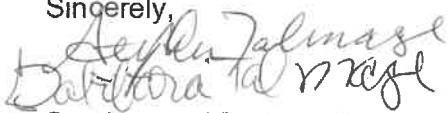
1. dewatering due to aquifer pumping, and
2. chemical and physical disturbances due to increased flow rates in Harshaw and Alum creeks.

We argue that South32 aims to use Harshaw creek and Alum creek as natural pipes to discharge their water, and that the true point of discharge is not where they release it from their plant, but where it comes into contact with the vital waters of Sonoita creek and Patagonia municipal sources.

Care of the land, support of thriving biodiversity, and stewardship of the precious resource of water are as important now as ever before. It is hoped that those charged with overseeing the state's environmental quality will do further review of the potential long-term impacts related to South 32.

At the very least, ADEQ must create additional points of compliance and require South32 to fund continual remediation of these contaminated creek beds if they seek to pump water into them, which endangers not only the health of the delicate riparian ecosystem, but also the residents of Patagonia, and visitors to the area who enjoy the drinking water, recreation, and a fish that would be made hazardous if you choose to do nothing.

Sincerely,



Stephen and Barbara Talmage
1076 W. Stacey Ln
Tempe, AZ 85284