

CONRAD MCCARTHY

Dear Arizona Department of Environmental Quality,

South32's Hermosa permit (#AZ0026387) for discharge of mine water into Harshaw and Alum creeks should be denied due to unacceptable impact from the : "cone of depression" from dewatering and the subsequent impact on the surrounding springs and creeks.

Lowering the groundwater level will change local hydraulic gradients, causing current natural springs to causing potential significant loss of upland trees. and severe disruption of the present ecosystem.

Although water in the desert is a rarity, and one would think that increased flow would help our streams, because of the sensitive ecological balance of these riparian ecosystems, a change in flow regime this drastic could permanently alter the character and species composition of these areas.

For all these reasons, I urge the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to deny the permit for this project.

Sincerely,