

# William Dixon

To Department of Environmental Quality,

As a resident of Santa Cruz County since 1999 I write in favor of a denial of South32's Hermosa permit request (#AZ0026387) for discharge of mine water into Harshaw and Alum creeks. The proposed discharges--in their manner and volume-- would permanently cause irreversible damage--based upon scientific studies and the information provided by the applicant itself.

Detailed information on the need for denial is in the hands of the Department. I hope you will fulfill your responsibilities and deny the requested permit"

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What's more, such intense flooding will lead to reduced tree recruitment for riparian species like cottonwoods and sycamores — over time, altering the landscape. Because the water discharges would be ongoing, the surrounding landscape will be more water-logged. This means a reduced capacity to absorb water during rains, and potential downstream flash flooding. And finally, the quality of the water being discharged in such high quantities is a concern. Its source will be deep underground in the Hermosa project, and although the mine has promised to treat the water before release, its quality could change unexpectedly over time.

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 you and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to deny the permit for this project.

Sincerely,