

My name is Blue Evening Star. I represent Friends of the Santa Cruz River, where I have served as an active board member for 16 years.

Friends of the Santa Cruz River was formed in 1991 to “ensure a continued flow of the river’s surface waters, promote the highest river water quality achievable, and to protect and restore the riparian ecosystem and diversity of life supported by the river’s waters.”

Our non-profit, all-volunteer group focuses on the portion of the river from its headwaters in the San Rafael Valley in Arizona, south into Mexico, and then north through Santa Cruz County to the Pima County line — in other words, the entire watershed. We work with riverside landowners, government agencies, and other citizens and community groups to keep the river flowing, its banks clean and green, and its environment bountiful to both wildlife and people.

Friends of the Santa Cruz River adamantly objects to the proposal from ADEQ to renew the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination permit No. AZ0026387 for South 32’s Hermosa Mine Project.

In order to uphold your mandate to protect local residents and the environment, ADEQ **must** determine these new facilities to be legal **new sources** of discharge into Harshaw Creek, Alum Gulch and Sonoita Creek — **before** issuing this renewed Permit.

As a **new source**, the mine is subject to all modern performance standards and requirements of the Clean Water Act.

I reference and incorporate the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance comments into my comments.

Thank-you

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