

Nancy Valentine

Do not approve any requests from mining operations in the Santa Cruz River watershed. Mining operations being proposed will negatively impact water and air quality for the communities within the Santa Cruz River watershed. Sonoita Creek, a tributary of the Santa Cruz River, will be compromising water quality and riparian habitat along the river's course from Rio Rico through Tumacacori, Carmen, Tubac, Amado, Green Valley and Tucson as the river runs north through these communities. The amount of water required for mining operations proposed by South32 compromises the future availability and quality of water resources for both agricultural and existing and future populations. While current mining laws support this use of what has overtime become a limited resource, utilizing water resources for mining is short-sited and irresponsible in the context of sustaining existing communities, endangered species within the watershed, and resources contributing to future economic development. This region from the confluence of the Sonoita Creek and the Santa Cruz River is contributory to the heritage assets that constitute the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area, the Juan Bautista National Historic Trail, the Tumacacori National Historic Park, the Tubac National Historic District. These heritage assets would be negatively impacted by the compromised quantity and quality of the Santa Cruz River watershed contributing to economic losses to communities dependent on these heritage assets as eco and cultural heritage destinations. New methods to power electric vehicles aside from dependence of magnesium will be developed in the near future. It is irresponsible to approve a short-term commercial demand if long term it destroys an environment, quality of life and heritage assets that have proven economically contributory long term and for the future. Do not approve any requests from mining operations in the Santa Cruz River watershed.