

Martin Jablonski

I live about ten miles from the proposed Hermosa Mine being developed by Australian Mining Company South 32. I do not have the technical hydrological expertise to assess whether the pollutants that will be discharged by South 32 are reasonable or not, but I am extremely concerned about the volume of water to be discharged. Pumping such a large amount of water and then discharging that water into normally dry washes (Harshaw Creek and Alum Creek) will forever change the plant and animal life in the vicinity of these washes. This continual, potentially toxic, discharge will create ecosystems that should not be here. At the same time, the cone of depression created by this pumping will most certainly destroy the plant life that relies on groundwater - specifically Cottonwood and Sycamore trees - and the wildlife that depend on these trees. Further, this mine is not in some isolated, unpopulated area where a mining company can conduct their activities without impacting people. The water discharges and groundwater drawdowns will impact homeowners and ranchers that live here. Not to mention the potential impacts to the city of Patagonia water supply. It seems irresponsible for the AZDEQ to approve this permit knowing that doing so will adversely and permanently affect the plants and animals that have evolved to live in the existing environment and the people who have made this part of the state their home. I urge you to deny this permit modification and remember that "Environmental Quality" is the name of your organization.