

## Greg Kesselring

South32 seeks to develop a new underground mine known as the Hermosa project. But to operate, the area first has to be pumped dry. This would lower groundwater levels around the mine by an estimated 1,900 feet and harm HUNDREDS of springs fed by that water.

If granted, groundwater pumping will begin and that water would be squandered. 6 million gallons per day would be dumped into Harshaw Creek and 172,000 gallons per day into Alum Creek. The consistent addition of such huge volumes of water would bury springs and irrevocably change the landscape. This groundwater pumping could also cause flooding in the town of Patagonia threatening homes and businesses.

Local residents and businesses should be given priority over a global mining company. Residents and owners of local businesses live here and raise their families here. The local residents and business owners should be able to vote on whether or not to allow the mine. Local governments should have a say as well. That is true democracy. Please consider what the people of this area need. Do not give in to a global mining company that will wreck the local landscape to get what they're after and then disappear, leaving behind destroyed habitat at best, a toxic waste dump at worst.

Thank you for considering what is best for local residents and for all Arizonans