

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-_____

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**RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS and
THE PIMA COUNTY REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OPPOSING THE PROPOSED ROSEMONT MINE AND ITS IMPACTS**

WHEREAS, Pima County provided comments on the July 31, 2006 Rosemont mine plan of operations to the U.S. Forest Service and to Augusta Mining Corp. stating five performance criteria that should be met by any mining or development project proposed for such a location; and

WHEREAS, these five performance criteria address concerns in the areas of conformance to the County's Conservation Lands System guidelines, water resource impacts, reclamation, visual impacts, and an environmental enhancement endowment; and

WHEREAS, the mine proponent has not complied with the Conservation Lands System guidelines for even their direct impacts, let alone indirect impacts; and

WHEREAS, water resource impacts in the Cienega Basin, including Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, would be detrimental and largely unmitigated; and

WHEREAS, water quality impacts to Davidson Canyon and Cienega Creek would be detrimental to rare riparian habitat along the creeks, the endangered species within the creeks, and the high quality water supply to the Tucson Basin; and

WHEREAS, the reclamation plans cited in the Final Environmental Impact Statement significantly underestimate soil needed for reclamation, without which reclamation cannot be effective; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 264,795 acres of land will be adversely affected by impacts to viewsheds; and

WHEREAS, the Barrel Alternative selected in the Final Environmental Impact Statement increased the visual impacts to scenic highway 83; and

WHEREAS, the environmental enhancement funds available to mitigate for impacts of the mine in the Cienega watershed are far too limited; and

WHEREAS, the Pima County's five performance criteria will not be met for the Rosemont Mine as approved;

WHEREAS, public access and recreation to 6,990 acres of public land would become unavailable; and

WHEREAS, mine construction and operations will destroy, remove, or damage historic properties, including traditional cultural properties, archaeological sites, historical structures and sites, and cultural landscapes; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 146,153 acres of land mostly located in Pima County will be affected by noise, vibration and light emitted from the mine site; and

WHEREAS, Pima County and the Regional Flood Control District comply with and enforce local standards, ordinances, and policies to comply with federal requirements; and

WHEREAS, Pima County and the Regional Flood Control District avoid and minimize impacts and provide meaningful mitigation commensurate with the impacts of their activities; and

WHEREAS, the proponent and the federal agencies have backslid on protecting the environment and the community in specific ways that resulted in more risk and less safety; and

WHEREAS, the proposed mine places undue costs and adverse impacts on the taxpayers of Pima County with few local tax benefits, and is therefore unacceptable;

NOW, THEREFORE, UPON MOTION DULY MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Pima County Board of Supervisors reaffirms its 2007-15 resolution opposing the Rosemont mine;
2. The Board of Supervisors and Regional Flood Control District Board of the Directors (the Boards) direct the County Administrator and staff to:
 - a. Provide information as needed to document the County and District's continuing concerns about the impacts of the Rosemont mine as the project evolves;
 - b. Take all necessary measures to protect the health, safety and welfare of southern Arizonans using or enjoying County or District infrastructure affected by the mine;
 - c. Take all necessary measures to protect the health, safety and welfare of people using the air and water resources affected by the mine;
 - d. Take all necessary measures to protect the County and District conservation and Multi-species Conservation Plan mitigation lands that are affected by the mine.
3. The Board of Supervisors and Regional Flood Control District Board of the Directors (the Boards) request that the southern Arizona Congressional delegation including Representative Grijalva and Representative Kirkpatrick, as well as Senator McSally and Senator Sinema:
 - a. Introduce legislation that requires federal agencies to comply with local standards, ordinances, and policies that are necessary for the local government's compliance with federal laws, particularly when those local standards have been developed to comply with the requirements of existing federal laws.
 - b. Take all necessary measures to impose further mitigation requirements on the Rosemont mine proponent Hudbay to acquire and protect 10,000 acres of land, including State Trust Lands, and water rights adjacent to Cienega Creek and Las Cienegas National Conservation Area as compensatory mitigation to offset the massive impacts this mine will cause to southern Arizona.
 - c. Reform grossly antiquated mining laws and regulations to protect public health, safety and welfare as well as the Nation's air, water and lands.
 - d. Impose a federal severance tax on metal mining occurring on federal lands.
4. Request Hudbay convey acquired water rights in the Cienega Basin to Pima County or the Regional Flood Control District, including conveyance of the real property and the pertinent improvements of the Pantano Dam site.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona, this 16th day of April 2019.

Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM



Civil Deputy County Attorney
REGINA NASSEN

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Pima County Regional Flood Control District, this 16th day of April 2019.

Chairman, Pima County Regional Flood Control District Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM



Civil Deputy County Attorney
REGINA NASSEN