

Objection to Rosemont FEIS & ROD

Diane Meyer 02/13/14

As far as I can tell, and I can't be sure because the EIS document doesn't appear to be searchable, it did not address or suggest **mitigation for my concerns of the cumulative effects** of permitting another large copper mine drawing from the aquifer that sustains the communities of Green Valley and Sahuarita.

These communities are already contending with a dropping water table because more water is being removed than can be replenished, largely due to the draw by several large copper mining operations. A sulfate plume from one of the mines has reached a residential area and is threatening to contaminate wells supplying drinking water. Dust from mine tailings is deposited on homes with as yet undetermined health effects. Existing mines have obliterated once scenic views to the west with barren walls of mine tailings; efforts to re-vegetate them have been spectacularly unsuccessful. Consequently, property values are significantly less for homes closer to the tailings.

Approving the Rosemont mine will worsen all of these effects. It will draw more water from the aquifer that is already being overdrawn. The proposed recharging with CAP water won't help the residents of Green Valley as the recharge point is downstream from them. Further, the availability of CAP water is iffy at best given all the demands on the Colorado River and the forecasted long-term drought conditions.

The high voltage lines to supply power for the Rosemont mine will mar the present unobstructed view to the east. Moreover, Rosemont's announcement to investors that it plans to develop three more mining areas on this side of the ridge will destroy more scenic mountain views and surround Green Valley and Sahuarita with visible copper mines. At that point property values in these communities can be expected to plummet. Who wants to retire to or live in a mining area let alone one with a questionable water supply?

This area's economy has successfully made the transition from the boom-bust cycles and pollution associated with mining, to the stable, sustainable, clean industries of retirement living, recreation and tourism. Mining is, and is expected to be, a minor contributor to the County's income. Although the Rosemont mine would increase the County revenues by about one percent, the job and revenue losses from retirement, recreation and tourism will be far greater due to the air, water and noise pollution and the degradation of scenic values the mines will bring with them.

Our desert is a beautiful, but fragile environment. These cumulative assaults could soon make it undesirable and even unlivable.