



## Green Valley Community Coordinating Council, Inc.

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Canoa Estates  
Canoa Estates II  
Canoa Hills Townhomes  
Canoa Ridge  
Canoa Seca Estates  
Canoa Seca Estates II  
Canoa Vistas  
Canoa Vistas II  
Capistrano at Las Campanas  
Casa Paloma I (TH III)  
Casa Paloma II (TH VII)  
Clara Vista Del Valle  
Continental Vistas  
Country Club North  
Country Club Vistas I  
Country Club Vistas II  
Country Club Vistas III  
Council of Casita Co-owners  
Desert Hills Estates  
Desert Hills I  
Desert Hills I Townhomes  
Desert Hills II  
Desert Hills III  
Desert Hills III West  
Desert Hills IV  
Desert Hills V  
Desert Hills VI  
Desert Meadows I  
Desert Meadows II  
Desert Meadows III  
Encanto Estates  
Esperanza Estates  
Green Valley Foothills Townhouses IV  
Green Valley Resort Homes  
Green Valley Townhouse Assn. (I,II,V)  
Green Valley Townhouse VI  
Highpointe  
La Cañada Desert Homes I  
La Cañada Desert Homesites III  
Madera Vista Townhouses  
Portillo Hills I  
Portillo Hills II  
Portillo Place  
Portillo Ridge  
Pueblo Estates  
Ranchettes  
San Ignacio Golf Estates  
San Ignacio Heights  
San Ignacio Ridge Estates  
San Ignacio Vistas  
Solano  
Soledad  
SpringPointe  
Sunrise Pointe  
The Greens  
The Legends at Santa Rita Springs  
The Links at Santa Rita Springs  
The Villages of Green Valley  
Viewpoint  
Villas East  
Villas West

Cadden Community Management  
Concord Milestone Plus, L.P.  
Dorn Homes, Inc.  
Fairfield Green Valley, Inc.  
Farmers Investment Co.  
Green Valley Association of Realtors  
Green Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Green Valley Fire District  
Green Valley Recreation, Inc.  
La Posada at Park Centre, Inc.  
Lewis Management Resources, Inc.  
Meritage Active Adult Communities  
Pima County Sheriff  
Quail Creek Resort Community  
SAV - Neighborhood Watch  
Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers  
Southwest Ambulance of Tucson  
Stratford Management  
Wilson Property Services, Inc.

August 27, 2007

Honorable Gabrielle Giffords  
520 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Giffords:

The purpose of this letter is to request your assistance on the following two issues of vital importance to the citizens of Greater Green Valley:

1. The prevention of the development of a copper mine in the Rosemont area of the Santa Rita Mountains by the Canadian firm Augusta Resource Corporation.
2. The funding of a seven to nine-mile pipeline to bring Central Arizona Project (CAP) water to the Green Valley-Sahuarita area.

### **Stopping Copper Mining in the Rosemont area of the Santa Rita Mountains**

Addressing the issue of a copper mine in the Rosemont area of the Santa Rita Mountains, first; you will recall that GVCCC -- a community organization that represents 61 Homeowner Associations (more than 90% of the 30,000 plus population) in Green Valley -- vigorously opposed the development of this mine at a hearing held by the Pima County Board of Supervisors on January 16, 2007.

As a result of that opposition and the opposition of many other organizations and individuals in your congressional district, the Pima County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution asking you and other members of our congressional delegation to deny mining and mineral exploration anywhere in the Coronado National Forest.

You will also recall that this opposition was reiterated at the February 24, 2007 congressional field hearing held by Rep. Raul Grijalva in which you participated. At that hearing, testimony was taken concerning the Cave Creek Canyon Protection Act of 1993, originally sponsored by your predecessor Jim Kolbe and Senator John McCain, whereby land was withdrawn from mining by congressional action.

We have followed with interest various recent congressional efforts to amend the Mining Act of 1872. While such efforts are, in the main, commendable, we believe the solution to preventing copper mining in the Rosemont area of the Santa Rita Mountains is specific congressional action directed at stopping this mine proposal, at this time, and in this place.

The scope of Augusta Resource Corporation's project is staggering considering the present pristine nature of the Rosemont area of the Santa Rita Mountains. According to Augusta's Mine Plan of Operations (MPO), the footprint or project disturbance area of the operation will exceed 4,400 acres. The open pit, itself, the MPO states, "will be about 6,500 feet (1.23 miles) across north to south, 6,000 feet (1.14 miles) across east to west, and will be about 1,800 to 2,900 feet (.55 miles) deep ... the pit area totals about 700 acres and an additional 300 acres will be disturbed for access/haul roads, ore stockpiles, the primary crusher and overland conveyor, power lines, water pipelines, truck shop, and storage of fuel and lubricants."

To help you visualize the size of this open pit in comparison to Green Valley, imagine a 2,900 foot deep hole in the ground reaching from Abrego Drive on the east to the West Desert Preserve on the west; and from Esperanza Boulevard on the north to Continental Road on the south.

The MPO states that the open pit mine will "operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and 365 days per year." This will generate an "ore processing rate of 75,000 tons per day, or 27 million tons per annum."

This amount of ore processing requires a great deal of water. Augusta proposes taking 5,000 acre feet of water per year from our aquifer for 20 years, or a total of 100,000 acre feet. An acre foot of water is 326,000 gallons. Five thousand acre feet of water would support 10,000 families of four for one year.

The Rosemont mine plan is to replace the ground water it uses with CAP water recharged in Marana or possibly just south of Sahuarita Road, depending upon the outcome of negotiations between Augusta and the Community Water Company of Green Valley. (We will discuss these negotiations further in the second part of this letter concerning CAP pipeline funding.)

The proposed Marana recharging is 40 miles north of the wells that service Green Valley. Since the water flow is to the north, this is no real help to our citizens in Green Valley. Furthermore, while we understand the concept of recharging the entire aquifer, the drawing of water from the Green Valley area may result in a cone of depression that can lower the level of our community wells.

Augusta has purchased CAP water for storage in the aquifer of the Tucson Active Water Management District. However, we understand that Augusta has a commitment to use only surplus CAP water; thus, if there is no surplus, our local aquifer will be depleted. In addition, we understand that surplus CAP water is not always available 12 months of the year, possibly putting further strain on our aquifer.

According to the Arizona Department of Water Resources, the water withdrawal from the Santa Cruz River aquifer has increased by 50 percent between 1985 and 1995; by 2 percent between 1995 and 2005, and is projected to increase by 20 percent in the next decade. This totals a huge 141 percent increase for the 30-year period. As the Santa Cruz aquifer is not supplied by any means

other than natural surface run off, the new amount of water available to users is diminishing. The addition of a large industrial user such as the proposed mine will have a major effect on the existing and future sources of water in our area.

In addition, while the 4,400 acres that the mine will occupy is on the east side of the Santa Rita Mountains almost directly opposite Green Valley, we are concerned that heavy rains may cause the leaching of dangerous minerals into our Santa Cruz aquifer. Our experience with Phelps Dodge (now part of Freeport McMoRan, the world's largest copper company) just to the west of Green Valley – that is contaminating the Santa Cruz aquifer -- makes us leery of a potential water polluter to our east.

Even though the proposed mine is below the crest of the Santa Rita Mountains, we are also concerned about the possibility of high winds blowing dust over the mountain ridge into Green Valley. Augusta has said it will use “a state-of-the-art process at Rosemont to minimize water usage and blowing dust.” Phelps Dodge has made similar statements in the past. However, in August 2006, high winds from the Phelps Dodge tailing ponds blew white dust onto Green Valley streets, patios, and even into the interiors of some homes. With summer prevailing winds being from the southeast, the communities on the western side of the Santa Rita Mountains want to avoid a similar airborne hazard.

Ms. Giffords, in your statement to the *Arizona Daily Star* (January 22, 2007), you said that the Santa Rita Mountains were a “national treasure” and you were concerned about the harmful impact of mining. You said, “This is a critical community issue and I am determined to investigate options for federal action.”

Historically, there has been support for mining in the state. Mines create jobs, vitalize local economies, and create wealth. But there is another side to consider. Today, in Arizona, water is too precious to pour into a mine. People and agriculture need the water. Mines pollute and damage the environment.

Now is the time for that action.

The Augusta Resource Corporation submitted its MPO to the U.S. Forest Service on July 11, 2007. The Forest Service has sixty days to determine whether the MPO is complete enough to direct Augusta to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). That process will take approximately 18 to 24 months and will include an opportunity for public input.

We ask that you implement the following actions:

1. Initiate action in Congress to remove the 17,000 acres of public land in the Rosemont area from mining. This could be the Rosemont Protection Act of 2007. By sponsoring such legislation you would join another southern Arizona Democrat, the late Representative Morris K Udall, in saving national land from the scourge of open-pit mining.
2. Request that the U.S. Forest Service delay its decision to allow Augusta to proceed with a full EIS, now scheduled by September 15, 2007. This will give the Green Valley

community more time to evaluate fully and review professionally the 180-page MPO. It is important to stop the process before the momentum generated by conducting an EIS begins.

3. Request that the U.S. Forest Service, before making a decision on Augusta's MPO, study carefully with federal experts the potentials for dust as well as surface and groundwater contamination.
4. Review recent federal judicial decisions to determine what judicial relief might be available to halt Augusta's application for a mining permit.

The above four items seem to us to be expeditious. However, we are certain there are other actions that you may determine can be taken to assist us.

### **Funding a CAP Water Pipeline to Green Valley**

On July 19, 2007, the Community Water Company of Green Valley informed the community that it had negotiated a letter of intent with Augusta Resource Corporation to construct a seven to nine-mile extension of the existing CAP pipeline from Pima Mine Road into the company's service area.

The two companies agreed on a 120-day time period to negotiate a final contract agreement, subject to the Arizona Corporation Commission's approval, that would have Augusta pay for the entire cost of the pipeline extension and a water charge facility in Sahuarita/Green Valley – estimated to cost \$9 to \$15 million. Augusta also agreed to recharge its CAP water locally rather than in Marana.

The Community Water Company would make its unused CAP water allocation available to Augusta for recharge at the new facility. Both companies have stated that this agreement is not contingent upon Augusta obtaining federal and state approvals for the development of the mine.

On July 25, 2007, Community Water Company presented the proposal to approximately 400 people in a public meeting. Of the more than 50 speakers, only one supported the mine. Most speakers agreed upon the need for more water to meet Green Valley's projected growth, but many opposed using Augusta's money to build the pipeline on the basis that this would enhance Augusta's chances of obtaining the necessary federal and state permits to begin mining operations.

The arguments can be summarized in two well-worn phrases: those against Augusta's proposal said, "You're giving aid and comfort to the enemy;" those in favor of the proposal said, "Take the money and run."

The GVCCC is a strong supporter of the need to bring CAP water to the Green Valley area. We have commended the Community Water Company for its efforts to bring CAP water to our community. However, we do not think using Augusta's money is prudent policy.

If the Community Water Company accepts Augusta's offer to fund the pipeline, it greatly improves Augusta's ability to promote itself as an environmentally and community friendly corporation during the next two years as it seeks federal and state approvals for its operations. This is particularly important to Augusta since the company has no track record, has never operated a mine and is a Canadian company with no experience mining in the United States.

In order to fund this CAP pipeline that is so vital to the future needs of the citizens of Green Valley, we ask that you take the following actions:

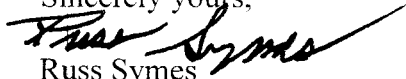
1. Request from Congress targeted project funds – an earmark – in the amount of \$20 million to build the seven to nine-mile CAP pipeline from the present terminus at Pima Mine Road to an area near the southern boundary of Sahuarita with Green Valley. Such a successful earmark would provide additional water resources in the Santa Cruz Valley.
2. Explore the possibilities of bringing water to the Santa Cruz Valley that are inherent in federal bill H.B.1495, the Water Resources and Development Act, a \$15 billion appropriation that has passed both the house and senate and is now in conference committee.
3. Explore grants and/or loans to fund water improvement projects from the Rural Development Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This agency has funds available and Green Valley is eligible as a rural area.
4. Explore the possibility of using federal Land and Water Conservation funds or other federal programs designed to alleviate the stress of existing or potential water shortages on communities.

As with the Rosemont Mine issue, we are certain there are other actions that you will determine can be taken to assist us. However, we believe the earmark solution is the most propitious.

The outcome of these two issues – preventing Augusta from mining the copper in the Rosemont area of the Santa Rita Mountains and funding the CAP water pipeline to the Greater Green Valley area – will have a profound effect on our community. Your help in achieving a successful outcome to these two issues will assure you the gratitude of the people of southern Arizona.

If we at GVCCC can provide any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call upon us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Russ Symes  
President, GVCCC  
Chair, GVCCC Executive Board

Via Facsimile and U.S. Postal Service

cc: see distribution list

**Distribution List:**

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