

RESOLUTION NO. 1997- 93

RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED ROSEMONT RANCH LAND EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE AND ASARCO, INC., MINING COMPANY.

*WHEREAS*, the United States Forest Service and ASARCO, Inc. are proposing to enter into an exchange of land known as the Rosemont Ranch Land Exchange ("the Exchange"); and

*WHEREAS*, the proposed exchange will transfer one parcel of 13, 727 acres of National Forest land to ASARCO for 23 noncontiguous, private parcels totaling 2,222 acres scattered elsewhere in the State of Arizona; and

*WHEREAS*, the land proposed for exchange and use by ASARCO is located in Pima County, approximately 30 miles south of Tucson in the northeaster Santa Rita Mountains; and

*WHEREAS*, the public land proposed to be transferred to ASARCO is used extensively for recreation, including hiking, bird watching, bicycling, horseback riding, hunting, and off-road vehicle use, among other activities; and

*WHEREAS*, ASARCO intends to use the exchanged land for operations associated with a possible open pit copper mine, including mining waste disposal, sometime in the future; and

*WHEREAS*, the 13,727 acres of National Forest will be immediately removed from public ownership and right of access upon approval of the exchange; and

*WHEREAS*, the land proposed for exchange in prime wildlife habitat, home to abundant game and non-game species such as deer, javelina, mountain lion, quail, hawks, vultures, and songbirds; and

*WHEREAS*, sensitive, threatened and endangered species, such as the lesser long-nosed bat, the Pima pineapple cactus, the desert tortoise, the northern gray hawk, and the leopard from are known to inhabit the are of the proposed exchange; and

*WHEREAS*, open-pit copper mining is not compatible with the natural wilderness and habitat; and

*WHEREAS*, the economy and quality of life of the citizens of Pima County and southern Arizona are heavily dependent upon recreation and tourism and hence on abundant nearby public land; and


*WHEREAS*, the public interest of Pima County and southern Arizona will thus, in sum, not be furthered by the proposed Rosemont Ranch Land Exchange.

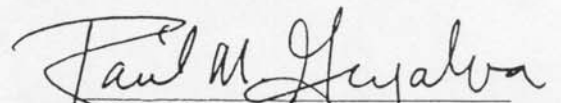
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Pima County Board of Supervisors, as follows:

- Section 1. That the Pima County Board of Supervisors is hereby opposed to the proposed Rosemont Ranch Land Exchange between the United States Forest Service and ASARCO, Inc.
- Section 2. That the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby recommends to ASARCO, Inc., to withdraw their proposal for the Rosemont Ranch Land Exchange with the United States Forest Service.
- Section 3. That the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby requests to be recognized and kept informed as an affected party in the Environmental Impact Statement process.


**PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED** by the Pima County Board of Supervisors this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1997.

Attest:

  
Lori Godoshian, Clerk

  
Paul M. Grijalva, Chairman  
Pima County Board of Supervisors  
MAY 30 1997

Approved as to form:

  
County Attorney