

# RESOLUTION #1997-12

of the  
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

## A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED ROSEMONT RANCH LAND EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE AND ASARCO MINING, INC.

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Forest Service and Asarco, Inc. are proposing to enter into a land exchange known as the Rosemont Land Exchange; ("Rosemont land") and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed exchange will transfer one parcel of 13,727 acres of National Forest Service land to Asarco for 23 non contiguous, private parcels containing 2,222 acres of land elsewhere in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rosemont land is used exclusively for recreation, including hiking, bird watching, bicycling, horseback riding, hunting and off road vehicle use, among other activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the transfer of the Rosemont lands will immediately remove 13,727 acres from public use; and

**WHEREAS**, privatization of the Rosemont lands will have a serious impact on the historical multiple use of the lands; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Cruz County supported the BLM purchase of the adjacent Empire -Cinega lands from Asarco for the purpose of "blocking up" lands in the area between Sonoita and Tucson to enhance recreation and public use; and

**WHEREAS**, privatization of the Rosemont lands appears to be inconsistent with the Department of The Interior's policy to "block up" lands to provide for public use; and

**WHEREAS**, privatization of the Rosemont lands will reduce the availability of public lands near the Tucson metropolitan area; and

**WHEREAS**, a further reduction in public lands in the Tucson metropolitan area will place additional demands on Santa Cruz County public lands; and

**WHEREAS**, public lands in Santa Cruz County are currently experiencing near maximum use placing high demands on county resources; and

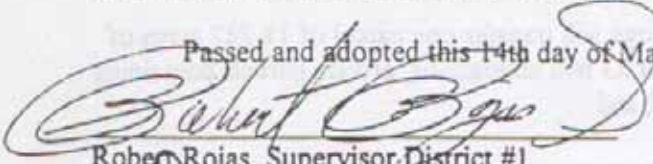
**WHEREAS**, State Route 83 is a major transportation route connecting East Santa Cruz County residents to the Tucson area; and

WHEREAS, privatization of the Rosemont lands may result in land use which will create additional traffic beyond safe carrying capacity of State Route 83 ; and

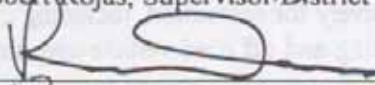
WHEREAS, privatization of the Rosemont lands may result in land use which is degrading to the environment and animal habitat;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors calls upon the United States Forest Service to terminate any and all negotiations to exchange the Rosemont Ranch lands to private ownership.

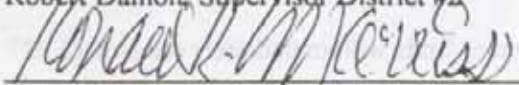
Passed and adopted this 14th day of May, 1997



Robert Rojas, Supervisor District #1



Robert Damon, Supervisor District #2



Ronald R. Morriss, Supervisor District #3

Attest:



Fran DeCillis, Clerk of The Board



Holly Hawn, Counsel For The Board  
Deputy County Attorney