



TO: Interested Parties

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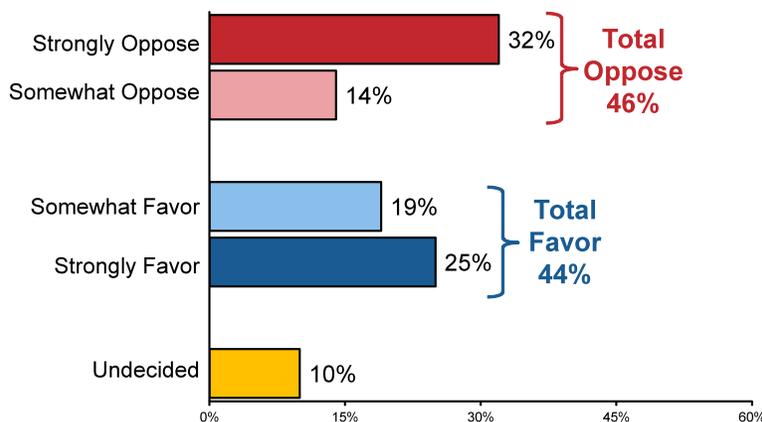
RE: Summary of Rosemont Copper Mine Survey Findings

The bipartisan polling team of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D) and Baselice & Associates (R) recently conducted a survey of registered voters living in Pima, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties to assess attitudes toward the proposed Rosemont Copper mine.ⁱ Overall, the results show that **Southeastern Arizona voters do not believe Rosemont Copper’s mining proposal to be in the public’s best interest and oppose allowing the mining project to go forward.** As voters are provided information about the project, including the purported economic benefits associated with the mine, voter opposition to the project increases. Specifically, voters reject Rosemont Copper’s mining proposal because it poses serious threats to public health and safety – chief among those the contamination and depletion of local water supplies and increased air pollution. The survey also shows that voters oppose Rosemont Copper’s proposal to conduct open-pit mining because they highly value local public lands and want to prevent the Coronado National Forest and other natural areas from being permanently impacted.

As **Figure 1** on the following page shows, after being read a summaryⁱⁱ explanation, 46 percent of voters oppose allowing Rosemont Copper to conduct mining operations, 44 percent support the proposed mine, and 10 percent are undecided. Worth noting is the disparity in intensity of feeling between supporters and opponents – 32 percent “strongly oppose” the project compared to one one-in-four (25 percent) who “strongly support” the mine.

FIGURE 1:

FAVOR/OPOSE ROSEMONT COPPER MINE AFTER PROJECT SUMMARY STATEMENT



Most voters believe the proposed Rosemont Copper mine would have a number of negative consequences for the region – damaging its natural resources and Southeastern Arizonans’ quality of life. As Figure 2 shows, more than six-in-ten think mining operations would have a negative impact on local groundwater supplies, scenic landscapes, and air quality. Also, 54 percent perceive the Rosemont Copper mine would negatively impact drinking water quality, half say mining would degrade the region’s recreational opportunities and a plurality thinks mining operation would have a negative impact on traffic congestion.

**FIGURE 2:
PERCEPTIONS OF THE IMPACT OF THE ROSEMONT COPPER MINE ON SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA**

Aspect of Life in Southeastern Arizona	Negative Impact	No Impact	Positive Impact	Don’t Know
Groundwater supplies	68%	13%	8%	10%
Scenic landscapes	68%	21%	8%	4%
Air quality	64%	22%	7%	6%
Drinking water quality	55%	32%	3%	10%
Opportunities for recreation	50%	31%	12%	7%
Traffic congestion	45%	39%	6%	10%

Opposition to granting Rosemont Copper permits to begin mining operations increases dramatically as voters learn more information about the specific impacts mining would likely have on the region. At least six-in-ten Southeastern Arizona residents say several aspects of the project make them likely to “strongly oppose” it – that mining operations would likely contaminate local waters; that there is no restriction on the amount of groundwater the mining company can use; and that mining operations would result in air pollution (see Figure 3). In addition, two-thirds or more say several other aspects of the Rosemont Copper mine would make them likely to oppose it – that it would create light pollution that hinders research at local observatories; would harm Native American cultural sites; and would dramatically increase truck traffic on Scenic State Highway 83.

FIGURE 3:

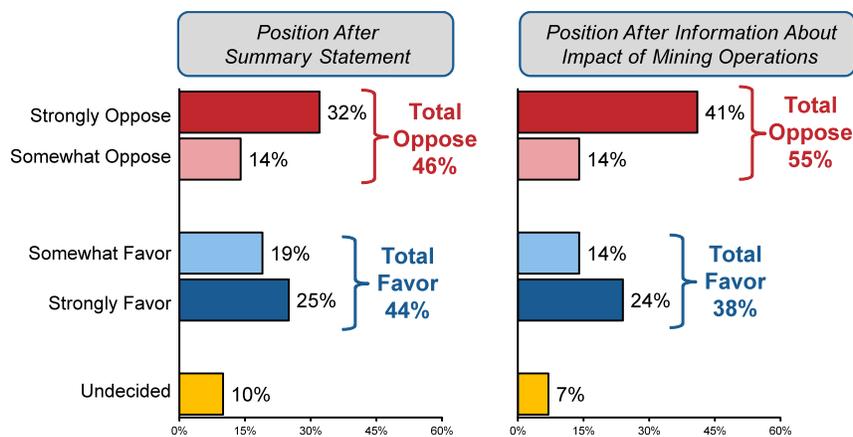


**IMPACT OF PROJECT FEATURES AND EFFECTS
ON ATTITUDES TOWARD THE PROJECT**

Features or Effects of the Project	Strongly Oppose	Total Oppose
Would have a high likelihood of polluting local waters with arsenic and other toxics	63%	82%
Would allow the mining company to withdraw an unlimited amount of water from local groundwater supplies	62%	81%
Would release lead into the air, as well as other pollutants	60%	83%
Would result in Native American cultural sites being destroyed or seriously damaged	49%	77%
24-hour operations at the mine would increase light pollution that would impact astronomical research at local observatories	52%	75%
Would be exempt from Pima County lighting codes resulting in a 23 percent increase in sky glow and light pollution from 24-hour mine operations	42%	74%
Would allow the mine operator to pump at least two billion gallons of groundwater per year for its operations	48%	68%
Would result in 176 daily trips for trucks hauling ore, seven days a week, 24 hours a day on Scenic State Highway 83	47%	67%

After being educated about the likely impacts of the Rosemont Copper mine through a series of both pro and con arguments, 55 percent oppose allowing mining operations to begin, including 41 percent who “strongly” oppose the mine. (See Figure 4) These findings demonstrate that the intensity of opposition to the project will significantly increase as Southeastern Arizona residents learn how mining operations would directly impact them. In comparison, support for the mine remains unchanged despite information enumerating the economic benefits associated with mining operations.

**FIGURE 4:
FAVOR/OPOSE ROSEMONT COPPER MINE
AFTER PROJECT FEATURES AND EFFECTS**



The results of this survey show that Pima, Cochise and Santa Cruz County voters are predisposed to reject Rosemont Copper's proposal, because they believe the project would negatively impact local water supplies, air quality and the natural beauty of Southeastern Arizona. When provided additional information about the proposed Rosemont Copper mine these views are confirmed, and as a result voter opposition increases and intensifies. This survey reveals that **for Southeastern Arizonans the long-term impacts of the mining project on public health and quality of life outweigh the short-term economic benefits of permitting open-pit mining in the Coronado National Forest.**

ⁱ**Survey Methodology:** From April 3-5 & 7, 2012, Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates and Baselice & Associates conducted a telephone survey of 625 randomly-selected registered voters living in Pima, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties. Interviews were conducted on both landline and cell phones. The margin of sampling error for the full sample is +/-3.9 percent at the 95 percent confidence level; the margin of error for population subgroups will be higher.

ⁱⁱ**Rosemont Copper Mine Summary Statement:** "The Rosemont Copper company, a subsidiary of the Canadian company Augusta Resource Corporation, is seeking approval to develop a copper mine project in Pima County near Tucson. Rosemont Copper Company would use open-pit mining techniques to produce an estimated 4.7 billion pounds of copper over the proposed 20 years the mine is in operation. The mine would occupy roughly four thousand seven hundred acres of land, most of which is part of the Coronado National Forest. Currently, Rosemont Copper's proposal is being reviewed by state and federal agencies to determine the environmental impact of the proposed mine, and whether mining operations should be permitted."