



RESOLUTION 2007-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REQUESTING THE PERMANENT WITHDRAWAL OF MINING EXPLORATION AND EXTRACTION FROM ALL FEDERAL LANDS WITHIN THE US CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST IN EASTERN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service via the National Environmental Policy Act will be required to take into account consistency with local land use plans, which in this case is the Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors believes mineral exploration and extraction is not consistent with the goals of the Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Plan for this area of our county; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors has concerns about both the quantity and quality of groundwater resources in eastern Santa Cruz County critical to support our current and projected residential population; and

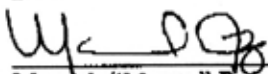
WHEREAS, recent studies of 70 Environmental Impact Statements for modern-era hard rock mines found that water quality impacts from mineral extraction are consistently underestimated and therefore mitigation measures are inadequate and undercapitalized leaving taxpayers with unjust financial burdens; and

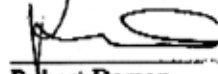
WHEREAS, mineral extraction has a legacy in Arizona of leaving behind adverse environmental, economic and visual impacts that place an undue hardships upon local citizenry and often require federal assistance with reclamation and restoration efforts such as the Removal Action currently underway in Alum Gulch/Flux Canyon in eastern Santa Cruz County; and


WHEREAS, recent budgetary reductions in the United States Department of Agriculture have left the United States Forest Service understaffed and therefore unable to adequately monitor mineral exploration and extraction activity in Santa Cruz County; and

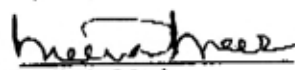
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors requests that the Arizona Congressional delegation initiate the permanent withdrawal of mineral exploration and extraction from all federal lands within the Coronado National Forest in eastern Santa Cruz County.


Passed and adopted by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, this 23rd day of February, 2007.


Manuel "Manny" Ruiz
Chairman, District 1


Robert Damon
Member, District 2


John Maynard
Vice Chair, District 3

Attest: 
Melinda Meek
Clerk of the Board

Approved as to Form: 
Luis F. Parra
Deputy County Attorney