



# SAVE THE SCENIC SANTA RITAS ASSOCIATION

8987 E. Tanque Verde #309-157, Tucson, AZ 85749 info@scenicantaritas.org www.scenicantaritas.org (520) 246-3622

**Executive Director**  
Stu Williams

**Board of Directors**

Gayle Hartmann, President  
Morris Farr, Ph.D., Vice  
President  
Gregory C. Shinsky, Vice  
President  
Carol Shinsky, Treasurer  
Edward Buster  
Steve Brown  
Sheila L. Dagucon, Esq.  
Stan Hart, Ph.D.  
Lynn Harris  
Jeff Herr  
John Kozma  
Roger McManus  
Thomas Nelson, Ph.D.  
Thomas F. Purdon, MD  
Sarah Truebe, Ph.D.

**Advisory Board**

Ann Audrey  
George Binney  
Phil Caputo  
Anne Gibson  
Fergus Graham  
Bob Sharp  
Steve Strom, Ph.D.  
Carol Tahse Roeming

## What's the Latest on the Rosemont/Copper World Project in the Santa Ritas? – A Timeline Since July 2019

**July 31, 2019** – U.S. District Court Judge James Soto rules that Hudbay Minerals, a Toronto-based mining company, CANNOT dump waste and tailings on Coronado National Forest land where it has no valid mining claims. This ruling invalidates the Forest Service's Record of Decision (ROD) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and brings the Rosemont project to a halt on federal lands unless a new FEIS and ROD is developed in compliance with the court order. Importantly, the ruling does not prevent Hudbay from mining private land it controls at the Rosemont site if it can find another place to dump the mine waste.

**February 10, 2020** - Judge Soto rules that the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service FAILED to adequately comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and upholds the determination for the jaguar in the Rosemont area.

**April 5, 2022** – Hudbay requests the Arizona State Land Department to begin the process that would allow the company to purchase two parcels of state land (40 acres and 160 acres) on the northwest side of the Santa Ritas. This is in addition to Hudbay's 2016 acquisition of 160 acres of state land on the west side. In 2019, Hudbay began purchasing small parcels of private land, also on the west side. Hudbay is clearly shifting its focus to the west side to what it now calls "Copper World." State and private land purchases have allowed Hudbay to acquire enough acreage to dump waste rock and mine tailings from three open pit mines it now plans on the west side of the mountain, and on the Rosemont site on the east side of the mountain range.

**May 12, 2022** – 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals UPHOLDS Judge James Soto's July 2019 ruling.

**May 23, 2022** – U.S. District Judge Soto DENIES A MOTION, filed jointly by SSSR, other conservation organizations, and tribal groups FOR A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER to stop work on Copper World's private lands unless it obtains a Clean Water Act permit and completes a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement that addresses the project work on the west side. Soto's decision is based largely on the fact that Rosemont Copper had relinquished its Clean Water Act permit.

**June 7, 2022** – Pima County Board of Supervisors PASSES A RESOLUTION, 4-1, opposing the Rosemont/Copper World project. This is the third resolution the Board of Supervisors has passed opposing Rosemont's mining proposals in the

Santa Ritas. SSSR continues to work with the County to monitor all Rosemont/Copper World project developments.

**June 29, 2022** – Arizona Corporation Commission APPROVES a second extension to Tucson Electric Power Company that allows Rosemont/Hudbay to build a 138-kilovolt transmission line along Santa Rita Road to the western side of the Santa Ritas. The extension expires in 2029. The transmission line would deliver power to the Rosemont/Copper World project as well as seriously disrupt regional views and disturb habitat along the Santa Rita Experimental Range.

**July 14, 2022** – Hudbay Minerals RELEASES its Preliminary Economic Assessment Technical Report, required under Canadian law. The Technical Report greatly expands the previous scope of the Rosemont/Copper World project, including a) expanding to four the number of open pits, b) expanding the amounts of tailings and waste rock; c) introducing onsite copper cathode production that would generate 140,000 tons of sulfuric acid annually and create additional hazardous material risks, and d) more than doubling the project life, to 44 years. The report describes a much larger pit for the east side, which it cleverly renames “East pit” to disassociate the project from Rosemont.

**July 27, 2022** – Arizona State Mine Inspector determines that Rosemont Copper’s Amended Reclamation Plan is “COMPLETE” and not a “substantial change” from the original Reclamation Plan, thus eliminating the need for public comment prior to approval. SSSR has joined other parties in letters objecting to this determination and asking for a comment period and a public hearing.

**August 1, 2022** – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) notifies Pima County Department of Environmental Quality that it intends to ASSERT JURISDICTION over Clean Air Act compliance for the Copper World project. That means the state is taking jurisdiction over the project away from Pima County. ADEQ did the same thing in 2012, when the mine project was only on the east side of the Santa Ritas. SSSR continues to monitor developments and seek all related information from ADEQ.

**August 19, 2022** – Pima County Regional Flood Control District and Rosemont Copper DISCUSS issues relating to floodplain management. Unfortunately, Pima County has little authority over issues related to mining.

**August 22, 2022** – 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals DENIES Rosemont Copper Company’s petition for either a rehearing or “en banc” hearing of the Court’s previous ruling three months earlier. Rosemont Copper has 90 days to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. This is GREAT news: It means that mining activities cannot proceed on national forest land unless and until the federal agencies come into compliance with the environmental laws that were violated in the initial approval of the Rosemont mine. Only Congress or the U.S Supreme Court could change that.

**September 2022** – THE UPSHOT: Hudbay is focusing its efforts on an expanded, west-side project they are calling Copper World. At the same time, the vast majority of copper ore is in an expanded Rosemont pit, on the east slope, some of which is on Coronado National Forest land. It is in the best interest of residents of Pima County, to save our water, our air and our health, that these projects are not allowed to proceed.