

Adelita S. Grijalva, District 5

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 2, 2022
TO: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board
FROM: Adelita Grijalva, District Five Supervisor
K. Boagwell, for
REGARDING: Item for the June 7, 2022 agenda addendum

Please add the following to the June 7, 2022 agenda addendum:

Board of Supervisors

Discussion/Action. Resolution No. 2022-____. A Resolution of the Pima County Board of Supervisors Opposing the Proposed Copper World Project. (District 5)

Thank you

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RESOLUTION NO. 2022-____

**RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OPPOSING THE
PROPOSED COPPER WORLD PROJECT**

WHEREAS, in January 2007 the Pima County Board of Supervisors approved Resolution No. 2007-15 opposing the proposed Rosemont Copper Mine in the Santa Rita Mountains because of the significant impacts the proposal would likely have on the area's natural and cultural resources;

WHEREAS, in April 2019 Pima County approved Resolution No. 2019-28 reaffirming Resolution 2007-15 opposing the Rosemont Mine in light of Rosemont Copper Company's failure to address the County's concerns regarding the significant impacts the proposal would likely have or to offer sufficient mitigation for those impacts;

WHEREAS, the Rosemont Mine has not yet received the necessary federal approvals and has encountered significant delays due to litigation challenging the Rosemont Copper Company's noncompliance with multiple federal environmental laws including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act, among others;

WHEREAS, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a U.S. District Court ruling that the Rosemont Copper Company does not hold valid mining claims on U.S. Forest Service land and cannot use these public lands to dump an estimated 1.9 billion tons of waste rock as part of the Rosemont Mine;

WHEREAS, in response to these setbacks the Rosemont Copper Company has stated its intent to pursue an alternate mining plan, the Copper World Expansion Project, on its private lands on the west slope of the Santa Rita Mountains east of Sahuarita and Green Valley;

WHEREAS, the Copper World Project plans include the construction of up to five open-pit mines as well as new waste rock and tailing storage facilities, processing facilities, and associated infrastructure such as new haul roads and new water production wells;

WHEREAS, the proposed Copper World Project would result in significant harm to the County's Maeveen Marie Behan Conservation Land System and associated wildlife habitat values including habitat for threatened and endangered species;

WHEREAS, the proposed Copper World Project would cause irreparable harm to the network of ephemeral streams and downstream waters in and around the project area;

WHEREAS, the proposed Copper World Project would have significant impacts on cultural and archaeological resources known to occur in and near the project area;

WHEREAS, the Copper World Project reclamation plan was approved by the Arizona State Mine Inspector without holding a public meeting, contrary to the public interest of the residents of Pima County;

WHEREAS, Rosemont Copper Company already has begun grading and clearing activities for the Copper World Project in potential violation of the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the Tohono O’odham Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, and Hopi Tribe have already indicated their intent to file a lawsuit against the Rosemont Copper Company for its potential Clean Water Act violations related to the Copper World Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Pima County Board of Supervisors opposes the proposed Copper World Project;
2. The Board of Supervisors direct the County Administrator and staff, as federal, state and local authorities allow, to:
 - a. Provide information as needed to document the County’s continuing concerns about the impacts of the Copper World Project as the project evolves;
 - b. Take all necessary measures to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents of and visitors to Southern Arizona using or enjoying County infrastructure and resources affected by the project;
 - c. Take all necessary measures to protect the health, safety and welfare of people using the air and water resources affected by the project;
 - d. Take all necessary measures to protect County conservation lands and Multi-Species Conservation Plan mitigation lands that may be affected by the project.

Passed, adopted and approved, this ___ day of _____, 2022.

Sharon Bronson, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



County Attorney